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## How to save money on your phone bill -- TODAY

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BY [FRANCINE KNOWLES](#) Staff Reporter

Looking for ways to save on your telephone bill? The Citizens Utility Board, a nonprofit utility watchdog group will host a free phone-bill clinic and give out money-saving light bulbs today from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at ShoreBank's Chatham Banking Center, 7936 S. Cottage Grove.

CUB's phone-bill clinics have helped show Illinois consumers how to save an average of about \$200 a year on their calling costs, CUB said. Those potential savings are even bigger now, thanks to CUB distributing free Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs), which use 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. Each CFL could save consumers about \$10 a year, CUB said.

Most people shouldn't be paying more than \$25 to \$30 a month for phone service, according to CUB Executive Director David Kolata.

"CUB's experts will give consumers a free one-on-one analysis to help them trim the fat from their phone bills," he said.

CUB said consumers will get tips about:

- CUB Cellphone Saver: an online tool that automatically analyzes individual wireless bills, potentially cutting a caller's costs by hundreds of dollars a year.
- Consumer's Choice local-calling plans that AT&T is offering under a legal settlement. The plans are designed to save most consumers money.
- Illinois' best long-distance plans, including how to get an automatic \$20 credit that amounts to nearly 11 hours of free calls.

Attendees should bring their phone bills.

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