

It's that time of year again when energy bills sky rocket due to our heating needs in the home. The winter months are rapidly approaching, here are some useful tips to ensure that you get the most out of your buck. According to US EPA it is important that you,

- Clean your central air filters and ducts, so the air circulating in your home is healthy.
- Check your ducts for leaks and seal with duct mastic so that your furnace works efficient. This way the heat put out by your furnace is not leaked out causing a higher bill.
- For those of you, who have wood burning fireplaces, be sure to compost your ashes. Adding ashes to your compost pile can neutralize the acid in your compost pile. Also adds potassium, lime, and other trace elements.
- Don't forget to repair any broken windows and leaks in the frames of doors; use energy saving curtains as well.
- The best energy saving thermostat to install is an Energy Star qualified programmable thermostat for those of you looking to install a new system.
- Making your own wood logs is helpful to the environment; roll newspaper sheets around a broom stick until you reach the desired size, and then soak your log thoroughly in water. Dry the log overnight and use like ordinary wood. "Always follow proper safety precautions when burning anything around your home."

DON'T FORGET! The Rincon Environmental Department is hosting our bi-annual clean up day! We would like you to join us in helping to keep the reservation clean and waste free of any hazardous materials. This year we will be having our **CLEAN UP EVENT on December 3, 2011 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. located at 1001 Omish lane Valley Center, CA 92082 (14acres).** Also, this year we will be having our first ever Christmas tree recycling program! Please be sure to look forward to future updates on when and where we will be hosting the Christmas tree recycling station. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Rincon Environmental Department at (760) 297-2632.