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STAY COOL AND SAVE THIS SUMMER
DeHart Inc. offers energy saving tips for hot weather

Modesto, CA - Summer is fast approaching and it is vital this summer to keep electricity bills low while keeping homes cool.

The number one cause of high electricity bills during the summer months is air conditioner operation. **The high cost of running central air can be reduced through** upgrading and maintaining current systems or replacing them completely. Routine inspection of air filters, installation of a programmable thermostat, and an inspection of the air conditioning unit by a certified HVAC professional before heavy air conditioner use can all help keep this summer's electricity bills low. For homeowners, there are increasing incentives for replacing old systems with energy efficient ones.

For homeowners that install a new energy efficient air conditioning system, there are up to \$3,450 in rebates and tax credits available to offset the cost of installation. In March 2009, the Federal Government announced that it will offer up to \$1,500 in tax credits toward energy efficient home upgrades and repairs done in 2009 and 2010. MID customers can receive a \$250 rebate on the installation of a qualifying energy efficient air conditioner. Homeowners can receive a \$1,700 manufacturer's rebate from York, or an \$1,100 rebate from Bryant when purchasing those manufacturer's systems. Along with rebates and tax credits, an energy efficient air conditioning system can reduce energy bills about 32%. For more information on all possible rebates, contact DeHart Inc., a local dealer of York and Bryant air conditioning systems.

Upgrades and maintenance on an existing system can save money on energy bills as well. A do it yourself step to cost effective air conditioner maintenance is to prevent dust build up on air filters.

"Clean air filters are absolutely necessary for optimal air conditioner performance," says Joe Amador, HVACR Service Manger for DeHart Inc. Checking the air filters at the intake registers once a month is necessary in the summer months because of high usage. If there is high dust build up, the air

filter needs to be cleaned or replaced. A high level of dust build up on a filter can prevent airflow to the air conditioning unit, which causes it to work less effectively, and increases the cost of running the unit.

Installing a programmable thermostat can also help lower electricity bills. A programmable thermostat can be set to lower the temperature while a home is occupied and raise it slightly when no one is home. This prevents a homeowner from leaving the house with the air conditioner still set as if he or she is still home.

MID suggests that homeowners have their air conditioner checked by a certified professional before the hot summer months to make sure the air conditioner is ready for heavy usage. HVAC maintenance professionals can check many parts of the air conditioner unit that are either difficult or dangerous for a homeowner to check.

“Having a HVAC professional inspect your heating and air system is an essential preventative measure. It is beneficial not only because it helps the air conditioner operate optimally, but also can detect necessary repairs before the hot summer months,” says Rod DeHart, President of DeHart Inc.

DeHart Inc provides a maintenance and priority service plan called Comfort Plus, which helps homeowners with maintenance and repair of their heating and air systems. Included in the Comfort Plus service package is a bi-annual inspection of the heating and air conditioning systems. During these inspections, DeHart’s HVAC professional will not only inspect the heating and air systems in the home, but will also replace the air filters. Homeowners who are covered under DeHart’s Comfort Plus program will receive priority service response time and receive a fifteen percent discount on all repairs performed under the agreement. This would include a discount on the installation of a programmable thermostat.

Established in 1946, DeHart Plumbing, Heating and Air Inc. is a family-owned and operated company located in Modesto, Ca. The company offers both residential and commercial customers a range of plumbing and HVAC services including repair, replacement, service agreements, air duct cleaning, and refrigeration services. DeHart’s unique commercial design/build service and upcoming LEED certifications allow the company to offer comprehensive commercial construction services. For more information, visit <http://www.dehartinc.com> <<http://www.dehartinc.com>> .