



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

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Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Duane Lambert
- ▶ Maria Melendez
- ▶ Barry Walters
- ▶ Eunice Wadel
- ▶ William Harris

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Here for You, Even at a Distance

As we all deal with the new realities brought on by the coronavirus, I want to assure you that your local electric cooperative is here to help you. We have always had an emergency plan that has served us well in a variety of circumstances, from ice storms to tornadoes to flash floods. Early in this crisis, our staff updated that plan with a special emphasis on ensuring we can continue to provide the reliable electric service you have come to expect from your electric cooperative.

So far, that is exactly what has happened. We know that after a sufficient supply of food and water, electricity is the No. 1 thing you need to maintain some sense of normalcy as we hunker down in our homes. With that in mind, keeping the power flowing is priority No. 1 for everyone involved

in maintaining the electric cooperative system.

That starts with our generation cooperative, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, which has taken extreme measures to ensure its workforce is healthy and its power plants are functioning as needed. It extends to the 30 cooperatives that wheel that electricity across Kansas, and it includes CMS Electric where business may be a bit unusual, but our service remains the same.

We thought you might want to know some of the steps we have taken to keep your power flowing. We've closed our lobbies to prevent the spread of germs. Instead, we are encouraging members to use our drop box, online



Kirk Thompson

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.

Source: energy.gov



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and phone payment options and the “good ol’” U.S. Postal Service to pay bills.

Many of our employees are working from home. We’ve divided departments into shifts so they can practice social distancing even when in the office. If you call, the phones will be answered as always.

We have separated our line crews from other employees and from each other to limit possible spread of the virus. Trucks are being relocated so lineworkers can head to the job site without coming to the office. New

routines are in place for contractors working on our system in order to separate them from employees. Deliveries are being quarantined.

Our management team and board are meeting constantly to fine-tune this plan. We are in constant contact with the other electric co-ops in Kansas and with Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., which in turn is working closely with our national association, the state legislature and Gov. Laura Kelly.

So far, it is working well and everyone has adapted to the new norm. That’s

because we’ve done this before. Nothing brings out the best in our employees better than a crisis situation. It’s kind of like gold that has been tested in fire — stronger and more beautiful!

Our focus here is on doing our part to keep your life as normal as possible through this situation and beyond. The cooperative way of doing business has brought us this far, and the cooperative way will help us through this crisis.

All the best to everyone. Stay healthy, stay home and we will get through this together the cooperative way!

Tips for Managing Energy Use During COVID-19

As American families and businesses transition to remote-work, they may see a surge in home energy use — and in upcoming electric bills. Simple money-saving steps can help lower monthly electric bills without jeopardizing safety or comfort.

“America’s electric cooperatives understand the increased financial hardships facing families and businesses due to the economic impact of COVID-19,” said Jim Matheson, NRECA CEO. “While many electric cooperatives have suspended disconnections for non-payment and are waiving late fees, consumers will still be responsible for those bills when the pandemic has passed. It’s important for families to be mindful of their energy use and consider adjusting certain habits to avoid higher costs later on.”

Recommended energy saving tips:

- ▶ Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings. Setting your thermostat one degree lower when heating or one degree higher when cooling can reduce energy use by up to 5%.

- ▶ Do full loads of laundry. Washing a full load at a time saves energy. Using cold water also saves energy; however, during this pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control recommends using the warmest appropriate water setting per the manufacturer’s instructions and to dry items completely.
- ▶ Air dry dishes. This step can cut your dishwasher’s energy use by up to 50%.
- ▶ Substitute LEDs for conventional light bulbs. Lighting can amount to up to 12% of monthly energy use. LED bulbs can cut lighting costs by 75%.
- ▶ Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use. Small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in use. When powered on, game consoles, televisions and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12% of energy use.

For more information on energy saving tips visit touchstoneenergy.com/efficiency from Touchstone Energy, the national brand affiliated with NRECA dedicated to helping electric co-ops better engage and serve their members.

