

The cost of keeping both the analog and digital transmitters on the air has been very expensive, and we've been carrying that burden for several years now. We have not budgeted for that continued cost in the rest of this fiscal year.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

ANTENNA ISSUES:

- Often, need to be upgraded to receive a digital signal. Standard old rabbit ears don't usually work well in picking up digital signals. An amplified antenna can be purchased for around \$20 to \$50 and comes in models that can be used inside the house or on the rooftop.
- Digital signals don't travel as well as analog signals. They have trouble "curving" around corners, for example.
- Antenna distance from the transmitter is crucial – U.S. residents can find out how far away they are from any given TV transmitter by visiting antennaweb.org or tvfool.com.
- WPBS does have an application with the FCC to maximize our digital signal at both transmitters – but that may only extend our signal a couple of miles. The application has not been approved yet.

VHS MACHINES (Or DVRs)

- Hook up in this order: Antenna – Converter Box – VHS Machine – TV

COUPON PROGRAM:

- U.S. residents may still apply for 2 coupons per household for digital converter boxes. However, you may be put on a waiting list for those coupons, and they'll be mailed out as funds become available.
- www.dtv2009.gov or 1-888-388-2009
- TTY service available for the deaf: 1-877-530-2634
- Consider donating your unused coupons to WPBS-TV – we'll give them to organizations such as hospitals and schools, and to individuals who have had difficulty obtaining converter boxes so they can use older TVs to receive our new digital signal.

CONVERTER BOXES:

- When you buy a converter box, you want to make sure you buy a PASS-THRU converter box, so that you can continue to receive off-air analog Canadian broadcast channels
- When you get your converter box hooked up properly, **DON'T FORGET TO RUN THE SCAN FUNCTION** to find the digital channels! And you may have to adjust your antenna and re-run the scan function a couple of times!

DIGITAL READY TV'S:

- Don't need converter boxes to receive off-air digital signals, but you may need to upgrade your antenna!
- If you have a digital ready TV and receive BASIC CABLE without a cable box, try running the scan setting on your TV to see if you can pick up digital channels.

CANADIAN RADIO, TELEVISION, AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

- Canadian Analog shut-off: August 31, 2011
- www.crtc.gc.ca/
- They were asked to send a guest to be on the program, however, as their transition to digital is a couple of years away, they "weren't ready to discuss it yet."

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- DTV Toll-free help lines: 877-DTV-5353 or 888-CALL-FCC
- www.dtv.gov
- www.dtvanswers.com
- www.dtvtransition.org