

## **March's Monthly Challenge**

*"Chill Out!"*

***Did you know that heating your water accounts for about 25% of the energy used in your home? This challenge is designed to help us find ways to decrease the amount of hot water we're using. If your hot water is hot enough to give you burns if you don't mix it with some cold water, chances are you could turn that hot water heater down a few degrees. Keeping your hot water heater at 125 degrees is hot enough to kill bacteria and meet your needs.***

*Here are some 'cool' facts on the benefits on using less hot water:*

- ❖ ***It makes cents! "A hot wash/warm rinse setting for a load of laundry has an electric energy cost of approximately 40 cents. A cold wash/cold rinse brings that energy cost down to a mere 2 cents a load," says Mira Vowles, a mechanical engineer at Bonneville Power Administration.***
  
- ❖ ***Drop those extra pounds! About 90% of the energy used for washing clothes is for heating the water. There are two ways to reduce the amount of energy used for washing clothes—(1) use less water and (2) use cooler water. Unless you're dealing with oily stains, the warm or cold water setting on your machine will generally do a good job of cleaning your clothes. Switching your temperature setting from hot to warm can cut a load's energy use in half. For each 10 degree reduction on your hot water heater, you'll stop 500 pounds of carbon dioxide each year from entering the atmosphere.***

*Follow these steps to meet this challenge:*

- 1. Turn down the thermostat on the hot water heater. One minute of effort, a lifetime of benefit!***
- 2. Switch to cold water when doing your laundry. Again, one switch at the top of your washer and you're making a huge difference.***
- 3. Share this idea. Remember, the more folks making these small lifestyle changes, the bigger the impact we have.***

***Duration: 30 days***

***Average CO2 Savings: 104 pounds a month***