

MOTION

The largest source of energy use for most residents and businesses is the heating and cooling system of the home or building. It is also one of the most neglected energy saving components. Most heating and cooling systems are not properly maintained and operated at optimal levels.

In addition, many homes and businesses have leaky air distribution or duct systems. Each of these problems represents significant energy waste and causes rate charges to go up, particularly in the summer months when cooling systems in many areas of the City particularly the San Fernando Valley are continuously in operation to provide relief from the heat.

Relief from the extreme heat in this area is a question of health. Our more vulnerable populations need this relief for their well-being. Air conditioning for them is a necessity not a luxury.

To support this effort, the DWP should consider developing a program that maximizes energy efficiency benefits of Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems. The DWP can help ratepayers realize substantial savings on their bill by having HVAC systems reviewed for performance; including maintenance efficiency "checks" at no cost to the ratepayer.

These system "checks" should include air filter replacements, outdoor coil and air flow adjustments; including refrigerant charge assessments.

In the event one's HVAC system needs to be replaced, the DWP should offer an energy efficiency incentive such as a programmable thermostat. Programmable thermostats assist ratepayers in automatically reducing cooling and heating when it is least needed lowering their bill.

All of these energy efficiency components have the potential for reducing cooling and heating costs by approximately 20% to 30%. These are significant savings, particularly for ratepayers that reside in the hottest areas of the City like the San Fernando Valley that require more frequent use of their cooling systems.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power be requested to report to the City Council in 15 days on the feasibility of developing an Energy Efficiency Heating and Cooling Program that maximizes system efficiency and unit performance in order to provide significant energy savings to ratepayers and therefore, lowering their bills.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Water and Power report on the status of its existing energy efficiency program and components that benefit ratepayers.

I MOVE FURTHER that DWP proactively reach out to ratepayers on this program and conduct workshops with council offices to utilize this new program for as many ratepayers as possible.



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