

# Public Utility Commission of Texas

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**News Release**  
**Monday, June 27, 2011**

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## **PUC Encourages Electricity Conservation**

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) is issuing a YELLOW Conservation Alert on Monday for higher than normal temperatures, high electricity demand and unexpected generation plant outages reported to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT).

The PUC alerts customers to be thoughtful about electricity use to prevent unnecessary demand and save money. The current conservation alert can be found the PowerfulAdvice section on the PUC Web site by linking to the colored box near the lower right corner of the PUC home page [www.puc.state.tx.us](http://www.puc.state.tx.us)

**Conservation Needed  
Power Watch**

On YELLOW days, extra conservation measures are urged because of a chance that electricity shortages may occur during the peak usage hours. A YELLOW Alert will be declared for days when temperatures statewide are expected to be extremely hot, leading to record or near-record electricity consumption. A YELLOW Alert will also be declared if high electricity demand and unexpected power plant outages cause a greater than normal chance of shortages. There is an expected or actual declaration of Level 1 of ERCOT's Energy Emergency Alert (EEA), which includes procurement of additional generation. An inability to obtain additional generation could lead to the declaration of EEA Level 2A which includes deployment of interruptible loads such as large industrial customers. Consumers are encouraged to reduce their electricity use as much as possible during the peak electricity usage hours from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

- Turn off all unnecessary lights, appliances, and electronic equipment.
- When at home, close blinds and drapes that get direct sun, set air conditioning thermostats to 78° or higher, and use fans to cool the air.
- When away from home, set air conditioning thermostats to 85° and turn all fans off before you leave. Block the sun by closing blinds or drapes on windows that will get direct sun.
- Do not use your dishwasher, laundry equipment, hair dryer, coffee maker, or other home appliances during the peak hours of 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Avoid opening refrigerators or freezers more than necessary.
- Cook in the microwave instead of the electronic range or oven.
- Set your pool pump to run in the early morning or late evening instead of the afternoon.

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- Check out other no- or low-cost conservation tips and other energy efficiency improvements you can make to your home by clicking on the links to the right.
  - Go to [www.powertochoose.org](http://www.powertochoose.org) to see if you can save money by switching to a lower cost retail electricity provider. Your choice of electric provider does not affect the reliability of your electric service, the frequency or duration of outages, or the time it will take to have your electric service restored if an outage occurs.

Information about bill payment assistance, low-income weatherization and energy efficiency measures is available on the PUC Website and by phone toll-free at 1-888-782-8477.

*All PUC News Releases are available at [www.puc.state.tx.us](http://www.puc.state.tx.us)*