

# Tips to Save Energy and Control Costs This Winter



# RECNEWS

February 2026

## MANAGING YOUR ENERGY USE IN WINTER

Winter still hits hard in Virginia – especially for power bills.

Here are five energy-saving tips to help you keep in the heat and manage your bills during the coldest months of the year:

### Use less hot water:

Adjust the temperature setting on your water heater to 120 degrees.

### Don't block your heat supply:

Make sure that return air vents aren't blocked by furniture or other objects.

### Let the sun in:

Opening your curtains and drapes on sunny days, especially for south-facing windows, can give your home some free heat.

### Spare fridge or freezer:

If not kept full, it should be emptied and unplugged until needed.

### Get more predictability:

Sign up for budget billing for predictable monthly payments throughout the year. This can really help if your energy bills are significantly higher in the winter.



## Vividly Brighter®

BY REC RAPPAHANNOCK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

### Looking to Upgrade Your Home this Year?

Check out Vividly Brighter®

Your Cooperative offers member-owners new ways to save money and improve their homes.

With Vividly Brighter®, energy-saving home improvements are at your fingertips.

Solutions and services include:

- ▶ Electrician services
- ▶ Energy and money savings tips and expert advice
- ▶ The SurgeAssist program
- ▶ Water heater replacement

REC has expanded its **Electrician Services** to meet the growing needs of member-owners. Our skilled electricians stand ready to serve you today. You can find more information online, or we'd love to see you at the Fredericksburg home show:

#### Fredericksburg Spring Home Show

Feb. 13-15

Fredericksburg Convention Center

REC's SurgeAssist program helps cover the costs of repairing or replacing electrically powered devices in your home that have been damaged by an electrical surge.



Learn more about budget billing at [myrec.coop/BudgetBill](http://myrec.coop/BudgetBill)



Learn more about Electrician Services [myrec.coop/electricianservices](http://myrec.coop/electricianservices)



# Give A Gift of Electricity

Support someone in need with a credit toward their REC electric bill.

Through the Gift of Electricity, you can support a local member by providing a credit toward their electric bill.

I / we would like to provide the following person a credit of \$  on their REC electric account.

**Recipient's Name** (please print)

**Account #** (if available) or Recipient's telephone number

**Property Address**

**Your name**

**Daytime Telephone**

**Your address**

Enclosed is my check  I wish to remain anonymous



You can complete this form and mail it to REC, P.O. Box 7388, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7388

To give online, scan the QR code.



## DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

### Apply Now for REC's 2026 Scholarships

Your Cooperative is offering \$20,000 in scholarships to students who want to advance their career goals by attending a college or a career and technical school.

REC awards two scholarships for \$2,500 and fifteen for \$1,000.

#### Who's Eligible?

To apply, the applicant's parent or guardian must be a member of REC. High school seniors who plan to attend college or a career and technical school, and those who are currently enrolled in a college or a career and technical school, are eligible.



**Apply Today!**

[myrec.coop/scholarships](http://myrec.coop/scholarships)  
Deadline: Feb. 27, 2026



### Winter Safety Tip: Downed Power Lines



In the winter months, ice can bring down power lines in Virginia. Always assume a downed line is energized and stay at least 35 feet away from the line or anything that may be in contact with it. Also, never drive over a downed power line.

Call 911 or REC at 800-552-3904 to report a downed power line.

