

Essential Tips for a Cozy & Secure Season



RELIABLE • AFFORDABLE • FOCUSED ON YOU

REC NEWS

December 2023

Safeguard Your Home for Winter

- **Always use smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.** Test detectors monthly, clean away dust, and replace batteries at least once a year.
- **Inspect electrical cords.** Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked.
- **If you use portable space heaters,** remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip.
- **Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips.** When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.
- **Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency.** The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Be sure to have your chimney inspected by a licensed professional.
- **Practice safety in the kitchen.** Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.



- **Take care when using a generator.** Always isolate your generator from REC's power lines. Connect appliances or other devices directly to the generator with the appropriate cords. If you connect it directly to your building's wiring, a transfer, double-throw switch is required to separate your generator from the Co-op's system. Need assistance with properly installing a generator? REC can help.



REC has expanded its Electrical Services to meet the growing needs of members. Our skilled electricians stand ready to serve you today.

myrec.coop/electrical_services



Should you lose power, switch off lights and appliances to prevent damaging appliances and overloading circuits when power is restored. Leave one lamp or light switch on as a signal for when your power returns.

Tis the Season for Energy Savings, Value and Comfort

We know many of you are struggling with rising costs and other life challenges. At REC, we are here for you. As the weather turns colder, here are simple steps to reduce your energy use and lower your electric bill.

- **Lower your thermostat.** REC recommends setting your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower during the winter. At night or when you're away, lower it a few more degrees. Consider purchasing a smart thermostat, which will allow you to control your thermostat right from your smart phone.
- **Seal air leaks.** Drafts can increase your heating costs by as much as 20 percent.
- **Use less hot water.** Adjust the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees.
- **Limit the use of space heaters.** Instead, reach for an extra layer of clothing or a blanket. Space heaters are energy hogs and can lead to higher electric bills.



See What REC Recommends

Find and purchase simple DIY items REC recommends to help you save.



Smart Thermostat Installation Assistance Available

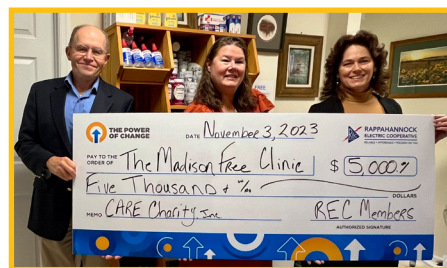
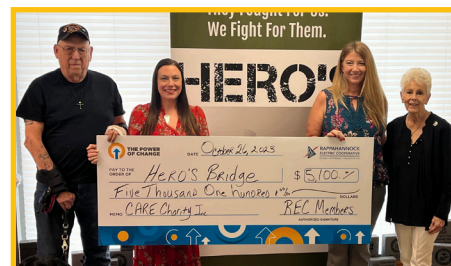
REC's skilled electricians can help! Learn more about REC's electrical services.

A Simple Way to Make a Difference: Sign Up for The Power of Change Today!

More than 33,000 REC members round up their electric bill each month, donate a set amount or make a one-time donation.

Their generosity results in meaningful support for local organizations that make a difference in our communities.

The funds help to feed hungry families, offer support for local veterans and ensure seniors have the critical care they need right here in our communities.



Your Generosity in Action

See a list of recent recipients of funds from The Power of Change or enroll to make a difference today, visit thepowerofchange.org.