

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Lorenzo Loya
 - ▶ Mariano Leyva
 - ▶ Omer LeValley
 - ▶ Danny Koehn
 - ▶ Donald Norton
 - ▶ Merlin Moore
- Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Tips to Reduce Wildfire Risks

Wildfires are no longer confined to the western United States. Traditionally associated with dry, fire-prone regions like California, wildfires are now affecting areas in the Midwest and even parts of the Southeast.

This shift is driven by rising temperatures, prolonged droughts and changing weather patterns, which are creating conditions ripe for fires in regions that historically saw fewer of them. As a result, more communities are now facing growing threats from wildfires, prompting a need for broader awareness and preparedness nationwide.

CMS Electric is working to reduce the risk of wildfires throughout our service territory. Through regular vegetation management and grid maintenance and hardening practices, we are proactively working to reduce risks and improve the reliability of our local system.

As a member of CMS Electric there are steps you can take to prevent wildfires.

1 PROPERLY EXTINGUISH CAMPFIRES. Always douse your campfire with water, stir the ashes and ensure everything is cool to the touch before leaving the area.

2 DON'T BURN ON WINDY DAYS. Avoid outdoor burning when it's windy or dry, as embers can easily spread and ignite surrounding areas.

3 CLEAR VEGETATION AND DEBRIS. Maintain a defensible space around your home by removing dry leaves, dead branches and other flammable materials.

4 USE EQUIPMENT SAFELY. Tools like lawnmowers or chain saws can spark fires. Use them during cooler times of the day and keep them in good working condition.

5 FOLLOW LOCAL FIRE REGULATIONS. Always check for burn bans or restrictions in your area before burning anything or using open flames outdoors.

For more information on wildfire prevention and preparedness, visit www.redcross.org.



STAY COOL THIS SUMMER without breaking the bank



Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. As temperatures soar and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take action.

7 cost-effective tips to help lower energy consumption:

- ▶ Request a home energy audit from your local utility to reduce energy loss.
- ▶ Change your air filter regularly to help your HVAC system work efficiently.
- ▶ Increase your thermostat by 2 degrees and set it to a higher temperature when you're away.
- ▶ Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control.
- ▶ Run dryers, washers and dishwashers during off-peak hours in the early morning or late evening.
- ▶ Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. Detergent, not hot water, cleans the clothes.
- ▶ Reduce indoor heat by limiting cooking and the use of heat-producing appliances during the hottest parts of the day.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Smart Ways to Save Energy This Summer

Don't sweat the heat

Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. As temperatures soar and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take steps to lower your energy consumption and stay cool without breaking the bank.

BOOST YOUR HOME'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Start with an energy audit. We can't fix what we don't know about. Request a home energy audit from your electric cooperative or a home energy auditor to identify where energy is being lost. Then, take action to reduce usage this summer.

KEEP COOL AIR IN AND HOT AIR OUT WITH THESE TIPS:

- ▶ Seal air leaks around pipes, doors, windows, cracks and openings with caulk or weather stripping.
- ▶ Schedule an HVAC system inspection with a professional to maintain performance. Check with your utility for rebates on energy-efficient replacements.
- ▶ Change your air filter regularly. A clogged air filter makes your HVAC system work harder.
- ▶ Switch to LED bulbs for increased efficiency.
- ▶ Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control. Check with your electric cooperative for incentives and deals.

REDUCE ENERGY COSTS WITH SMART APPLIANCE USE:

- ▶ Run dryers, washers and dishwash-

ers early in the morning or late in the evening.

- ▶ Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. It's the detergent, not hot water, that cleans the clothes.
- ▶ Clean the dryer's lint trap after every laundry load, and air-dry clothes when possible.
- ▶ Reduce heat-generating activities at home, like cooking during the hottest parts of the day or using heat-producing appliances.
- ▶ Use a microwave oven or countertop appliance instead of a conventional range or oven. Better yet, grill outside!

TAKE EASY ACTIONS FOR BIG ENERGY SAVINGS:

- ▶ Change ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise to cool rooms and turn them off when you leave the room. Ceiling fans don't actually cool the air; they create a wind chill effect on your skin by circulating air around you.
- ▶ Stay on the lowest floor of your home for naturally cooler air.
- ▶ Close blinds and shades on sunny days to block excess heat.
- ▶ Increase your thermostat by 2 degrees or more and set it to higher temperatures when you're away.
- ▶ Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.
- ▶ Prepare no-heat meals like salads, wraps and dips.

Making small changes to reduce energy use can make a big impact. You'll keep cool, save money on your utility bill and help reduce energy demand.



Our office will be closed on July 4 for the holiday.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS:

Gas, Charcoal and Electric Grills

Grilling outdoors is not only a good way to keep your house cooler and lower your energy bill, it's a great way to enjoy warm summer days with family and friends — but more than half of grill fires occur during these peak months.

Each year, grill fires cause thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property loss, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Most grill fires can be prevented with proper maintenance and safe use. Stay safe by following these simple tips:

- ▶ Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from grates and trays.
- ▶ Place the grill on a stable surface, away from homes, deck railings and overhanging branches.
- ▶ Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away.
- ▶ Never leave an active grill unattended.
- ▶ Use propane and charcoal grills outdoors only to prevent fire hazards and carbon monoxide poisoning.

GAS GRILLS

Gas grills pose a greater fire risk due to leaks. To ensure safe grilling, check for leaks each season:

- ▶ Mix equal parts dish soap and water.
- ▶ After attaching the gas cylinder, open the valve one turn counterclockwise.
- ▶ Apply the soapy mixture to the hose

and connections. If bubbles form, a gas leak is present.

If you detect a leak, turn off the gas and grill immediately. If the leak stops, have the grill serviced by a professional before use. If the leak continues, move away and call the fire department for assistance. Do not move the grill.

Bonus safety tip: Open the lid before lighting a gas grill to prevent gas buildup. If the flame goes out during use, turn off the gas and wait at least five minutes before relighting.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

Charcoal grilling is a favorite way to cook outdoors but pose fire and carbon monoxide risks if not handled properly. Follow these essential safety tips:

- ▶ Only use charcoal starter fluid designed for grills; never use gasoline or other flammable liquids.
- ▶ Never add lighter fluid to a lit fire — this causes flare-ups.
- ▶ Store starter fluid away from heat sources and out of children's reach.
- ▶ Let charcoal coals and ashes cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container.

ELECTRIC GRILLS

Electric grills are safe outdoors if proper safety precautions are followed:

- ▶ Ensure your electric grill is outdoor rated to withstand exposure to

moisture and varying temperatures.

- ▶ Never use an electronic grill in rainy or wet conditions. Store the grill in a dry place when not in use.
- ▶ Keep electrical connections away from water, damp surfaces or pools to avoid electric shock.
- ▶ Always plug your grill into a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlet to protect against shocks. If using an extension cord, make sure it's outdoor-rated and GFCI-protected.
- ▶ Check the power cord for frays, cracks or damage before use.
- ▶ Turn off and unplug the grill after use.

If your electric grill stops working, consult the manufacturer instead of attempting electrical repairs yourself.

CLEANING YOUR GRILL

Dirty grills are a leading cause of grill fires, according to the NFPA. Despite the belief that a seasoned grill enhances flavor, regular cleaning is essential for safety and performance.

- ▶ Let the grill cool before cleaning or storing it.
 - ▶ Clean all grill parts including grates, burners, side tables and grease traps to prevent grease fires.
 - ▶ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper cleaning.
- Take these precautions and enjoy a safe and flavorful grilling season.

SAVE ENERGY

Run washers and dryers **BEFORE 6 A.M.** or **AFTER 6 P.M.** to use off-peak electricity.

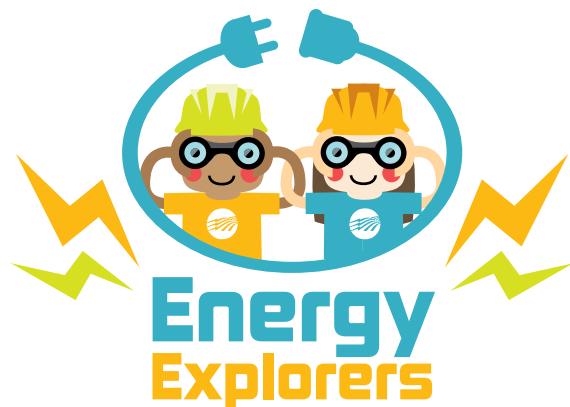




SOLAR ENERGY WORD SEARCH

Did you know solar panels turn sunlight into electricity? When the sun shines on the panels, tiny particles of light hit cells on the panels to create a flow of energy, like magic sunlight turning into power! The electricity then travels across power lines and can be used to light up homes, charge gadgets and more.

Can you find all the words associated with solar energy in the puzzle below?



WORD BANK

Solar	Renewable	Sunlight	Installation
Panel	Energy	Efficiency	Rooftop



R	W	Y	Z	U	N	M	J	Z	E	S	Z	E	V	A
T	A	N	G	C	J	I	S	L	I	B	A	F	I	V
S	N	L	Y	U	S	K	B	R	U	Y	Z	F	P	D
W	U	S	O	P	I	A	M	K	K	B	E	I	V	K
P	P	N	G	S	W	E	N	E	R	G	Y	C	O	R
F	O	W	L	E	X	H	Q	Q	V	U	I	I	G	S
X	P	T	N	I	R	Q	V	N	T	J	D	E	A	U
B	A	E	F	L	G	O	S	P	Q	P	T	N	H	Q
W	R	X	D	O	E	H	D	I	Z	X	P	C	X	Z
L	L	X	N	I	O	J	T	L	D	N	L	Y	H	Z
K	O	Y	E	Z	F	R	K	Z	D	Q	E	B	M	V
C	N	O	I	T	A	L	L	A	T	S	N	I	H	B
L	G	P	F	K	Y	L	P	G	E	Z	A	I	E	W
I	W	C	N	Q	O	N	Y	Z	Q	Q	P	V	W	Q
G	L	Y	J	L	L	H	O	X	F	C	H	P	K	K