

# On-The-Line

A publication of Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company

Grantsburg  
(715) 463-5371

Frederic  
(715) 327-4231

Toll Free  
(800) 261-1200

## Budget billing will even out costs

If your electric bill's seasonal highs and lows have got you down, NWE's Budget Rate Plan can help. Starting with your May billing, NWE will estimate your average monthly electric usage and generate a

bill for the same amount for 12 months. At the end of the 12 months, any underpayments will be billed to you, and any overpayments will be calculated into the next 12-month plan. NWE continues to send a bill each month showing you your usage and actual monthly costs, but you send the same amount of money each month.



You can make things even more convenient by signing up for NWE's Direct Payment program at the same time as you sign up for Budget Billing. This way, we'll subtract the same amount each month from your checking account. Then you won't have to worry about fluctuating cost or bill paying. NWE continues to send a bill each month showing you your usage and actual monthly costs, but you pay the same each month. Call NWE if you're interested in these plans.

## ASK WALLY T. WATTMEISER

Q:

I am an existing NWE customer, and I built a new lake home this past year. Gas-forced air is my current heat source. I would like to get some more information on electric thermal storage (ETS) heaters. Does NWE sell the ETS heaters and, if so, are there various size options? Basically, I'm trying to find out if something like ETS would make sense for me.

Answer on Back



# Five tips to save money this winter

1

Turn down the heat. A set-back of just 5 degrees when you are gone during the day can save 5 percent on heating bills.

2

Consider NWE's Time-of-Day electric rate. Schedule tasks such as clothes drying and running the dishwasher until after 8 p.m.

3

Replace five incandescent light bulbs with Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's) and save over \$60 per year on energy costs.

4

Use window insulation. See *Window Insulation for Dummies in the Fall 2006 On-the-Line*.

5

Insulate your hot water heater. If the water heater is located in an unheated basement or closet, this is a must.



Visit  
[www.focusonenergy.com](http://www.focusonenergy.com)  
 for more  
 energy saving tips

## Ask Wally, continued from front

Your question is a popular one. NWE has off-peak rates available to support the installation of ETS heaters. Because you have gas heat available, you could either go on NWE's Dual Fuel rate (controlled heating - RW2) or Time-of-Day rate (FG2). In either case, the off-peak rate is approximately \$0.07 per kwh. This is equivalent

**A:**

to about \$1.70 per gallon of propane. I have attached a heating cost comparison for your review. As you can see, the annual heating costs between off-peak electric and propane are pretty close. You need to look at your cost-per-gallon on propane to do your own comparison. NWE does not sell the Steffes ETS heater directly. However, they can be purchased by your electrician through First Supply in Eau Claire, WI. NWE has a list-price sheet if you need one. We do have a rebate of \$15/kw of ETS heat installed plus a one-time, \$120 rebate for controlling load if you go on our Time-Of-Day rate. This rebate is higher for customers who have existing electric heat that is not off peak. I hope this information is helpful. Be sure to call NWE with any other questions.

Estimated Annual Heating Costs

