



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



October 27, 2010

## Energy Security On Base and At Home

*"We are committed to taking a leadership role in energy reform ashore as our part of the global effort to reduce energy consumption. The Navy's shore energy bill is over one billion dollars a year. New energy initiatives, like Smart Grid, which measures utility usage across the Navy by each tenant on our bases, will help us to change our behavior and become far more efficient."*

– Vice Adm. Michael Vitale, Commander, Navy Installations Command

Conserving energy and reducing dependence on a volatile energy supply and foreign oil are clearly in the best interest of our [national security](#). Smart Grid technologies provide Sailors and Navy civilians with real-time knowledge and decision-making tools that will empower them to save energy, resources, utility costs and the environment. Creating an increased sensitivity and awareness of energy consumption in the home and office will make a difference over the long term, significantly improve Navy and Marine Corps mission effectiveness, and enhance security. Here are some simple tips to conserve energy at work and in the home:

### Saving Energy at Work

- Unplug equipment that consumes energy when not in use (e.g.: cell phone chargers, fans, coffeemakers, desktop printers, radios, etc.).
- Report all energy waste to building managers or public works officers.
- Make a habit of turning off lights when leaving a room or office.
- Save paper. Photocopy only what is needed. Print on both sides.
- Dress appropriately for the weather and the work conditions. Don't use personal heaters.
- Consider alternative work schedules, telecommuting and alternative transportations (e.g.: bikes, carpooling, van pools, and mass transportation).

### Saving Energy at Home

- Consider having a home energy assessment, also known as a home energy audit, to assess how much energy is consumed and to evaluate what measures can be taken to make the home more energy efficient.
- Look for the [ENERGY STAR](#)® label or an EnergyGuide label on appliances and electronics.
- Install a programmable thermostat to keep the house warm in the winter and cool in the summer.
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs with the ENERGY STAR® label.
- Lower the thermostat on hot water heaters to 120°F.
- Drive sensibly. Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gasoline.

### Key Messages

- Energy security is critical to mission success. Energy security safeguards our [energy infrastructure](#) and shields the Navy and Marine Corps from a volatile energy supply.
- [Energy efficiency](#) increases mission effectiveness. Efficiency improvements minimize operational risks, saving time, money and lives.
- Environmental stewardship protects mission capabilities. Investments in [environmentally responsible practices](#) afloat and ashore lessen dependence on fossil fuels and reduce green house gas emissions.

### Facts & Figures

- Navy energy use is 30 percent of DoD energy use.
- Navy petroleum use represents 0.4 percent of U.S. petroleum use.
- The average household spends \$1,400 each year on energy bills. Choosing Energy Star-qualified products, consumers can cut this by 30 percent, saving about \$400 each year.
- "Sleep" features that power down office equipment and other electronic devices not in use can save households up to \$70 annually.
- For more news about Navy energy initiatives and priorities visit <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil>.