

## YOUR VEHICLE

- ☀ Keep your vehicle well maintained—a dirty air filter, dirty sparkplugs, dirty oil all increase fuel consumption
- ☀ Check the tyre pressures—under inflated tyres wear faster and waste fuel
- ☀ Switch off your engine—don't leave your engine running for long periods of time when the car is stationary
- ☀ Drive off promptly—don't leave your engine running when you first start up. Drive off straight away—but drive gently until the engine warms up.
- ☀ Lighten your load—think about what you are carrying. The lighter the load the lower the fuel consumption and emissions.
- ☀ Drive smoothly – by using a light throttle and avoiding heavy braking you can reduce both fuel consumption and wear and tear. Drive in the highest gear possible without labouring the engine—this is the most fuel efficient way of driving. Research suggests driving techniques can influence fuel efficiency by as much as 30%
- ☀ Only use the air-conditioning when you really need it – it consumes extra fuel

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on saving electricity, contact:

Customer Care  
Belize Electricity Limited  
0-800-BEL-CARE (Toll Free)  
0-800-235-2273  
cust.care@bel.com.bz  
www.bel.com.bz

For energy saving tips on the internet, try the following websites (information in this brochure came from these sites):

US Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy:

[www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo/energy\\_savers/](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo/energy_savers/)

Caribbean Utilities Company Ltd:

[www.energydepot.com/caymanutilities\\_res/library/library.asp](http://www.energydepot.com/caymanutilities_res/library/library.asp)

[www.eforecourt.com/fuelsaving.htm](http://www.eforecourt.com/fuelsaving.htm)

The Formulation of a National Energy Plan for Belize  
(Sector Diagnostic and Policy Recommendations )  
Project is funded by:

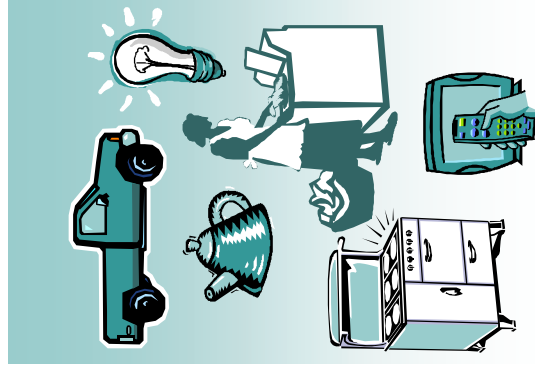


Public Utilities Commission



## ENERGY SAVING

### What you can



*Wasted energy  
is  
Wasted money*

# YOUR HOME

Get your house wiring checked by a licenced wireman—incorrect wiring can damage your appliances or make them use more electricity (contact the PUC for a list of licenced wiremen)

Make sure your butane canister is not leaking. Store it outside, away from any heat or flame sources

Make sure any gas appliances are designed for butane gas—Belize does not have natural gas

## Air Conditioning

Air conditioners consume more electricity than any other appliance in the home. Select the right air conditioner for the situation (ask your dealer) and use it wisely:

- ☀ Set the thermostat at the highest comfortable level
- ☀ Clean the filters regularly
- ☀ Shade the external unit (but do not block the airflow). A unit in the shade can use 10% less electricity than one in the sun.
- ☀ Use a fan with the air conditioner to circulate the cool air.
- ☀ Don't use the air conditioner when you could just use a fan.
- ☀ Use blinds, shades or awnings to keep all sunlight out of the house and keep all doors and windows tightly closed

## Dryers

Electric clothes dryers also consume a large amount of electricity.

- ☀ Dry clothes on the line if possible
- ☀ Do not dry clothes for longer than you need to—not only will this save energy, but it will save wear and tear on your clothes caused by over drying
- ☀ Dry loads one right after another—this will use less energy because the dryer is already heated
- ☀ Clean the lint trap after every use

*Remember—gas dryers are less expensive to run than electric dryers*

## Fridges and Freezers

- ☀ Keep out of direct sunlight and away from heat sources

- ☀ Defrost regularly

- ☀ Try to take out everything that you need in one go—opening and shutting the door repeatedly will let the cold air out

- ☀ Do not leave the door open

- ☀ Use the lowest (warmest) acceptable setting

## Washers

80%-85% of the energy used for washing clothes is used for heating the water. Unless the clothes are heavily stained, warm or cold water will clean your clothes

- ☀ Rinse using cold water—it will give cleaner, less wrinkled clothes

- ☀ Only use the amount of water required for the load. Wash full loads wherever possible

## Water Heating

- ☀ Switch the water heater off when you're away for more than a few days

- ☀ Use cold water wherever possible

## Cooking

- ☀ On gas stoves, look for blue flames—yellow flames indicate the gas is burning inefficiently—consult an engineer

- ☀ Clean stove top burners regularly and replace those that are rusted—they will leak gas

- ☀ Match the size of the flame to the size of the pan—flames should not appear up the sides of the pan

- ☀ Cover pans to cook faster

- ☀ In a kettle or on the stove, only boil as much water as you need, and switch the kettle off, or remove from heat as soon as the water boils.

## Appliances

- ☀ Turn off any appliances and lights when not in use.