

the Messenger

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Top Five Energy Users In Your Home

While most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, often it feels overwhelming because many people don't know where to start. How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs? To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know what the top energy users are in your home. With this knowledge, you can choose a path that works best for your family.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the top five energy users in U.S. homes are:

1. Space cooling
2. Space heating
3. Water heating
4. Lighting
5. Refrigeration

Adjust the temperature.

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps.

- During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- During warm weather, the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Cleaning the filters of your HVAC system can cut costs from five to 15 percent.
- Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping to the outdoors.

No matter what the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save you 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.

Shine the light on savings.

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use incandescent lighting, your light bulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home's

Outage Preparation and Safety

Weather in the Ozarks is full of surprises. We are definitely at Mother Nature's mercy when it comes to ice, snow, thunderstorms and tornadoes. When storms happen, your cooperative will respond immediately to repair damage and restore power. Usually it doesn't take long to get the power back on, but severe storms can cause widespread damage, and some repairs may take longer.

During an outage you can help the cooperative by providing several things to the dispatcher. You can help assess the damage quicker and restore power sooner if you have your account number ready. The account number can tell the dispatcher exactly where the outage is. Sometimes a member may have more than one account listed under the same name, so knowing the account number is very helpful.

If you do not know the account number, then give the name that the account is under in the exact way it appears on the bill. You can also give the phone number of the outage location. However, if your phone number has changed, and you have not updated your number, it will be of little use. Always be sure to alert NAEC when your phone number or mailing address changes.

Finally, check with your neighbors. Knowing whether their power is out is helpful to the dispatcher also.

We want to remind you that during an outage you may be directed to our automated outage answering service. You will be directed to the system only if all dispatchers are busy answering outage calls.

Recommended Power Outage Emergency Supply Kit

Assemble an emergency kit. Have these items on hand and make sure they can last for at least 72 hours: a flashlight; candles and matches; batteries; a portable battery-powered radio; at least 1 gallon of water per person, per day; non-perishable foods such as canned goods and granola bars; a manual can opener; an extra set of clothes; durable shoes; blankets; items to help pass the time, such as a deck of cards; a first aid kit that includes prescription drugs as needed; a whistle; and supplies such as duct tape and plastic so you can build a "shelter in place" if necessary. You can make smaller versions of this kit for your car or office and stock it with practical items for either setting.

Take special steps if you have special needs. Do you rely on life-support equipment or other power-dependent equipment to maintain your health? If so, register with NAEC so your home will be treated as a top priority in the event of a power outage. You also should put a plan in place, possibly involving an emergency standby generator for your home or an arrangement to stay at a health-care facility that has backup power. If you personally don't have special needs but can think of someone in your area who might, offer your assistance. Think about your elderly, disabled or non-English-speaking neighbors.

Keep your refrigerated food safe. If the power goes out, try not to open your refrigerator or freezer doors so you don't lose cold air unnecessarily. The contents of a full fridge should keep for about six hours; the contents of a full freezer should last for as long as two days. Don't taste foods to see whether they're OK. Instead, follow these rules: Throw away any food items that become warmer than 41 degrees. And if you're in doubt about a food item, throw it out.

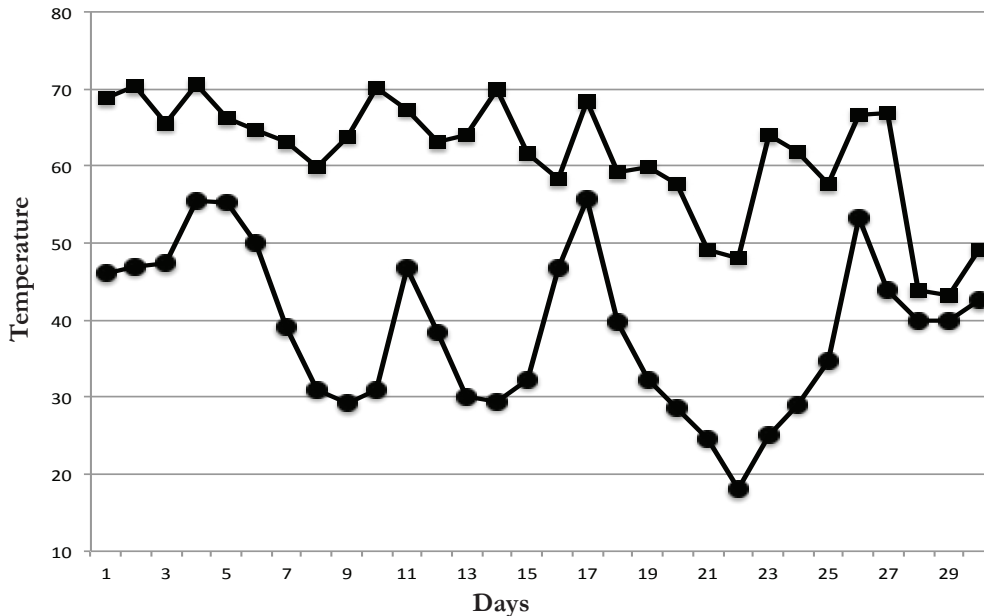
Avoid shock and electrocution. Never do any of these things: operate a generator in rainy or wet conditions; touch a generator with wet hands; use electrical appliances that have gotten wet; touch exposed cables or electrical wires in your home; get near or touch downed or sagging power lines outside; or engage in an extremely dangerous practice known as "backfeeding," which involves connecting a generator to your home's wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet without the use of an appropriate power transfer switch.



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Daily Highs & Lows

November 2015



Average Daily High:

61.43 compared to 53.55 in 2014

Average Daily Low:

38.73 compared to 29.10 in 2014

Total Rainfall Amount:

1.21" compared to 2.48" in 2014

Warmest Day:

Nov 4th, 70.6 degrees at 4:00 p.m.

Coollest Day:

Nov 22nd, 18.1 degrees at 7:30 a.m.

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five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can save you \$75 per year. Another easy way to save is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

Water heating efficiency

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your hot water heater with an insulating blanket. This is all the more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment build-up.

Put cold hard cash back in your wallet.

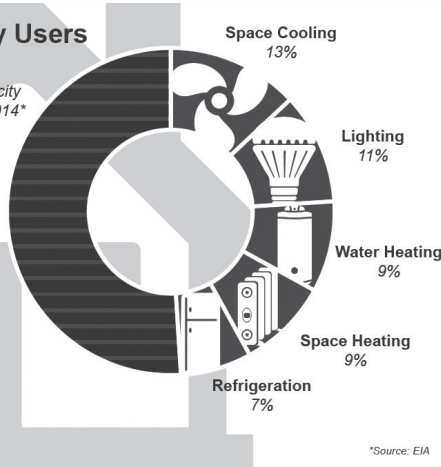
If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new Energy Star model. If you are considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards. Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35 – 38 degrees Fahrenheit for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for separate freezers (used for long-term storage).

By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet. For additional ways to save, contact NAEC's energy advisors at any one of our three local offices.

Top Five Energy Users in U.S. Homes

*Estimated residential electricity consumption by end use, 2014**

Other uses include TV, set-top boxes, home entertainment and gaming systems, monitors and networking equipment, clothes dryer, small electric devices, heating elements and motors.



*Source: EIA

Right-of-Way Locations

Asplundh Tree Trim Crews:

Jordan, Dolph, Pineville, and Mitchell areas.

We Want Your Response

North Arkansas Electric Cooperative abides by seven cooperative principles. The first principle of voluntary and open membership describes how cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

As a member-owned cooperative, we want your input. If you have questions, comments or concerns regarding the operation of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative, please send them to Messenger, P.O. Box 1000, Salem, AR 72576, or e-mail us at info@naeci.com. Names will be withheld upon request, but all letters should be signed. All letters will be considered for publication in the Messenger or Rural Arkansas Magazine.

We appreciate your support these past 76 years and look forward to serving you in the future.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Save energy and money by lowering your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.
Source: energy.gov