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CON EDISON URGING ENERGY CONSERVATION AS HEAT WAVE APPROACHES

NEW YORK – With temperatures expected to break the 90-degree mark over the next several days, Con Edison is urging its customers to be conservation minded and to use energy wisely. Customers are urged to call 1-800-75-CONED or contact the company on its Web site at www.coned.com promptly if they encounter any service difficulties. The company's Web site also provides a link to a list of 100 energy- and money-saving tips.

Did you know that running an electric fan to keep cool is only one-tenth the cost of using an air conditioner and saves a substantial amount of energy? Just be sure to leave a window open for ventilation. Also, close shades, blinds and curtains to keep out the sun; about 40 percent of unwanted heat comes through the windows.

Here are some other steps the company is recommending to help customers stay cool this summer:

- Accept Con Edison's offer of a free programmable thermostat if you have central air conditioning. Program the thermostat manually or from the Internet. Turning off your air conditioner when you're not home beats leaving it on all the time. Programming it to turn on before you return home is a wise way to save on summer electric bills. To learn more about obtaining a free programmable thermostat from Con Edison, call 1-866-521-8600 or visit www.coned.com/cool.
- For peak efficiency, make sure air-conditioner filters are clean;
- Set thermostats no lower than 78 degrees. Each degree lower increases cooling costs by 6 percent;
- If you have a room air-conditioning unit, close off the rooms not being used; if you have central air, block the vents in unused or vacant rooms;
- Also, turn off lights and other appliances, using a timer to turn them on as necessary; and turn your computer off when not at home to conserve energy;
- To reduce heat and moisture, run appliances such as ovens, washing machines, dryers and dishwashers in the early morning or late at night when it's generally cooler. Use a microwave to cook, or barbecue outside, if possible.

Con Edison is a subsidiary of Consolidated Edison, Inc. [NYSE: ED], one of the nation's largest investor-owned energy companies, with approximately \$12 billion in annual revenues and \$27 billion in assets. The utility provides electric, gas and steam service to more than 3 million customers in New York City and Westchester County, New York. For additional financial, operations and customer service information, visit Con Edison's Web site at www.coned.com.

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