

### Working Within a Budget

Susan approaches the Open Peak OpenFrame device from Direct Energy on her kitchen island to check the weather and traffic before heading out the door. It's early September and it has been unseasonably hot this week. Susan notices the "Budget Alert" from the Home Energy Manager (HEM) interface and touches the screen to open the notification. It tells her that at the rate her family is consuming electricity they will soon exceed the budget limit they set in their profile for September. The HEM gives her a quick fix suggestion to adjust the AWAY feature on their Lennox Programmable Thermostat by two degrees higher. Susan opens up the thermostat function from the Home Screen and easily adjusts her AWAY temp to 78 degrees. The HEM notifies Susan that she is back on budget. She quickly checks for traffic updates and heads out the door.

### Finding New Ways to Save

Susan mentions to her husband Tom that earlier this week she noticed the "Budget Alert" from the HEM, and based on the suggestion, turned up the thermostat setting for the AWAY mode. Tom decides to check with the HEM to get more ideas on how to save money on their energy bill. He sees that they are now running at about \$221 for the month, just below their \$225 budget. Tom touches the "Suggestions" button and is taken to the "Ways to Save" tab. He notices the check mark on the "Raise AWAY Mode Thermostat Setting" that Susan had chosen. Tom looks through the other ideas. One idea is to replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents; another idea is to "Get an Energy Audit". Tom notices another suggestion to replace older model appliances with new smart appliances. After checking the energy usage comparisons, Tom suggests to Susan that they go buy a new dryer. Susan, who has been wanting a new larger capacity dryer for a while, quickly agrees.

### Smart Savings with Smart Appliances

Tom and Susan fell in love with a new Whirlpool smart dryer and purchased it using a discount code offered through the HEM application. A big reason they chose this dryer was its ability to receive signals from the smart grid and automatically shift into energy saver mode. In addition to its great Energy Star rating, the dryer would save them even more on their energy bill. Susan was concerned that this might delay her from getting a load of clothes dry if she really needed it done quickly, but she discovered their HEM would always allow her to override the energy saver mode. Susan would always be in control. After the installation, Tom was a bit worried about configuring the new dryer so it could communicate with the HEM Appliance Manager application. To his relief the Appliance Manager was already communicating with the dryer and tracking its energy usage. Tom showed Susan the new Whirlpool dryer control screen where they would set the energy saver options. Just for kicks, Tom jumped over to the HEM application and noticed their monthly target had already dropped another couple of dollars after only a few days.