

Cold Weather Affects Your Bill – But You Can Fight Back!



REC NEWS

January 2025

As winter settles in, staying comfortable doesn't have to mean higher electric bills. The team at Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) wants to help. These actionable tips can help you keep costs down while staying warm.

Track and Manage Your Energy Use with MyREC SmartHub

Set Energy Use Budgets: Use the Budget Alert feature to set a maximum energy use target, and get alerts if you're approaching it.

Monitor Appliances: Check the Monthly Usage Summary to identify which appliances use the most energy and adjust your habits.

-Example: If heating spikes your energy use, lower your thermostat 1-2 degrees to see immediate savings.

Plan Ahead: Be sure to read our Projected Bill emails to get an estimate of your future costs and adjust your energy habits to stay on track.

Space Heaters: Use Wisely or Avoid:

Space heaters are energy-intensive and can raise bills significantly. Use them only in occupied, small spaces for short periods.

Remember: There's no truly energy-efficient space heater - so only rely on central heating or whole home heating sources whenever possible.

By implementing these specific and effective strategies, you can keep your home warm and energy-efficient all winter long.

Adjust Your Thermostat for Savings

Daytime Settings: Keep your thermostat at 68°F when you're home. This temperature balances comfort and efficiency.

Night or Away Settings: Lower the thermostat by 4-6°F when you're asleep or away to save up to 10% on heating costs annually.

Warm Gradually: If you need to increase the heat, do it slowly—1-2°F at a time—to avoid sudden spikes in energy use.

Smart Thermostats: If you don't have one, consider upgrading. Smart thermostats automate energy-saving adjustments for you.

Maintain Your Heating System

Regular upkeep ensures your HVAC system works efficiently and uses less energy:

Outdoor Unit Care: Clear snow, ice, and debris from your outdoor unit to maintain airflow.

Schedule Maintenance: Have a professional service your system annually to ensure optimal performance.

Change Filters: Replace HVAC filters monthly during high-use seasons to prevent clogging and maintain efficiency.

Bonus Energy-Saving Tips

Use heavy curtains to block cold drafts at night and open them during the day to let in natural sunlight.

Reverse ceiling fans to spin clockwise at low speed, pushing warm air downward into the room.

More energy-savings tips: myrec.coop/save



Students: Apply for Scholarships and Youth Tour

Scholarships

REC offers two \$2,500 scholarships and 15 \$1,000 scholarships for high school seniors planning to attend college or a career & technical school—and for students currently enrolled in college or a career & technical school.

Application Deadline: Feb. 7, 2025

Apply today: myrec.coop/scholarships

Youth Tour

High School Juniors, this is your chance to explore Washington, D.C., learn about cooperatives and government—and have a blast while meeting other students from across the country.

Application Deadline: Jan. 31, 2025

Apply today: myrec.coop/youthtour



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