



Utilities
electric • stormwater • wastewater • water
700 Wood St.
PO Box 580
Fort Collins, CO 80522
970.221.6700
970.221.6619 fax • 970.224.6003 TDD
utilities@fcgov.com • fcgov.com/utilities

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Contact: Patty Bigner
Customer and Employee Relations Manager
(970) 416-2432
pbigner@fcgov.com
www.fcgov.com/checkme

Stay Cool with Fort Collins Utilities Central Air Conditioner Tune-Up Program

The hot weather is not over yet—now’s the time to take advantage of Fort Collins Utilities’ new CheckMe![®] Central Air Conditioner Tune-up Program. Offered through a partnership with Proctor Engineering Group and participating local HVAC contractors, CheckMe! tune-ups help residential and small commercial air conditioners run more efficiently, save energy and money and reduce the Utilities overall peak summer energy load (*see boxes at end for program details*).

With up to two-thirds of air conditioners in the U.S. operating inefficiently, the CheckMe! computer diagnostic system provides a precise way to check two of the most common problems—improper levels of air flow and refrigerant charge. Correcting these two factors alone has the potential to reduce an average cooling bill by 10-20 percent. A CheckMe! tune-up will ensure the unit is working efficiently now and will be ready to go when the weather heats up again next summer.

Fort Collins Utilities is providing incentives to local contractors to offer the comprehensive CheckMe! tune-up to customers. Participating contractors will receive the same training, use the same diagnostic testing equipment and follow the same standards. Only specially trained and certified technicians can use the CheckMe! system. Customers are responsible for selecting a contractor from the list of participating CheckMe! contractors.

“Just like a car, air conditioners need routine annual maintenance and periodic tune-ups,” Utilities Energy Services Engineer Norm Weaver said. “A properly maintained air conditioner saves money, ensures comfort, extends the life of the equipment and helps reduce harmful greenhouse gases.”

For more information, participating contractors and eligibility requirements, call (970) 221-6700, e-mail utilities@fcgov.com, visit www.fcgov.com/checkme or TDD (970) 224-6003. To schedule an appointment, please contact the local contractor of your choice. To learn more about Proctor Engineering Group and the history of CheckMe!, visit www.proctoreng.com/checkme.html.

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It may be time for a CheckMe! tune-up if your:

- Air conditioner runs too long/all the time or shuts off when house is still hot;
- House doesn't seem cool enough;
- Rooms vary in temperature (some are hot, some are cold);
- Weak air flow from registers or extremely cold air blows from registers;
- Indoor humidity is equal to or higher than outdoor humidity;
- Refrigerant has been added more than once in past five years;
- Air conditioner has not been serviced in more than two years; and/or
- Utility bills seem high.

Eligibility requirements:

- Fort Collins Utilities electric residential or small commercial customers;
- Central air conditioners only (no window units); and
- Must use a participating CheckMe! contractor (listed on www.fcgov.com/checkme).