

Energy Saving Tips

- Control your thermostat setting. The temperature at which you set the thermostat will affect your energy savings. In the summer, raise your thermostat setting.
- Turn down the thermostat on your water heater to a temperature of 115 degrees. If you have a dishwasher, check to make sure this lower temperature will clean the dishes properly. Run only full loads in the dishwasher and scrape dishes with cold water.
- Use fluorescent or energy saving lights.
- Change air filters every month.
- Make sure heating registers and vents are not blocked by draperies, furniture or rugs. These vents should also be cleaned regularly with a vacuum or a broom.
- Check for cracked weatherstripping around doors and windows.
- Wash clothes in cold water and clean dryer filters after each load.
- Turn off your oven five minutes before you are done baking to take advantage of built-up heat.
- Cover your pans when cooking to reduce cooking time and the amount of heat needed.
- Clean the bottom and back of your refrigerator once a year. It will run more efficiently.
- If you have an outside air conditioning unit or heat pump, make sure that it is not blocked by shrubbery, leaves or other objects.

CALL (704) 866-6752

**TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY
FOR**

\$25.00

\$20.00

or

\$15.00

**EACH MONTH OFF YOUR
MONTHLY ELECTRIC BILL!**

City of Gastonia

181 South Street
Suite 206, 2nd Floor City Hall
PO Box 1748
Gastonia, NC 28052

Phone: 704-866-6752

Fax: 704-866-6067

Email: dawnm@cityofgastonia.com



City of Gastonia

**Gastonia
Electric
Assistance
Resource
Program
"The GEAR Program"**



181 South Street, Suite 206
Gastonia, NC 28056

704-866-6752

The City of Gastonia is excited to introduce the “GEAR” program.

The G E A R program is designed to:

- Enable customers with very low incomes to manage and afford electricity within the limits of program funds.
- Help customers maintain the responsibility to pay for electric services received from the City of Gastonia.
- Offer assistance to very low income customers to offset the electric rate increase.



GEARing up for our community!

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- Approved applicants will receive a monthly credit which will be applied to their City of Gastonia electric bill over a 12-month period.
- Applicants must be re-certified for program assistance annually.
- Applicants MUST come into the office of Community Development for an intake interview in order to complete the application for assistance.
- At the time of the interview, applicants must be able to provide written documentation for all income reported on the application.
- Applicants must also provide proof of residence (a rent receipt, lease, deed, or property tax bill will be accepted as proof of present address).
- Applicants will need to provide a copy of their most recent electric bill.

EASY APPLICATION PROCESS

The following are income sources that will be needed to document household income, if applicable, for your application for electric assistance:

- **Wages**
- **Wages from self employment**
- **Unemployment benefits**
- **Active military pay**
- **Pensions**
- **VA pensions**
- **VA disability**
- **Disability assistance**
- **Social Security**
- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**
- **Child Support**
- **Worker’s Comp**
- **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)**
- **Employment disability**

Call **(704) 866-6752** for an application or stop by the office of Community Development
181 South Street, Suite 206, Gastonia, NC.

Eligibility Requirements

- Total household income must be less than or equal to the income guidelines (adjusted for family size) as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Applicants must have 12 month history of electric metered service with the City of Gastonia at the current address.
- The applicant must be the primary customer of record with the utility for the service address and the service address must be the applicant’s primary residence. Service cannot be in the name of a friend, relative or landlord, even if the applicant is the person responsible for paying the bill.

Income Guidelines

<u>Gross Monthly Income</u>	<u>Household Size</u>
\$1,163	1
\$1,330	2
\$1,496	3
\$1,663	4
\$1,796	5
\$1,930	6
\$2,063	7
\$2,196	8

Ineligible Applicants

- Customers receiving utility assistance through other City programs or customers receiving utility assistance through subsidized housing programs.
- Customers who do not have a 12-month established utility history with the City of Gastonia.
- Customers who have had service suspended for meter tampering.
- Customers whose utilities are included with the rent.
- Customers who cannot provide documentation of income or verification of address.