

## **ENERGY SAVING & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

Shires Housing has taken great care to provide items and weatherization work to ensure the reduction of energy costs. You can help keep the cost down by setting thermostats at 68 degrees. Extra blankets, insulated drapes and warm sleepwear will help to keep you warm. Turn thermostats off when windows are open. Residents should consider monthly payment plans with Green Mountain Power Company. These plans spread the expense over a year's time, which helps you to budget and gets you into a routine of regular payments with no surprises.

### **Heating - Maximum 70°**

As you all know, we are facing rising energy prices for gas and oil heat. Even though heat and hot water are included in your monthly rent, keeping energy costs in check will help prevent large rent increases. Please keep your thermostat set between 65 degrees and 68 degrees. Don't "fiddle" with a thermostat setting; that wastes energy. If you feel chilly, put on a sweater. **THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO!**

In addition, we recommend the following to reduce your environmental impact. We can all help by doing our part in protecting our environment and preserving the earth's resources!

Keep windows and doors **CLOSED** when the heat is on! If it is too hot, turn down the heat.

Keep shades **UP** in any part of the unit that gets sunshine- this will help warm the apartment for **FREE!** Remember to close the curtains if the sun is not shining or in the evening. Use heavy curtains or insulated drapes that keep warmth in.

Locking windows can also seal them tighter and prevent more air loss. Promptly notify Shires Housing if the weather stripping around your doors and windows is damaged or missing.

Arrange furniture so you are not sitting right by any cooler areas in the apartment.

Keep heat registers, radiators or baseboard heating units free of dust and don't block them with furniture. A heat deflector can be used over the floor registers to direct the heat into the room.

### **Hot Water**

Half the use of heat is in hot water, which is used year round. Be aware of your use of hot water as well and how it affects the amount of heat you are using!

- Take showers instead of baths
- When washing dishes, scrape the dishes before starting the hot water
- Wash clothes in cold water instead of hot

Generally... report any deficiencies with windows, doors, heating systems or hot water systems... this will help us catch and fix problems earlier.