



## HANNIBAL BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

### ELECTRIC, WATER AND WASTEWATER

3 INDUSTRIAL LOOP DRIVE  
PO BOX 1589  
HANNIBAL, MISSOURI 63401-1589  
573-221-8050  
[www.hannibalbpw.org](http://www.hannibalbpw.org)



## “MARCH MADNESS” UTILITY TIPS



One of the most common questions asked this time of year is “how are your brackets doing”? Amid all the choices to make as you decide on the matchup between Fast Break University and Tall Guy Tech, we hope you’ll also think about some easy choices to save energy and water. Here’s an “Elite 8” of ideas to get you thinking.

### FREE THROW LINE - Four “Free” (No Cost) tips

- **Leaving the room? Flip off the light switch.** It might be the easiest thing you do today. And your mom was right – money doesn’t grow on trees around here.
- **Reduce water heater temperature.** If your water heater is set hotter than 120 degrees Fahrenheit, set it back down to 120° F, so it takes less energy to heat your home’s water supply.
- **Clean the lint trap.** Your clothes dryer will breathe easier and do its job more efficiently.
- **Rock-a-bye your PC.** Most computers today come with a “sleep mode” or power management features. Many of these features aren’t already enabled when you purchase a computer. Learn how to set and use those “power down” settings for easy savings.

### DOUBLE DRIBBLE - don’t be penalized by wasted water

The U.S. EPA designates the third week of March as “Fix-A-Leak Week” to remind Americans to check plumbing fixtures for leaks and conserve on home water use. Here’s a “Final Four” worth of simple water-saving tips. Score some extra points for resource conservation, along with saving a little money.

- **TOILET TROUBLES** – Toilets are often the home’s biggest source of water use, and a common cause of water waste, due to leaks and inefficiency. A leak from the tank into the bowl causing the tank to refill frequently can add a surprisingly large amount to the monthly water bill. The cause is often an old, faulty toilet flapper. Over time, this inexpensive rubber part decays, or minerals build up on it. It’s usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper—a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time.
- **FAUCET FIXES** – That annoying faucet leak may be costing you more than you realize. A single faucet tap dripping once every three seconds can waste more than 600 gallons of water a year. In most cases, a worn out washer is the culprit. New washers are cheap, and they can be replaced in minutes with a simple wrench and screwdriver. Also, make sure you have aerators on your faucets.
- **SHOWER POWER** – Taking shorter showers can save water, but for more consistent savings in the long run when you “head for the showers”, go low flow. You can buy a quality, high-efficiency lower-flow shower head for around \$10-\$20, and achieve water savings of anywhere from 25-60 percent over many older fixtures. Try a high-efficiency showerhead with a flow rate of less than 2.5 gpm (gallons per minute). Before 1992, some showerheads had flow rates of 5.5 gpm, so if you’re not sure of the flow rate, you might want to consider replacing older models.
- **WATERSENSE makes sense.** Next time you replace a toilet, or faucet, check out models with EPA’s WaterSense label for even more water savings. Products that earn the WaterSense label have been certified as at least 20 percent more efficient than similar products, without sacrificing performance. ([www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense))

*Energy, safety and water resource-saving information in this material is adapted from various published federal, state, public power and non-profit sources.*