



BE SMART. SAVE ENERGY.

Cut Costs, Increase Comfort with the Right Thermostat

You adjusted the thermostat at home when you left for vacation. Upon returning home, wouldn't it be nice to open the front door and feel like you never left? With a programmable smart thermostat, you can.

Besides your comfort, here is why that matters: **Heating and cooling costs likely account for around half of your electric bill.** So installing a smart thermostat can reduce your energy costs.

The right thermostat settings could reduce your energy use by up to 15%! What's more, new technology makes it easier than ever.

A few facts about smart thermostats:

- You can control them remotely through a tablet, smartphone or by voice control.
- Some models use multiple sensors for **more balanced heating or cooling.**
- They can track temperature preferences to **optimize your heating and cooling schedule.**

A Few Key Differences Among the Three Popular Options:

Nest 3rd Gen Learning Thermostat



Nest automatically learns your schedule. As you adjust the temperature, Nest records it to the temperature settings you prefer. From there, it continues to learn and respond to your adjustments. Nest also records 10 days of energy use data that shows you a visual of the times your system turned on and off during those 10 days. Nest also sends a monthly email report that includes a summary of your energy use.

Ecobee4 Thermostat



Ecobee utilizes a touchscreen and can analyze HVAC data for 18 months. All temperature and motion data from the thermostat and sensors is recorded. It can then be accessed online to help you monitor your energy use, how the weather influences your use, and how your home efficiency compares to other users in your area.

Honeywell Lyric T5+



For those looking for a smart thermostat with fewer bells and whistles, the **Honeywell Lyric T5+** is priced around \$135. While it can't sense your presence or learn your schedule, it does have the geofencing feature and can interact with other smart-home devices, such as turning on lights when you arrive or leave home.

2020 Annual Meeting Record Participation

This year, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) saw record-setting participation during its Annual Meeting among member-owners. More than 20,000 people returned their Proxy Designation Card or participated in the remote event on Aug. 19.

“Democracy is a pillar at REC and of the cooperative business model. This was a record year, in terms of Annual Meeting and election participation, with over 20,000 member-owners getting involved with the democratic process and engaging with our electric cooperative,” said John D. Hewa, president and CEO.

While the meeting was held remotely due to COVID-19, member-owners engaged by watching a livestream video shared on REC’s website, participating by telephone and voting in the election. REC’s member-owners appreciated the easy online voting process.



To view the winners from this year’s board elections and more information on the Annual Meeting, visit myrec.coop/annualmeeting

REC Board Serves with Gratitude and Dedication

By Christopher Shipe, Board Chairman



Since March 2020, it sure has been a crazy time for all of us! To sum up the year so far, I will politely refer to it as “the year of change.” Think about it - so much has changed in our individual lives, our local communities, our state and our world due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which at the time I wrote this was still very much affecting us all.

After last year’s meeting, I never imagined I would have been socially distanced and wearing a mask so that REC’s leadership and I could present the 2020 Annual Meeting remotely. I am incredibly thankful for the adaptability of our Cooperative employees. I am also extremely grateful for all of the REC member-owners, who let us know how important your Cooperative is to you by participating in this year’s meeting and director elections.

For those of you who may not be familiar with me, you should first know that like all members on the Board of

Directors, I am served by REC, and am grateful to be a member-owner. I am motivated and thankful to be able to serve on the Board because I believe strongly in the cooperative business model to deliver essential services like electricity.

As I serve, I try to remember my father’s regular admonition to me, which was to not get a big head and to never forget where I come from. I am motivated to ensure ALL our member-owners’ interests are properly represented. And it’s especially important to me that our member-owners who may be economically disadvantaged also have a voice at the REC Board table.

Your REC Board of Directors is an engaged and working board. We study the issues, listen to the feedback, learn about the latest developments in the industry and make informed, important decisions that affect you. With every decision, we always seek to find the right balance between affordability, reliability and sustainability.

Your democratically elected Board of Directors takes its role and responsibility very seriously, and works with the utmost professionalism to serve you, our member-owners.

We are REC!