

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: SERVING UP SAVINGS



The holiday season is just around the corner and festive music will soon flood the airwaves, sparkling lights and decorations will adorn homes and businesses and good tidings will abound.

The holidays also bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking and family gatherings. Amid the hectic hustle and bustle, you may receive higher-than-usual energy bills.

So, I thought this would be a good time to share some tips with KEM Electric Cooperative members to help lower your monthly energy use. Winter months typically bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. Making minor low-cost improvements, such as weatherstripping exterior doors and caulking around drafty windows, can make a positive impact on energy bills

Be festive without breaking the bank

My wife, Crissie, insists I bring the Christmas decorations down from the attic faster than we can finish the Thanksgiving turkey. With holiday lights adorning our home for well over a month, we decided to make the switch to LEDs to save energy.

LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. To put that into perspective, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates standard holiday decorations using LED lights typically increase energy bills by about \$5 to \$7. But with incandescent lights, energy bills will typically increase by \$33 or more. For homes that go above and beyond with incandescent holiday lighting (think Clark Griswold), energy bills could increase by as much as \$350.

Beyond energy savings, LEDs provide additional benefits, such as being shock-resistant, shatterproof and cool to the touch, making them safer for the home.

You can also lower energy use by conveniently managing holiday lighting. Smart light timers can help you save energy by connecting to a smartphone app or voice assistant to program lights to turn on and off at set times. If you don't use smart home technology, you can still save energy by using traditional timers.

Additional easy ways to save during the holiday season include turning off overhead lights and using your Christmas tree to illuminate your home. If you have a fireplace, remember to close the flue when you're not burning a fire to ensure heat doesn't escape through the chimney.

Cook up energy savings in the kitchen

If you plan to have family and friends over this holiday season, you can cook up energy savings by using small countertop appliances, such as microwaves, air fryers and slow cookers, when possible, as they use much less energy than the stovetop or oven.

When using the oven, bake multiple dishes at once for maximum efficiency. After all, it takes as much energy to cook one dish as it does to cook several. Turn the oven off a few minutes before the recipe's end time and allow the residual heat to finish baking the dish. Once the food is done, leave the stove door ajar to allow the residual heat to warm the room. When using the stovetop, match the pan size to the burner to maximize efficiency.

I hope a few of these tips will be helpful as we approach the holiday season. Remember, we're here to answer any questions you have about managing energy use or your monthly bills. With a little planning upfront, you can find efficient ways to save on everything from holiday decor to your favorite soup recipes.

From your friends at KEM Electric Cooperative, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season. ⚡



Travis Kupper, Co-General Manager/ CEO

OFFICERS

Chair.....Victor "Chuck" Wald
Vice Chair..... Carmen Essig
Secretary-Treasurer.....Carter Vander Wal

DIRECTORS:

Dean Dewald • Neil Meidinger
John R. Beck • Vacant

CO-GENERAL MANAGERS/CEOS:

Travis Kupper
Jason Bentz

INTERESTED IN JOINING? Join the board of directors

Are you a dedicated leader with a deep connection to our rural community? We invite you to join the KEM Electric Cooperative board of directors and be a driving force behind positive change in the community.

KEM Electric currently has a District At Large vacant seat that needs to be filled, along with the District 3 position up for election.

Why join our board

Running for a director position for an electric cooperative can be a meaningful and impactful decision. Here are just a few reasons to join:

- Make a difference: Contribute to decisions that impact our energy future.
- Community engagement: Collaborate with like-minded individuals dedicated to community growth.
- Professional growth: Enhance your leadership skills and network.

Who we're looking for

We're seeking individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives who share our commitment to serving the members of KEM Electric. Ideal candidates should have:

- Leadership and strategic thinking skills.
- A commitment to our communities and service area.
- Strong communication and collaboration abilities.

If you're ready to make a meaningful impact, we encourage you to visit www.kemelectric.com to learn more. Nomination petitions open on Jan. 11, 2025, and must be submitted by the end of day on March 12, 2025.

For inquiries or more information, please contact Marcy Sanders at 701-254-4666 or email msanders@kemelectric.com. ⚡

SAVE THE DATE

YOU'RE INVITED TO KEM
ELECTRIC'S MEMBERSHIP
APPRECIATION NIGHT!

JANUARY 28, 2025
NAPOLEON

Join KEM Electric for an open house event to connect with board members and employees, learn more about your cooperative and enjoy a delicious meal.



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Winter generator safety

As the winter weather arrives, KEM Electric Cooperative is preparing to deal with whatever weather hits us this season. Although we don't anticipate any outages, it is important for members to be prepared and have a plan in place in case Mother Nature throws us an unexpected curveball.

One tool that can help ease extended outages for your family and any animals in your care is a portable generator. With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous to both you and us!

If you have questions about the proper use of portable generators, we're here to help. Give us a call at 800-472-2673 or 701-254-4666. ⚡



A few do's and don'ts when using portable generators

✓ Do's:

- Keep children and pets away from portable generators.
- Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow carbon monoxide to enter the home.
- Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground-fault circuit interrupter to prevent electric shock injuries.

✗ Don't's:

- Do not operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially enclosed) space.
- Do not rely on generators as a full-time source of power.
- Do not connect generators directly into household wiring, unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed.