

The EQ Committee is focusing on the steps each of us can take in our lives and in our homes to protect our environment. The committee's goals this year are to provide current and accurate information, offer ideas and measures you can adopt in your home, and provide informed answers to questions regarding energy saving measures. This issue we open with the following Energy Conservation low cost ideas and suggestions that will have an immediate and truly beneficial impact on our environment:

**Electricity facts to consider:** one pound of coal is burned to produce a one kilowatt hour of energy. Burning a 100 watt lamp for one hour uses 1 kilowatt of electricity. Up to seventy five percent of that energy is wasted in production and delivery to your home. The average home can use 20-60 pounds of coal a day. The average household creates more carbon pollution than the average car. Given these facts, one can see how reducing your lighting energy usage will have an exponential positive effect on our environment.

\*Embrace the use of compact fluorescent lamps (those curly cue Light bulbs) and LED lamps in your home. CFL's use 75% less energy than traditional lamps (remember to recycle/dispose properly) and LED's use 75% less than CFL's.

\* Install room occupancy sensors which turn off lights when people leave the room.

\*Many of our appliances and electronics such as cell phones, battery chargers, computers, stereo systems, game consoles, televisions, microwaves and other kitchen appliances keep using electricity even when we aren't using them. Make an assessment in your home and routinely unplug, power down these items or install smart strips to end wasteful ghost loads. Smart strips automatically power appliances off and on when they sense a decrease/increase in the electrical load.

### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Three tiers of new energy efficiency incentives are being offered by the state of Missouri beginning October 4th. The state will pay for an energy audit of your home up to \$500 plus 50% - 70% of subsequent repair costs up to \$19,000 depending on the tiers of repairs chosen. The state is making an allowance for a whole house performance energy audit because this important assessment will enable you to make informed decisions about the most cost effective, energy efficient approach in your home. Below you will find a link with more information regarding this program.

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/transform/energizemissourihomes.htm>

Click on:

\*Homeowner upgrades and geothermal program

\*Homeowner upgrades and geothermal guidelines, pages 10-13

In addition to this, federal incentives are still available until December. See the link below for up to date information.

[https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home\\_improvement.hm\\_improvement\\_index](https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement.hm_improvement_index)

This article was written by league member and energy auditor **Kellye**

**Markowski.** You are encouraged to contact her at **314-255-9922** with your questions regarding the state incentives. Please submit your home energy conservation topics for discussion or your energy conservation questions to the League office and we will address them in future ILR's.