

ENERGY MATTERS

News, Resources, & Answers for Cleco Customers

Winter 2005



TREES ARE 'LOW TECH' ENERGY SAVERS

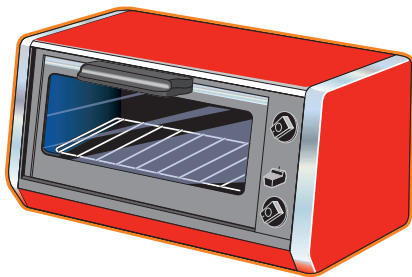
Did you know that planting trees can help save money on your energy bill? By planting deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in winter) on the east and west side of your house, you can cut cooling costs by 15 to 35 percent in the summer and let the sun's rays warm your home in the winter. That saves money.

To learn more about planting trees to conserve energy, visit www.cleco.com.

IT'S TREE PLANTING TIME.

The best time to plant trees is in the wet winter months when trees are dormant and roots have time to adjust before leaves start to grow.

- Think about the mature height of your tree before you plant it. Look up and don't plant trees near power lines.
- Trees planted near power lines can affect electricity reliability and can create a safety hazard for homeowners, neighbors and utility workers.
- Plant trees near your air conditioner (but don't block its air flow). A shaded unit can increase its efficiency by 10 percent.
- Plant trees to shade windows. About three-fourths of total solar heat gain comes through windows.



> Energy conservation tip

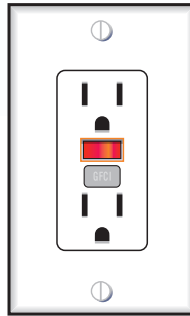
If you are preparing a small amount of food, consider using a portable electric appliance such as a frying pan, grill or toaster oven. On average, these use only about one-third of the electric power of an oven broiler.

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ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS

Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) prevent accidental electric shock and electrocution by sensing a problem and shutting off the circuit. They help prevent the fires that often result from problems with outlets, switches and frayed and cracked cords by sensing a circuit imbalance and immediately shutting off the circuit. GFCIs are recommended and sometimes required, especially near water sources in areas like kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor locations.



How to test a GFCI

1. Push the **RESET** button located on the GFCI receptacle to ensure regular operation.
2. Plug a nightlight or other product with an on/off switch into the GFCI receptacle and turn the product on.
3. Push the **TEST** button located on the GFCI receptacle. The plugged-in item should go off.
4. Push the **RESET** button, again. The product should go on again.

If the test item stays on when the **TEST** button is pushed, the GFCI is not working correctly or has been incorrectly installed. If your GFCI is not working properly, call a qualified, certified electrician who can evaluate the situation, rewire the GFCI if necessary or replace it.



CLECO IN THE COMMUNITY

Cleco and its employees are involved in community activities across Cleco's service territory. Employees donate time and money throughout the year to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, local food banks and many others.

Cleco employees have assisted the East St. Tammany Habitat for Humanity with construction projects for the past several years, and Cleco supports Habitat for Humanity groups throughout the state.



Cleco employees from the Pineville area assist with a lunch at Manna House in Alexandria. Manna House is a privately funded program that feeds more than 300 hungry children and adults daily.