

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Make Smart Energy Choices

(NAPSA)—There are steps you can take to keep home energy costs from going through the roof.

According to a recent survey of consumers' energy usage and spending habits, 90 percent of respondents have recently made attempts to lower their energy usage of things such as air-conditioning, home heating systems, electricity and gasoline. Seventy-five percent even used preventive measures in an attempt to lower their home heating costs.

Cold temperatures and hot financial pressures have led to increased consumer anxiety and have forced many to take precautions. As many as 86 percent of respondents said they were currently reducing their spending on things like eating out and vacations simply to offset rising energy costs.

"There are quick, cost-effective ways to manage your energy expenditures that can make all the difference," said Tom Archer, home comfort expert at Bryant Heating and Cooling Systems.

Try some of these tips to reduce your home heating bill:

- Check the furnace filter regularly and change as needed.
- Program the thermostat to automatically change the indoor temperature. The house tempera-



A programmable thermostat can be one way to reduce your energy costs.

ture should be lower during the day when no one is home.

- Vacuum vents and other heating components.
- Seal leaks and add weather stripping around doors and windows. Caulk gaps where needed.
- Insulate. Focus on crawl spaces, basements, walls, floors and attics.

Archer continued, "It's also helpful to schedule an appointment with a licensed professional to perform a routine check on a heating system to ensure your system will perform at peak efficiency this season."

Following these tips can help you stay comfortable without receiving an uncomfortable heating bill. Find a licensed HVAC dealer by visiting the dealer locator section of www.bryant.com.