



Energy Saving Opportunities

Be a Part of the Solution!

By Jim Cluck, Vice President of Property Management & Services

Listed below are Willow Valley Retirement Communities' annual utility usage, associated costs and a practical list of things that Residents can do to help curb our utility expenses.

Electricity costs are \$2,650,000 per year (37,350,000 kilowatt hours used annually)

- Turn lights off in any unused areas.
- Use compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's).
- Use LED decorative lighting.
- Use LED nightlights with integral photo eyes that shut off automatically.
- Clean clothes dryer lint screens after every load.
- Run clothes dryers between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. when the electric rate is lower.
- Set up "power saver" modes for electronics where possible, especially on computers. Better yet, turn computers off overnight.
- Turn TV's off when no one is watching.
- Use a microwave oven versus the stove for small quantities of food.
- Turn the bathroom fan off 20 minutes after leaving the bathroom.
- Turn the bathroom heat lamp off when leaving the bathroom.
- Use stairways instead of elevators, if able.

Natural gas costs are \$773,500 per year (59,500,000 cubic feet used annually)

Winter Season

- Set thermostats to 58 degrees when leaving your apartment for a week or more and set the thermostat for heating.
- Reduce thermostat setting two degrees from current setting.
- Close draperies at night or when very cold.

Summer Season

- Set the thermostat to 80 degrees when leaving your apartment for a week or more and set the thermostat for cooling.
- Increase the thermostat setting two degrees from the current setting.
- Close draperies in the heat of the day.
- Use cold water settings for washing machines unless warm or hot is required.

Water & sewer costs are \$98,000 per year (80,100,000 gallons used annually or 92 gallons per Resident daily)

- Wash clothes only when a full load is available.
- Run dishwashers only when full.
- Take shorter showers.
- Report leaky faucets and running toilets.

