

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# The Enlightener

## CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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### Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ James Abbott
- ▶ Mike Bailey
- ▶ Judy Adams
- ▶ Linda Barnes
- ▶ Angelica Asebedo
- ▶ Rob Basnett

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



### Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## CMS Welcomes Bolton & Kitson to the Cooperative Family

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., welcomes two new linemen to our staff: **DYLAN BOLTON** at our Coldwater office and **SHANE KITSON** at our Meade office. They both started on June 29.

Bolton lives in Coldwater with his wife, Aubrey. He joins CMS Electric after working for J&J Powerline. In his spare time, he enjoys to fish and camp as well as spend time with his wife and family.



Dylan Bolton



Shane Kitson

Kitson lives in Meade and is married to Kadie. They have two children, Nielle and Brandon. Kitson joins CMS Electric after working for the City of Meade. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing, fishing, yardwork and spending time with his family.

Please give Shane and Dylan a warm welcome to the electric co-op family.

## Help Keep Our Crews Safe

Orange road signs are not just for highway construction zones; they also apply to utility work zones. Slowing down before entering work zones helps save lives, including the lives of our crew members, who must often work roadside to maintain or restore power.

Cars or trucks that go too fast not only endanger workers on the ground, they can also put a lineworker who is working high up in a bucket in serious danger. The force created by fast-moving vehicles can cause work truck buckets to move or sway into high-voltage lines. Please, take extra care in work zones. Our crews and their families thank you.



# ENERGY STAR Appliances: Do They Really Save You Money?

If you are in the market for a new appliance, you might wonder if buying an ENERGY STAR®-certified version will make a difference in your energy bills.

The short answer is yes, when you compare its estimated energy costs to its less efficient counterpart.

In fact, there are really two costs to consider before buying an appliance: the purchase price and the projected monthly energy costs.

The energy-conscious appliances displaying the ENERGY STAR logo use 10-15% less energy and water than standard models, according to Energy.gov. For example, ENERGY STAR clothes washers use about 40% less energy than conventional clothes washers while also reducing water bills.

And the longer answer is yes, if you consider the appliance's lifespan.

ENERGY STAR appliances and other products used throughout your home can save you a collective \$750 over their lifespan, according to Energy.gov. Besides appliances, there are other ENERGY STAR-certified products, such as lighting and electronics.

While selecting energy-saving designated appliances could have a slightly higher price tag, they don't always. Compare prices and don't assume they cost substantially more than less efficient models.

The biggest bang for your energy-savings buck

## WHAT IF ALL APPLIANCES WERE ENERGY STAR?

According to EnergyStar.gov, if every appliance purchased in the United States this year earned the ENERGY STAR designation, Americans would:

- ▶ Prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the emissions from 225,000 cars.
- ▶ Save more than 1.3 billion kWh/year of electricity.
- ▶ Save \$425 million in annual energy costs.
- ▶ Save more than 28 billion gallons of water per year.\*

\*INCLUDES ENERGY STAR-CERTIFIED CLOTHES WASHERS, DISHWASHERS, AND REFRIGERATORS. DOLLARS SAVINGS REFLECT SAVINGS GENERATED FROM THE REDUCTION OF ENERGY AND WATER USAGE.

might be your refrigerator, especially if it is 15 years old or older. By replacing your old fridge with a new ENERGY STAR-certified model, you can save more than \$200 over a 12-year lifespan.

**TIP:** EnergyStar.gov offers a “Flip Your Fridge” calculator to estimate savings depending on the size and age of your largest kitchen appliance.

Bottom line? The typical U.S. family spends around \$2,200 a year on home utility bills. Switching to ENERGY STAR products can help lower these costs over time.

## What's Your Appliance Safety IQ?

### Clothes Dryer

Children have been electrocuted when hiding behind dryers; some pets also like to nap there.



Install a childproof lock on the laundry room door, as well as on your washer and dryer—especially front-loading models.

Clean lint screen between loads, and thoroughly clean the vents and duct system at least twice a year.

Make sure hoses, seals and connections do not leak and are secure.

### Refrigerator

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance.

Clean the coils every six months to a year.

Keep an eye out for dust or lint under or behind your fridge and remove it to let your refrigerator breathe.

If you have young children in your home, make sure your refrigerator is not a tipping hazard. Consider using an appliance anchor that secures your tall appliance to the wall.



### Water Heater

Make sure your hot water heater is well-maintained.

Make sure it does not have excessive pressure buildup by testing the relief valve (or have it tested) at least once a year.

Ensure vents are connected securely and that the correct parts are used to avoid carbon monoxide production.

Have all components of the appliance inspected regularly (at least once a year) by a technician.

