



Bitter-Cold January Likely Impacted

Your Energy Use and Your Electric Bill



RECNEWS

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2025 started off with a bit of a bang, as much of Virginia saw serious snow pile up for the first time in a few years. Along with that wintry weather, bitter-cold temperatures also blanketed the state for much of the month.

As a result, **many of us used much more energy in January than in recent months, possibly leading to a higher electric bill.**

It all comes down to **temperature differential**, said Energy Management Advisor Rich Mialki. That refers to the difference between the temperature inside your home and outside.

So, if the temperature dropped to 20 degrees overnight (as it did often in January!) and your thermostat was set to 70 degrees, that's a 50-degree difference. The coldest hours of the day are typically overnight, so we don't realize how much more the heat is running.

In the winter, the disparity between the outside and inside temperatures not only meant the heating system ran a lot more, but these low temperatures likely caused costly auxiliary backup heat to kick on.

While your thermostat setting might have stayed consistent, the bitter cold temperatures caused your heating system to run more and use significantly more electricity.

The temperature gap tends to be much higher during the winter than the summer. Although as the summer heat arrives, your energy use will likely increase again due to the temperature differential.

Mialki noted that even if you take steps to reduce your energy use, you likely are still using significantly more electricity on days and months when the temperature differential is most pronounced.

Keep Your Electric Bill in Check

- In the winter, set your thermostat to 68 degrees or the lowest comfortable temperature. It's a no-cost option to reduce energy expenses.
- At night or when you're going to be away from home for an extended period, adjust the thermostat down a few more degrees.
- Consider purchasing a smart thermostat if you don't already have one. These devices allow you to program your temperature settings and even adjust the temperature from your mobile device, no matter where you are.
- Use energy-monitoring tools in **MyREC SmartHub** to find money-saving tips tailored just for you. Get started today at myrec.smarthub.coop



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YOUR ACTION
YOUR SAVINGS
YOUR SUMMER



REC's **Summer Savings Plan** is a free, voluntary solution that allows most residential members and some business members to receive a bill credit for using less electricity on specific days in the summer. Extreme heat during the summer often results in more electricity being used as people spend more time indoors. This impacts the price REC pays for the electricity delivered to its member owners. You can help and get a bill credit to do it!

Members who choose to participate will receive a bill credit based on how much energy they save during these times. For every kilowatt hour (kWh) saved, you will earn 75 cents in bill credits, which could add up quickly.

Enroll today! Visit myrec.coop/summersavings



Is Your Water Heater Costing You Money?

A new, more efficient water heater can cut your electricity costs, especially if your current water heater is more than seven years old, leaking or constantly needing repair. REC's Water Heater Replacement program can assist with arranging delivery and installation of a new water heater, as well as give you up to 36 months to pay for it - interest free.

Just call REC and we will take care of everything. We will arrange for a local plumber to deliver and install your new water heater, haul away your old one and even recycle it! It's easy and worry-free. REC only contracts with reliable, bonded and insured plumbers who will install your new water heater at your convenience.

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