

NEWS RELEASE

Feb. 2, 2012

Media Contact: Mollie Gore
Corporate Communications
843-761-7093
mollie.gore@santecooper.com

Make saving energy your Valentine's gift to your home and wallet *Green Living: Energy-Saving Tips from Santee Cooper*

MONCKS CORNER, S.C. – With Valentine's Day on the 14th, the month of February is synonymous with love. You can show your home and your wallet some extra affection this month with some heartfelt and creative energy-saving techniques.

"February is a great time to give your home a little TLC by putting a few energy-saving tips into action," said Mike Poston, vice president of retail operations. "And saving energy in your home will save you money."

Give your water heater a hug. According to U.S. Department of Energy, heating your water can account for up to 12 percent of your utility bill. The Department of Energy says that adding insulation around your hot water heater, such as a water heater blanket, can reduce standby heat losses and save up to 9 percent in water heating costs. If you're not sure if your tank is losing heat, touch it. If the tank is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

Cozy up with caulk and curtains. February can be known for its cold nights, which can bring chilly air into your home if you have drafts around windows and doors. To cut the chill, use some caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks and consider covering your windows with curtains to help keep things cozy in your home.

Cuddle up under blankets. Santee Cooper recommends keeping your thermostat at 68 or below when the heat is on. If 68 degrees has you feeling a little cool, consider cuddling up at home under a blanket with a loved one. You can also warm up by wearing a sweater and wool socks instead of turning up the heat.

Make no-bake treats for your Valentines. Turning on the oven to bake cookies, pies and cakes for your loved ones for Valentine's Day could equal an increase in energy use and the bottom line of your utility bill. Get creative this Valentine's Day by treating your family to no-bake cookies or a no-bake cheesecake. There are hundreds of dessert options online and in cookbooks that will satisfy any sweet tooth without having to turn on the oven. #

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