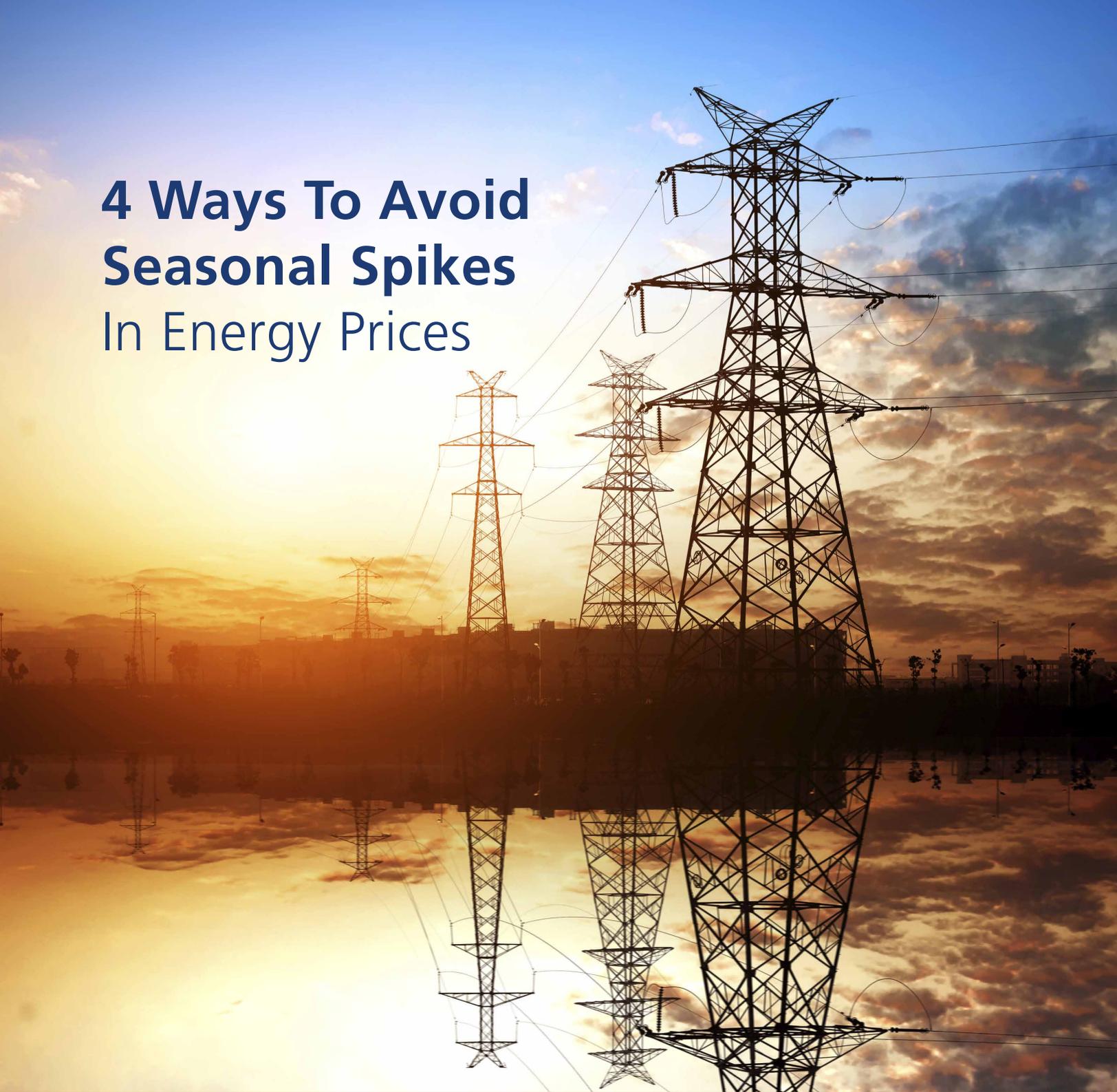


4 Ways To Avoid Seasonal Spikes In Energy Prices



South Jersey Energy

Heating and cooling your building is likely one of the biggest expenses you incur. As seasons change and energy prices spike, it becomes more and more important to find ways to reduce your energy consumption and improve the efficiency of your HVAC system. Here are a few ways to make a positive difference.

Install A Programmable Thermostat

A programmable thermostat is one of the best things to aid in the energy efficiency of your HVAC system. Most buildings are empty for a bulk of the day (such as after office hours, on nights, weekends and holidays); why make your HVAC system work to cool or heat your unoccupied business? If you program your thermostat to tolerate a higher temperature when nobody is around, you save energy for when it's really needed.

Many programmable thermostats are flexible and offer the ability for you to customize your schedule. In the winter, if you want your building to stay at 75 degrees during the workday, schedule the heater to kick on and start warming the office an hour before anyone arrives.

Your thermostat is capable of serving these functions and more, so you're not wasting money and energy using the system when you don't really need it. Your occupants won't notice a difference in temperature, but your energy bills will be remarkably lower.



Check Your Insulation Installation

If the insulation in your walls is old or ineffective, you're losing a ton of the heated or cooled air in your building. It's likely that your walls and roof are leaking heat – and that energy loss is adding up on your energy bills. Heat loss from walls, roofs and ceilings combined accounts for around 24% of your building's total heat loss, so it's important not to ignore the energy-saving potential. Invest in high-quality insulation to prevent the air inside your building from getting out.

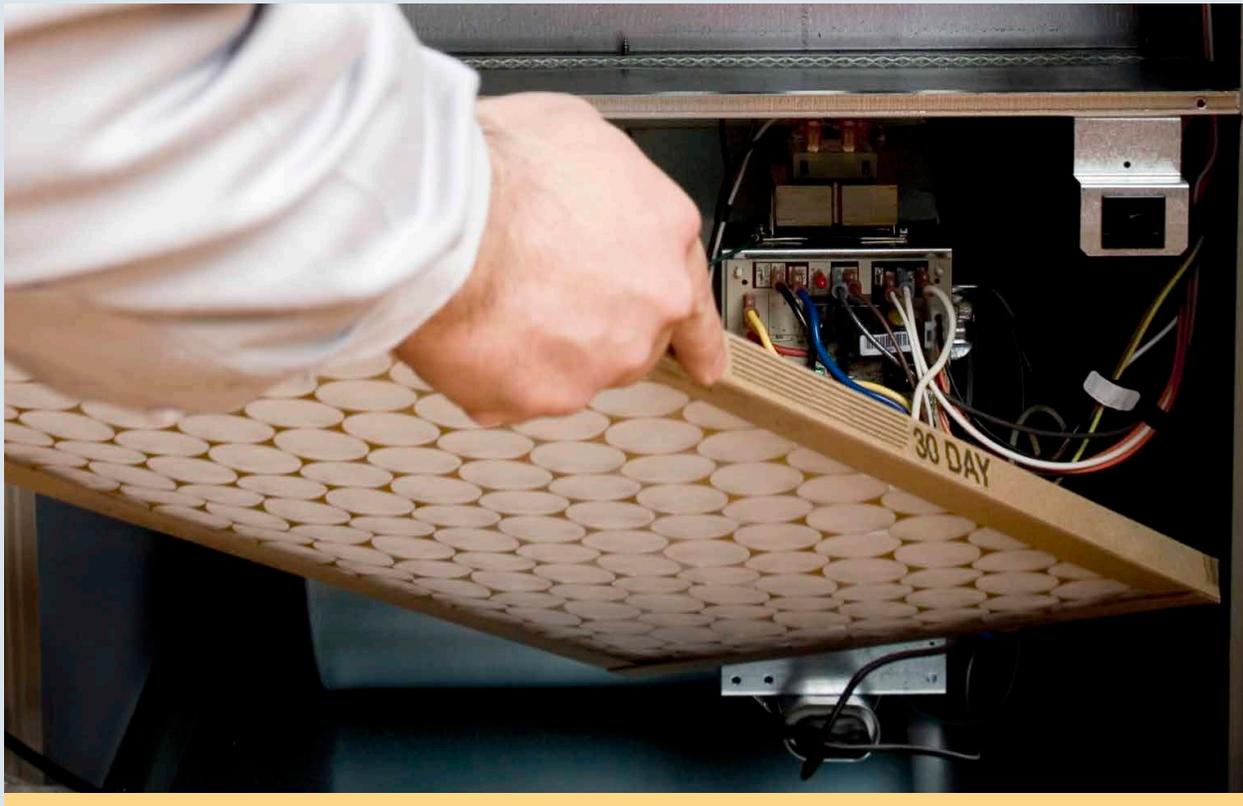
To determine how much air you're losing, [sign up for an energy assessment.](#)



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Clean Your Ductwork

When air is pumped through your vents and ducts, sometimes the heavier particles (dirt and dust) drop out. These allergens accumulate in your ducts, similar to the clumping of Dust Bunnies under your kids' beds. As these allergens sit clustered in your ducts, air runs past them every time your HVAC system runs. In essence, you're releasing pollutants into the air whenever you turn on your HVAC system. A duct cleaning service controls the air quality in your building. By removing the buildup of dust & dirt and eliminating mold & mildew in your ducts, your indoor air quality should improve dramatically.

Replace Your HVAC Filters

You'd be surprised how much of an impact dirty HVAC filters have on the performance of your heating and cooling system. Ideally, you should be changing your HVAC filter every month. In the meantime, though, make sure you're checking to see how clean it is. When pollen, debris from storms, dirt and insects build up on the filter, your heating and cooling system has to work much harder to heat or cool your home. By simply checking and changing the filter regularly, you greatly improve the efficiency of your HVAC system.



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As an added consideration, dirty HVAC filters wreak havoc on allergy sufferers. Indoor air quality depends entirely on the filters and air purifiers you have installed. Hundreds of pollutants – dust, mites, dirt, dander, pollen and mold – float in the air outside. But did you know that indoor air quality is actually *worse* than outdoor air in almost every case? This phenomenon is called indoor air pollution, and it has serious health implications for your family. The allergens in your home air may trigger coughing, chest tightness, sore throat, itchy eyes, shortness of breath and even an asthma attack.

Look into having HEPA air purifiers installed in your HVAC system, especially during the allergen-heavy spring, summer and fall months. HEPA air filters are efficient at capturing infinitesimally small dust particles, dander, mites, pollen and mold spores (97% efficiency at the 0.3Micron level). With efficiency like that, you'll breathe easier knowing the air being pumped into your building is clean and pure, year-round.



When considering energy choices to run your company's large facility, you don't just want a power source that's economical and efficient – you also want a commercial heating and cooling option that stewards the environment well, particularly when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions. Ask yourself how your daily choices affect the environment, and then make the best choice for the planet, your budget and your comfort.



To learn more about smart energy choices, call South Jersey Energy at 856-505-4604 or [click here](#) to reach out to us.



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