

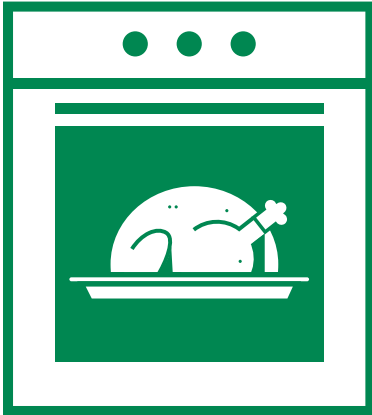


WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



November 2021



Have A Yummy and Safe Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving dinner marks the start of the winter holidays and can be a time for family, fun and fabulous food. It also creates a risk for kitchen fires, usually because of unattended cooking, the use of cooking fryers and the increase in the amount of baking and cooking. Year-round, cooking starts more house fires and in-home injuries than any other activity. Increased cooking time around the holidays increases the chance of a fire.

Here are some tips for safe Thanksgiving meal prep from the National Fire Prevention Association:

- If the stovetop burners are turned on, you should be in the kitchen. 15.05.03
- Turkeys need to roast for hours. Check on yours often while the oven is working.
- Keep children three feet away from the hot stove. Not only could they burn themselves on a working burner, the splatter from steam, hot gravy and brewing coffee can harm them.
- Clean up before you cook. Too much clutter in the kitchen — especially near the stove or on the floor — can cause people to trip, hot food to spill and small appliances or pans to fall over.
- Don't leave knives out when you're not handling them. It might be inconvenient to take them out and put them away all day long, but that makes it harder for a child to pick one up or a cook's helper to accidentally brush against one.
- Candlelight adds ambience to the Thanksgiving table, but don't light the candles until everyone is ready to sit down. And blow out the flames before you leave the room.
- Check the batteries in your home's smoke alarms. Simply push the test button and listen for the beep



Look Up, Look Down, Look Out!

- For a safe harvest, be extra careful and stay alert for hazards.
- Keep an eye out for overhead power lines and electrical equipment on and under the ground.
- Be especially careful with tall equipment such as combines and grain augers.

Iowa's electric cooperatives want you to have a safe and productive harvest!

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative will be **CLOSED** for & Thanksgiving

 Veterans Day November 11th

 Thanksgiving November 25th & 26th

RVEC Puts Safety First!

— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

As I write this, harvest is winding down and temperatures are dropping as we prepare for the Iowa winter. Along with the beauty, seasonal activities and holidays come the reality of lower temperatures. This has me thinking of your electric bill in the coming months, and some of the ways you can monitor, and to some degree (pun intended) save money on your electric bill.

When temperatures go down in winter, heating needs go up, which increases energy use in homes and other spaces. Even if you keep the thermostat at the same temperature inside, the furnace works harder when it gets colder outside which increases your energy use and therefore increases your energy bill. This is true in many cases because electricity is used to run a fan to heat your home, even if you are not on energy-efficient electric heat.

When the weather turns frigid, many use space heaters, electric blankets, fireplaces and other supplemental heating sources in addition to running the furnace to keep warm. Water heaters work hard, too, which means some energy bills are higher than in previous months. Space heating and water heating are the two biggest drivers of energy use in most households, accounting for over 50% of a home's energy use during the winter months.

The good news is, RVEC offers several tools that help you manage your usage and will assist in making your location more energy efficient. Visit www.rvec.coop for helpful energy efficiency tips that can lower your energy use in the winter and will help keep energy bills down.

If you would like your electric bill to be a bit more predictable, our Budget Billing Program allows you to keep monthly electric bills predictable and manageable. Please contact RVEC to sign up for this free option that averages electric use over a 6-month period to avoid big fluctuations in monthly bills.

To learn more about our energy efficiency programs, incentives and rebates or if you are having difficulty paying your bills in full, please contact our office at 712 .659.3649, 800.253.6211 or info@rvec.coop.

Because RVEC is owned by the member-owners we serve, our priorities are to provide you reliable, affordable and responsible power. We are here to help you our member-owner!

RECare

RVEC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare provides funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income members. 06.05.02

You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be added to your monthly electric bill. You may also make a contribution part of a matching fund, if there is a matching fund available. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others!

Yes, I want to be part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

I will contribute \$_____ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be added to my monthly electric bill.

My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is to be matched by:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Account No. _____



Don't Shoot!

Safety and power reliability are top priorities at RVEC. Each year, many power providers experience outages caused by people, either intentionally or inadvertently, shooting at important power equipment such as utility poles, line insulators, transformers and transmission towers. Even worse than the outages, is the potential for bodily injury caused by shooting at live electrical equipment. Not only could the shooting result in injury or even death, it also presents a risk to RVEC's line crews who must repair the damages and to member-owners who rely on the delivery of safe power for health care needs.

Shooting at power equipment is also vandalism and could result in fines and/or jail sentences.

If you are hunting or target shooting, we ask that you please take caution not to shoot at any utility facilities. Further, if you notice this type of vandalism on Cooperative lines, please contact the office.

Outage Information

If you don't have power or have an emergency call 712.659.3649.

RVEC phones are answered 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Use Your Space Heater Safely

Many people turn to space heaters—both electric models and those powered by kerosene or even wood— as a convenient source of warmth in winter months. However, space heaters can be dangerous if not used properly.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with space heaters. More than 300 people die in these fires. In addition, an estimated 6,000 people annually receive hospital emergency care for burn injuries connected with space heaters.

Space heater hazards stem not just from fires caused by contact with or close proximity to heating elements. They also include fires started by flammable fuels used in the heaters; defective wiring in the appliance; and carbon monoxide poisoning caused by improper venting or an incomplete combustion of fuels.

Here are some tips for using your electric space heater safely: 38.17.02

- Keep the heater at least 3 feet from flammable items such as curtains, furniture, or bedspreads.
- Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element.
- When buying a heater, choose one that has been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing institution such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

- Buy a heater that can handle the area that you want to heat.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Never leave a space heater unattended.
- Never go to sleep with a space heater on.
- Never use or store flammable liquids near a space heater.
- Do not use a heater in a bathroom—it's a high-moisture area that could cause damage.
- Keep heaters away from water to prevent electrocution.
- Do not use an extension cord with a space heater.
- Do not use the heater to dry clothes.
- Be sure the heater's plug fits snugly in an outlet. The cord and plug may feel warm when operating since the unit draws so much power, but they should not feel hot. If they do, unplug the heater and have a qualified repair person check for problems.
- Do not attempt to repair a broken heater yourself. It should be checked and repaired by a qualified appliance service center.

For additional safety tips on using space heaters that use wood or kerosene, visit the CPSC's Web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/463.html>

Source: *The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)*

WATTS CURRENT

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
(RVEC) is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



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Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
Reliable • Affordable • Responsible



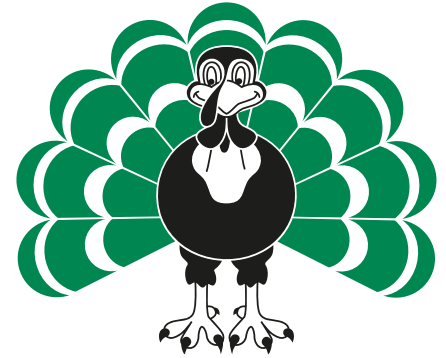
Touchstone Energy®

The power of human connections

Don't Let Turkey Day Gobble Up Electricity

Our use of electricity soars on Thanksgiving Day as we draft our oven, stove, refrigerator and even our heating system into overdrive as we spend extra time cooking and invite family into our homes.

Don't spoil the holiday fun worrying about energy costs. Instead, make an effort to conserve energy even as you overuse your appliances, lights and heat. Here are some tips:



- If your dining room has an older chandelier that doesn't use CFLs, dim the brightness by at least 10%. If it doesn't have a dimmer switch, install one.
- Cook as many dishes at the same time as possible. Put two or three dishes in the oven together if their recipes call for the same temperature. That way, you can turn the oven off sooner.
- Lower your home's thermostat before you put the turkey in the oven. The heat that the oven and stovetop will emit — along with the heat that having extra people in the house creates — will keep your home warm enough without cranking up the thermostat, even if it's cold outside.
- Cook what you can in the microwave or crockpot. They use less energy than the oven. 33.32.01
- Use the dishwasher instead of cleaning the dinner dishes by hand. Dishwashers use less energy and water than washing by hand.



**VIEW YOUR KWH
USAGE AND PAY
YOUR BILL**

Save yourself some time.
Go to www.rvec.coop
and pay your bill online.

Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call RVEC by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$25.00.