

## Conservation Corner

With the rising cost of utilities, La Plata residents are looking for new ways to save on their energy bills. The best way to save on those bills is to conserve the amount of energy used on a daily basis. Take the time to think about ways you can reduce your energy consumption.

There are many online resources to help. Appliances tend to be our largest consumers of electricity in our homes. When replacing an appliance, look toward replacing it with an EnergyStar product. At the website <http://www.energystar.gov>, there are many resources and product information to assist.

Locally, SMECO has many tips and services available to assist in conserving energy. Try out their online energy audit at <http://www.smeco.com>, under the Manage Your Energy section. In the meantime, try a few of the following:

- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent or LED lighting.
- Put exterior lighting on a motion sensor to avoid high wattage lights being on all night.
- Reduce the wattage of lighting where you don't need it as bright.
- Conserve hot water and install low flow shower heads and faucets.

Weatherize your home to seal leaks from windows, doors, and other openings.

- Add insulation to your ceilings and walls.
  - Turn off electric devices when not in use.

