



warm thoughts cool ideas

from H.B. McCLURE COMPANY

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PERSONALLY SPEAKING

value and service in uncertain times

Dear Friends,

In the four generations we've been in this community, we've always worked hard to bring you programs, products and services to help you get the most from your energy dollar. In these times of economic turmoil, we want you to know that we're on your side.

During this uncertain period, conserving energy is an effective way to keep your costs under control.

For starters, you can insulate your attic and caulk gaps around windows and doors to keep heat inside—where it belongs. *(For more tips, see pages 2 and 3.)*

One of the best ways to save energy and money is to replace an outdated heating system with new high-efficiency equipment. Upgrading to a new system will trim your energy consumption by as much as a third.

time for a tune-up

If you don't need a new system now, regular maintenance will keep it running efficiently—saving you up to 10% on your annual energy bill. If your system hasn't had its annual tune-up yet, call us to schedule one as soon as possible.

Another step you can take is asking us for a home energy audit. John Collins, our certified energy consultant, will thoroughly assess your energy needs and tell you what you can do to save money. *(See the "Ask the Expert" article on page 4.)*



Bob Whalen and Robert McClure

At H.B. McClure, our mission is to give you the best value and service in the area. Since our founding, the satisfaction of our customers has always been our primary focus.

Unlike less reputable companies that don't honor their promises, we are part of this community and we keep our word.

Thank you for your business. Please let us know what else we can do for you.

Warmly,

Bob McClure
CEO

Bob Whalen
President

\$1,000 protection for your tank

If you have an aboveground oil tank, you can protect it against leaks and corrosion with our new TankSure® program.

TankSure uses an ultrasound process that pinpoints any tank deterioration before a



leak develops. Also, for qualifying tanks, TankSure provides a warranty that guarantees up to \$1,000 toward the cost of any future tank replacement.

Plus, you may be able to get a discount on your homeowner's insurance when you sign up for TankSure protection.

Call us to find out more.

keep it clear

When our drivers deliver oil to your home, they need to know where to find your tank's fill pipe.

Some of our customers mark the spot, which is extremely helpful. Another constructive thing you can do is to clear the area of leaves, debris, overgrown shrubs and piled-up snow.



Speaking of snow, make sure that a mini "avalanche" from the roof of a nearby structure, such as a shed, doesn't hide the fill pipe or obstruct the driver's path to it.

Thank you for helping us make uneventful and on-time deliveries all winter long!



Save on Heating Costs

Families like yours have cut their heating bills significantly by combining energy conservation with energy efficiency.



ENERGY CONSERVATION means cutting your energy use with such measures as lowering the thermostat setting, caulking gaps in windows and doors and insulating your attic.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY means taking advantage of new technologies to reduce energy use. You can do this by installing appliances that get the most from every unit of energy, including heating systems that have ultra-high efficiency ratings.

1 savings tip

If your heating unit is close to 20 years old, upgrade to a new system. Over time, a new system can pay for itself with lower fuel costs. You'll raise the value of your home with a new system too. If your system isn't too old, you may be able to make improvements to boost efficiency. The more efficient your system is, the less fuel it wastes in the combustion process. And that means more money in your pocket and less pollution in the air.

maintenance keeps your system working right

If your system is less than 20 years old, be diligent about annual maintenance. If you've already had your system's yearly maintenance done, good for you! Not only have you lowered the chance of a breakdown this winter, you will have paid for your tune-up with the money you'll save on your energy bills, thanks to the increased efficiency.

plug heat's escape routes

Heated air always looks for a way to escape. It squeezes through light switches and electrical outlets, wriggles through pipe openings and slips through cracks in windows and doors. You can eliminate a lot of these escape routes by caulking, sealing and weatherstripping.



a word of caution

Following these steps will help protect your family from household hazards like frozen pipes, and electrical and heating fires. And be sure to regularly test your smoke and CO detectors, and change the batteries as needed.

don't set your thermostat below 60°

When your thermostat setting is too low, you risk frozen pipes. Water pipes near outside walls or in unheated spaces are especially prone to freeze-ups. The risk increases if cracks in your foundation allow cold air to enter.

use space heaters and wood stoves sparingly and with caution

Some people shut off their furnaces and use electric space heaters in the most commonly used rooms. Doing this vastly increases the chance of frozen pipes. Overusing electric space heaters can also make your utility bill soar. If you do use a heater, turn it off when you leave the room or go to sleep. Always keep pets and children away from space heaters.

Costs

Tips for forced air systems

Check ductwork.

High-efficiency equipment combined with a leaky duct system is like driving a fuel-efficient car that has underinflated tires. The engine may be fine-tuned, but you get terrible mileage. Gaps, cracks and disconnections in a duct system can mean losing as much as 40% of your heated air into unheated spaces, like garages, basements and crawl spaces.

Check air filters. While ducts should be inspected by a professional, something you can do yourself is to keep your furnace filter clean. This can reduce your heating costs by 5%. If you have a standard disposable filter, replace it about once a month during the heating season. Washable filters should be removed and cleaned as needed. After changing or cleaning the filter, make sure the furnace door or panel is completely closed. The furnace won't run unless you do.

Tips for hot water or steam systems

If you have cast-iron radiators, place metal reflectors behind the radiators to "bounce" heat into the center of the room. If you have an armoire, china closet or

Use your windows for solar heat.

During the day, open your shades or blinds to allow the sun to bring warmth inside. Close them at night to retain the warmth. Lock your windows too! This not only keeps your home secure, it also tightens the seal on the window, reducing the amount of heat that will leak through.



other large piece of furniture that blocks radiators or baseboards, move it against another wall if possible. The heat will circulate better in the room.

Radiator covers can also block airflow; they should be removed if insufficient or uneven heating is a problem in the room.

You can also save fuel and money by insulating pipes in unheated areas, such as attics or crawl spaces.

Program your savings

Not having a programmable thermostat is like getting up to change the TV channel instead of using your remote control.

With a programmable thermostat, you can automatically lower temperatures at night when everyone is sleeping or during the day when everyone is away. You save 1% on your annual heating bill for each degree you dial down, as long as the setback period is at least eight hours. The table to the left shows how much you can save during the heating season by doing this.

Degree of annual savings

3 degrees lower	=	\$90
6 degrees lower	=	\$180
9 degrees lower	=	\$270

Based on annual heating cost of \$3,000. Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy.

WOOD: not as green as you think



Burning wood for heating has led to concerns about air pollution because emissions are much higher than those produced by heating with fuel oil or gas. Electricity causes high levels of pollution because it is produced by burning coal.

Source: Energy Research Center, Inc.

Some people also use pellet or wood stoves as a substitute heat source. Stoves need constant maintenance to work safely. Improperly installed stoves increase the chance of a fire.

Let your heating system breathe

Never try to hide the heating system and water heater by boxing them in. With an improperly vented heating system, airflow is restricted, creating negative pressure. If not corrected, the pressure could lead to combustion gases "back drafting" into the home.

Combustion gases usually exit the home through a naturally drafting chimney/vent. Pressures inside the home can interfere with this process and draw the gases into your home.

Trust us to deliver comfort to your home or business!

Email us! hbmcclore@hbmcclore.com • Visit us! HBMcClure.com
Harrisburg (717) 232-HEAT Hershey (717) 534-2661 Carlisle (717) 243-9011

- ✓ \$1,000 protection for your tank
- ✓ save yourself a service call

let the sun work for you

Whether you are concerned about protecting the environment or saving on your utility bills, **Apricus solar collectors** are the answer. An Apricus system helps reduce your carbon footprint and saves you money.

Simply put, the solar collectors are tubes (installed on your roof) with water inside. After it absorbs the sun's heat, the water is pumped into a storage tank, where the heat in the water is converted into a more usable form.

The collected solar heat can heat your domestic water and/or your living space. A correctly sized solar heat system can provide 60% to 70% of a home's water heating needs.

With tax incentives that are now available, an Apricus solar collector system can be surprisingly affordable. Call us today to learn more or go to www.apricus.com.



Apricus solar collectors convert energy from the sun into usable heat.

ask the expert



Q: *Where can I start to reduce my home energy consumption?*

A: We are always looking for ways to help our customers reduce their home energy use. The best way now is through a **whole-house energy audit**.



John Collins,
certified energy consultant

As a certified energy consultant—I am recognized by PA Home Energy,* the Energy Star program and Pennsylvania Power & Light—I can inspect and test the total utility consumption of your home. If I find a problem, I can tell you what it will cost to remedy it. I can also quantify the savings using computer modeling. Once any corrective steps are taken to improve your home's energy efficiency, the home is retested to make sure the projected savings will be realized. Go to energystar.gov to see how your house could be losing money.

*PA Home Energy, a new program developed by the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, focuses on helping Pennsylvania consumers reduce their home energy use.

save yourself a service call

If you lose your heat, we may be able to help you avoid the wasted time and expense of a service call by explaining to you a simple do-it-yourself fix. To make it even easier to troubleshoot the problem, we've created a checklist (below) for you to cut out and save.

If you lose your heat:

- Make sure the thermostat is set above room temperature and/or set to "heat."
- Check the fuel level in your tank.
- Be sure power switches for your heating system are turned on.
- Check for a blown fuse or tripped circuit breaker.
- For oil heat systems, press the reset button on the burner **ONCE** only.

If you still can't get heat, call:

Harrisburg:
(717) 232-HEAT
Hershey:
(717) 534-2661
Carlisle:
(717) 243-9011

