

## From the Agent

Happy Independence Day! There are sure signs that summer is here. Is your home ready for the hot summer? How about taking this holiday to do some projects on your home. In this month's WET you will find strategies to help you save energy during the summer when the weather is warm and you are trying to keep your home cool. I am also hosting an energy efficient home workshop this summer. If you are interested in reducing your electric bills while improving your home's comfort, please call 352-671-8400 to register. As always, you can also find more updated information on water and energy from the WET Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/marionwet](http://www.facebook.com/marionwet)). I hope you find the information helpful. Thanks for reading WET.

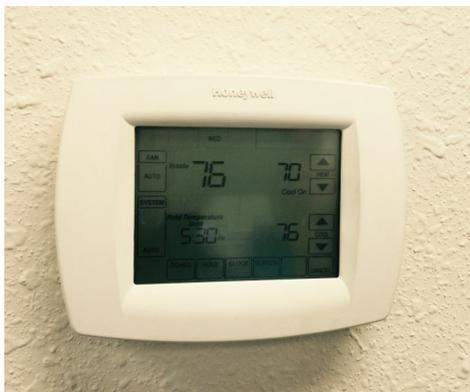
Yilin Zhuang



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*Only about 10% to 15% of the electricity that incandescent lights consume results in light—the rest is turned into heat.*

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### In This Issue

- ◆ Preparation for Warmer Temperature 2-3
- ◆ Energy Efficient Home Workshop Flyer 5

# Preparation for Warmer Temperature

A hot and long summer is here. Below you'll find a few easy ways to prepare your home for summer temperature.

## Check Air Conditioner

Maintaining your air conditioner will save you money by extending the unit's life. First check the filters; clogged, dirty filters block normal airflow and reduce efficiency. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter with a clean one can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5% to 15%. Also keep your air conditioner evaporator coils clean. If you have a split system, clean debris and leaves from the fan, compressor, and condenser. Also, ensure there is no blockage of air flow from the air handler. Do not vent a clothes dryer within 10 feet of the outdoor unit, as dryer lint will cling to the condensing coil, lowering both the system's efficiency and service life.

## Operate Thermostat Efficiently

Keep your house warmer than normal when you are away, and lower the thermostat setting to 78°F only when you are at home and need cooling. It can save you 5% to 15% a year on your electric bills. Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense. Although thermostats can be adjusted manually, programmable thermostats will avoid any discomfort by returning temperatures to normal before you

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*The location of your thermostat can affect its performance and efficiency. To operate properly, a thermostat must be on an interior wall away from direct sunlight, drafts, doorways, skylights, and windows. It should be located where natural room air currents—warm air rising, cool air sinking—occur. Furniture will block natural air movement, so do not place pieces in front of or below your thermostat. Also make sure your thermostat is conveniently located for programming.*

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wake or return home. Choose one that can store and repeat multiple daily settings, so that you can have both a workday and a weekend heating/cooling timetable. A manual override feature is a great convenience, allowing you to override current settings without affecting the rest of the program. Before purchasing, make certain the thermostat is designed to operate with your system.

## Use Ceiling Fans

To avoid the onslaught of central and window air conditioning to your utility bills, there are many strategies to help you save energy during summer and keep your home comfortable and inexpensively cooled. Ceiling fans are one of them. Ceiling fans can reduce thermostat settings by 4°F and use much less energy than air conditioning. Just remember, like any appliance, they're only useful to people when they're actually around. So be sure to turn them off when leaving the house.

## Turn Off Heated Appliances

To keep your home cool, consider limiting use of the oven, and use a microwave or an outdoor grill instead. Cooking food in an oven can increase the heat not just in your kitchen, but in your whole house. Using a microwave and stovetop to cook food can cut the heat in your home dramatically over using the oven. Installing efficient lighting that needs less energy can also help keep room temperatures cooler. Only about 10% to 15% of the electricity that incandescent lights consume results in light—the rest is turned into heat. Buy energy efficient lighting like LEDs or CFLs instead. You can also help keep your home cool by placing warm appliances (lamps, televisions, and cooking appliances) away from internal thermostats. Also, turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warming setting (120°F). Water heating can account for 14% to 25% of the

## Contact

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To receive future electronic copies of WET, please contact Yilin Zhuang.



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**Please call  
352-671-8400 to  
register by July 3.**

**Registration  
includes  
materials and  
refreshments.**



**Energy Efficient Homes**

## **Energy Efficient Home Workshop**

**Reducing energy consumption while  
improving your home's comfort.**

### **Topics and Dates**

July 9: Air Conditioning and Duct System

July 16: Lighting and Windows

July 23: Appliances and Electronics

July 30: Indoor Environmental Quality

### **Instructor and Cost**

Yilin Zhuang, Ph.D.

UF/IFAS Extension Agent

\$10 for each session and \$30 for all.

### **Time and Location**

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

UF/IFAS Extension Marion County

2232 NE Jacksonville Rd.

Ocala, FL 34470