

# 5 Tips: Tame Your Electric Bill



## RECNEWS

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No need to upgrade your heat pump, replace your windows or buy new appliances to reduce your electric bill this winter. Consider the following **FAST, EASY** and **AFFORDABLE** steps you can take to tame your energy use:



**1. Set your heat to 68 degrees or lower.** You will save about one percent on your heating bill for every eight hours your heat pump runs. Set the thermostat to an even lower temperature when you are not at home or when your family goes to sleep. If using a heat pump, do not increase the thermostat setting suddenly because it could cause the auxiliary heat to come on, which will quickly eliminate any savings. *Cost of improvement: \$0.*



**2. Seal windows and doors.** Pick up an easy-to-apply storm window kit. Also consider weather stripping for older windows. For outside doors, purchase a “draft stopper,” which will keep cold air from seeping under your door. *Cost of improvements: About \$5 for a storm window kit, less than \$10 for weather stripping and about \$10 for a draft stopper.*



**3. Water heater in unconditioned space? Wrap it up!** If your water heater is in a garage or crawl space, use a water heater blanket. This will keep the water heater from using more energy during colder months. *Cost of improvement: About \$25 for a water heater blanket.*



**4. Avoid using a wood-burning fireplace.** A roaring open hearth fire will draw out the warm air from a 3,000-square-foot house in just one hour. Overall, it serves as an energy drain. Reduce use as much as possible. *Cost of improvement: \$0.*



**5. If you have a crawl space,** close the foundation vents and seal the crawl space access door with weather-stripping to keep the cold air from entering underneath and ultimately into the conditioned areas of your home. *Cost of improvement: About \$5 for weather stripping.*

“You don’t need to spend a lot of money or take on big home-improvement projects to save energy this winter. These are projects any homeowner can tackle to make a difference – without busting your budget.”

~ Rich Mialki, an REC energy management adviser



# Make This Holiday Season a Safe One


Extended family members arrive to share memories. Children – and grownups – decorate trees. And everyone gathers in the kitchen to bake and eat too many cookies.

Those are the sorts of stories many folks envision when they think of the holiday season. But as you celebrate the season in your home, it's also important to keep safety in mind – especially when it comes to electrical outlets and cords.

Before you plug in all those pretty lights, cooking appliances and new toys, take a moment to do so safely.



 Never overload a socket – even temporarily.

 Check for frays on any extension cords and replace them immediately.

## | Winter Storm Season is Here: Are You Prepared?



**Flashlights. Batteries. Extra blankets. Bottled water. Battery-powered radio. Cash.**

Those are just some of the items you will want in case you lose power during a winter storm.

REC and its line crews are always prepared to respond to a power outage and urge you to be ready, too.

Find a complete storm kit checklist and other important information at [myrec.coop/stormprep](https://www.myrec.coop/stormprep).