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Energy conservation and peak electric usage

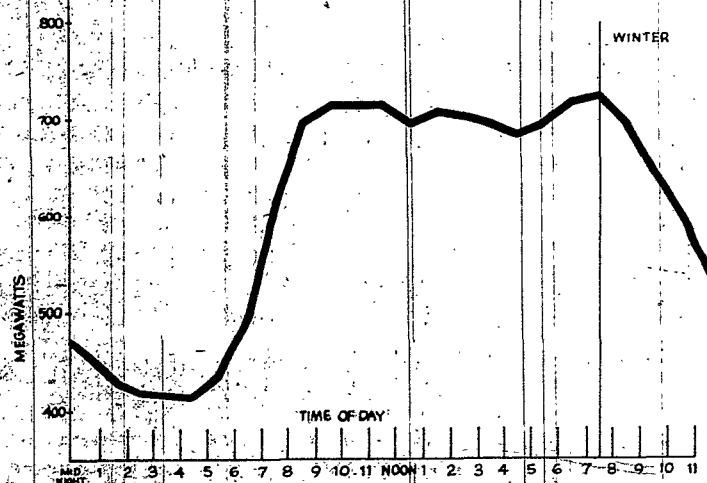
By Miss Anne S. Fenstermacher
Staff Assistant-Consumer Affairs

Use of gas and electricity by RG&E's customers has dropped somewhat from this time a year ago. Under normal conditions the use of energy would have been expected to increase, as RG&E is serving thousands of new customers this year. The reasons for the decrease in energy use are the efforts by you, RG&E's customers, to conserve energy. This reduction in total energy use conserves valuable fuels which are presently in short supply, including natural gas, and coal and oil used to generate electricity.

Of interest also is the fact there has been a reduction in what utilities call the "peak demand" for electricity. This concept is important for the long-term conservation of energy, so I would like to discuss what it means to all of us.

The daily "peaks" are the times of day when the greatest amounts of electricity are being used at once on that particular day. These "peaks" vary

from hour-to-hour and season-to-season. Since electricity cannot be stored to meet the peaks, RG&E must have enough generating plants to supply the greatest demand at any time of day or season. At "peak" times the less efficient generating plants are used. Also, for long-range planning, RG&E must build sufficient plant capacity to meet the "peak demands." For our long-run interest as consumers it would benefit us to do what we can to reduce these peaks. Where possible, you would use your major appliances during "off peak" hours, or hours of low demand such as evenings, early mornings and weekends. For example, there may be times when it would be convenient to do extra baking, use your self-cleaning oven, operate your dishwasher or do your laundry during the "off peak" hours. You will probably discover other ways too. I would be interested in ideas that you may have!



The use of electricity on RG&E's system looks like this on a typical weekday in the winter.

From the Home Service Department Clip & Save

How to use "no heat" cycle

Many clothes dryers today have a "no heat" or fluff cycle and the question often arises, "What can I do with it?"

Maybe you have a linty but clean woolen dress or pants. Put it in the dryer on "no heat" to get rid of the lint. This cycle is great for airing and fluffing feather pillows. Your stuffed animal may be the type that can be cleaned with mild soap, water and a delicate brush. The no heat cycle can dry it safely. Plastic Shower curtains and any items with rubber backing such as tennis shoes or rugs could be placed in this cycle. So, use it and keep things cool.

Insulating your home: Part 2 Fiberglass, mineral wool batts

Last week we explained how insulation conserves heating energy and so keeps heating costs to a minimum. Another very important benefit of adequate insulation is comfort. If your house is properly insulated, the inside of your walls will be warmer, especially if your home is exposed to a cold winter wind. You will lose less body heat to cold areas near walls and corners and your home will be less drafty. A properly installed vapor seal will keep air moisture in your home and contribute to your comfort as well.

The blankets, which come in a variety of thickness are also known as "batts."

Batt insulation has an average R-value of 3.2/inch. (As we said last week, the R-value is a number denoting a material's resistance to heat flow. The higher the R-value the more effective the insulation.) That means you would need 3 1/2" in walls and 6" in ceilings to satisfy recommended insulation specifications of R-11 and R-19 respectively.

The batt insulation you buy may be attached to a foil or kraft paper backing. Both of these will

inches. If the staples are placed too far apart, air-borne moisture will seep into the insulation and make it wet and less effective.

When installing batt insulation in the ceiling do not bend the insulation to make it fit between ceiling joists as this will form a moisture trap. Never lay a second insulation backing over a first. Moisture will collect between the two backings and make the insulation less effective. Water damage to your ceiling may also happen. If you want to add another blanket to insulation that is already there, use one without a backing.

Installing friction fit insulation, that is, batts without a backing attached, is very simple. Push the insulation in between the studs (or joists in floors and ceilings). Install a two mill-thick sheet of polyethylene toward the inside of the house, as a vapor barrier or else glue foil-backed dry wall to the studs.

Batt insulation can be used to reinsulate attics and floor in existing homes when it is installed in the manner described above. However, to install it in existing sidewalls, the interior surface of the walls must be removed. Often it is more economical to use some other kind of insulation to reinsulate existing sidewalls.

Next week's chapter will be about another kind of insulation, loose fill.

You can learn a lot about insulation at our insulation display. It is set up at Midtown Mall and will be there until next Wednesday, February 27. Drop by and talk to our representatives from 12 noon to 2 p.m. each day.



This is how batt insulation is installed.

Good insulation will also reduce noise transmitted from outside your home. This can be a real boon if you live in a city or on a busy street.

One of the most common forms of insulation is the blanket type made from fiberglass or mineral wool. It is used frequently in new construction because of its low cost, light weight, and ease of installation.

provide an effective vapor barrier if installed properly. Batt insulation is also sold without a backing. This is sometimes referred to as "friction fit" and requires a separate vapor barrier to be installed.

When installing batt insulation with backing attached, place it so that the backing is toward the inside of the house. Staple the edges to the studs at intervals of 8

From the Home Service Department

How to detect food spoilage in cans, boxes

Possibly you have wondered how long canned and packaged foods are safe to use. Canned foods have a long shelf life but even these can become infected. Be sure to check carefully any home-canned items one and a half (1 1/2) years and older. The seals may have become loose and entrance of bacteria is possible. In both store bought and home canned foods, look for:

1. Bulging of cans - tops and sides.
2. Leakage of food or syrup.
3. Heavy rusting on both outside and inside of can or tops if home canned.

If foods "spits" or sprays from a can when opened, this is a possible sign of spoilage and the food should not even be tasted.

A good method in using your canned items is to follow some plan of rotation. When bringing canned foods home from store, place earlier bought

cans and jars towards front of shelf and newer ones in back. This will avoid having canned foods three and four years old.

Packaged or boxed foods are safe on the shelf 1 to 1 1/2 years. Once opened these foods are susceptible to staling and cereal products may contract weevils or "bugs." Carefully rewrap these foods in either plastic containers with tight fitting lids, glass jars with top, or plastic bags with twisties. Also, check for strong or off odors before using. Many products such as flour,

noodles, rice, etc., may be frozen provided space is not needed for perishable foods.

In many cases food spoilage is due to negligence. Follow these important steps:

1. Handle foods under sanitary conditions.
2. Mark dates of purchase on foods where possible.
3. Check cupboards occasionally to spot foods that may have been there for a while.

FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO: CJ-2

Dept. 34 Rochester Gas and Electric
89 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14649

I would like more information on the following items:

Name

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Town

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