

CURRENTS

JNEC's January 2024 Newsletter



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Happy New Year!

Fend Off the Winter Chill –and the Winter Bill

BECAUSE HEATING AND COOLING can make up nearly half your electricity use, you may experience sticker shock when you open your electric bill. Instead of waiting until after a potentially high bill arrives in your mailbox or inbox, be pro-active. There are steps you can take now to help manage your energy use efficiently and spend less.

- Add insulating wraps to exposed pipes and water heaters located in unheated spaces.
- Make sure to change your air filter regularly to keep your system running efficiently.
- Keep drapes closed at night to block out the cold, and keep those that don't get direct sunlight closed during the day, too. Open shades on sunny windows during the day to take advantage of natural warmth.
- Make sure the fireplace damper is closed when it's not in use. Keeping it open can bring cold air into the room.
- Caulk around your hearth, and caulk or weather-strip around doors, windows and even electrical outlets on exterior walls.
- Block any areas in your home that are particularly drafty, including around window frames and under doors.
- Use a humidifier. Humid air generally feels quite a bit warmer than dry air. Running the heater in the colder months can strip your indoor air of its humidity. A humidifier can balance this. Look for models that allow you to choose between warm and cold air; they typically cost more but are well worth it for the heating ability.
- Reverse the ceiling fan. It may seem counterintuitive to use a ceiling fan when you're feeling cold, but it actually can help to warm you up. Let your ceiling fan turn at a low speed in a clockwise direction during colder months. This will help to push the warm air that rises toward the ceiling back down toward floor level.
- Dress for the weather, even when you're inside. Wearing long sleeves and pants, thick socks, slippers or shoes—even indoors—or wrapping up in a cozy blanket will help combat the temptation to bump up the thermostat. Dressing in layers can also help.
- Enjoy hot drinks and food such as soups and stews to keep yourself warm. Using a slow cooker, microwave or air fryer could help reduce food preparation costs compared to an oven-baked meal.
- Keep as active as possible to boost circulation. Move around at least once an hour and avoid sitting still for long periods. Even light exercise will help keep you warm. When you do sit down, put your feet up because it's coldest nearest the ground.

Obstacles To Saving

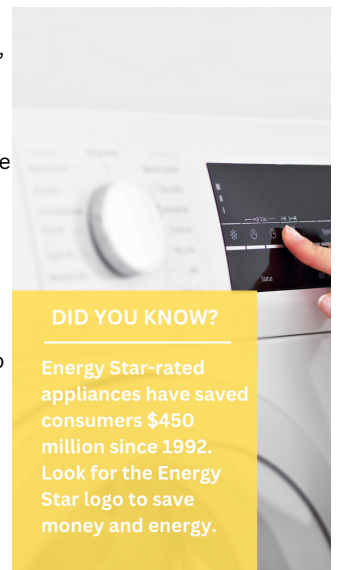
Using the tips above can certainly help you manage your energy use, but your bill may still be higher than normal in winter months. Why?

The weather has a big impact on electric bills. Even those with the most efficient HVAC systems will see more use in extreme weather.

When extreme cold hits, heaters work overtime. For example, even if you set your thermostat to the recommended 68 degrees in the winter, if it's 19 degrees outside, your system has to work hard to make up that 49-degree difference.

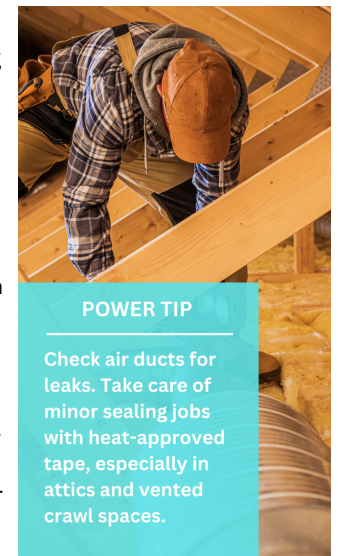
Your heater works harder and cycles on and off more often in colder weather, making your energy use much higher. That means your electric bill will be noticeably higher.

There's value in comfort, of course. But for us to be comfortable in our homes, our heaters will have to work harder. Don't wait until after you receive a high electricity bill this winter to start taking energy-saving measures. Be proactive about your energy use habits so you aren't caught off guard. Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative is here to help.



DID YOU KNOW?

Energy Star-rated appliances have saved consumers \$450 million since 1992. Look for the Energy Star logo to save money and energy.



POWER TIP

Check air ducts for leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and vented crawl spaces.

EAST TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH SEMINAR

East Texas Rural Youth Seminar (ETREYS) Program was developed to enhance leadership and problem-solving skills in a positive learning environment on the campus of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. The program also promotes the Cooperative philosophy, ideals and values among young people and builds loyalty for the program. ETREYS is scheduled for June 10-14, 2024

To learn more, visit www.jnec.com

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: energystar.gov

YOUTH TOUR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

PICTURE YOURSELF IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

FROM MUSEUMS AND MEMORIALS to the majestic US Capitol and Supreme Court, there's a little bit of something for everyone in Washington, D.C.

Join more than 150 other Texas Teens on this weeklong summer adventure

Youth Tour 2024 is planned for June 16-23, 2024

JNEC
JASPER-NEWTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JNEC Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available on JNEC's website at www.jnec.com. Applications will also be in area high schools in December and January. The deadline for returning scholarship applications is February 9, 2024.

Fourteen scholarships are available from Jasper-Newton Electric Education Fund in 2024 as follows:

- Two (2) - Four Year, \$4,000 scholarships at \$500 per semester
- Eleven (11) - One Year, \$1,000 scholarships
- One (1) - One Year, \$1,000 scholarship



RESOLVE TO SAVE ENERGY

Make a home energy resolution
and reap the benefits all year long!