

K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2024

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Our mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service at the lowest cost, while maintaining an environmentally responsible, accountable and sustainable operation now and in the future.

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE MERRY AND BRIGHT

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID CHURCHWELL

As November kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team at K.C. Electric Association cares about your wellbeing. This month, I'm sharing a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

SAFETY FIRST.

My family enjoys decorating our home for the holidays. Before we deck the halls, I always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This gives us peace of mind, knowing our holiday lights are ready to safely brighten our home. I also double check the lights we use outside to make sure they're rated for outdoor use.

Like many households, we also enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive, lit candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. I test mine on the first of each month, so it's easy to remember. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives — make it a habit.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR SAVINGS.

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact

home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your electric bills.

I like to remind my family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling makes up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when family or friends stop by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy-efficient lighting option available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food — not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances such as air fryers, slow cookers, and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

I hope you will implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans.

From your friends at K.C. Electric, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright.

STAY SAFE AND WARM: YOUR WINTER HOME READINESS GUIDE



Preparing your home for winter involves several key steps to ensure safety, efficiency, and warmth. Here are top tips to help you prepare before the temperatures drop and a few ways to stay safe if a power outage leaves you snowbound.

Inspect your heating system

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters.
- Ensure vents and radiators are not blocked for efficient heat distribution.

Prepare pipes and water supply

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of your water shut-off valve in case of emergencies.

Maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors each month to ensure they are functioning properly.

Prepare your home's exterior

- Clear gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees and bushes away from the house to prevent damage from heavy snow.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from your home's foundation.
- Drain and store garden hoses to prevent freezing.
- Service and store outdoor equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

Increase home energy efficiency

- Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weather stripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

Stock emergency supplies

At home, have enough nonperishable food and water for 72 hours in case of power outages or severe weather. Experts suggest storing one gallon of water per person per day.

Include these essentials in your emergency kit:

- First-aid kit
- Flashlights and batteries
- Warm clothing
- Blankets
- Phone chargers and backup charger sources

Gather important documents, medical supplies/medicines and medical records. Don't forget your pets. Make sure you have enough supplies for them as well.

What to do if the power goes out

Winter weather is unpredictable. High winds, whiteouts, and ice storms can cause hazardous road conditions and power outages.

If the electricity goes out due to a winter storm, you might be in for a prolonged power outage as crews work through the

harsh weather to get the power back on.

If this happens, contact K.C. Electric as soon as you can so they know you lost power.

Other actions you can take to stay safe are:

- **Avoid travel.** Stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
- **Place a draft block** at the bottom of doors to minimize cold drafts from entering the house.
- **When using an alternative heat source,** follow operating instructions and be sure to ventilate properly.
- **Keep grills, camp stoves, and generators** out of the house, basement, and garage.
- **Use a tarp and/or portable canopy** when using a portable generator if conditions are damp or wet.
- **Move fuel-powered generators** at least 20 feet away from the house.
- **Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home.** Infants and people over the age of 65 are often more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm.

For more information on keeping your family safe during and after a winter storm, visit SafeElectricity.org.



We're grateful for your membership.

Our office will be closed Thursday, November 28 in observance of Thanksgiving. We are incredibly grateful for your membership as our team spends special time with loved ones.

From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!



Claim Your Savings

Each month, K.C. Electric members have a chance to claim a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. All you must do is find your account number, call the Hugo office at 719-743-2431, and ask for your credit. The account numbers are listed below. How simple is that?

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine (check the date on the front cover).

John Mauch, Burlington – 1130xxxxxx

Renita Thelen, Hugo – 6410xxxxx

Plains Bar, Hugo – 6015xxxxx

Raymond Kern, Cheyenne Wells – 4233xxxxx

In September, two members called to claim their savings: David Mohan from Hugo, and Theo Borden from Stratton.



5TH ANNUAL REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN PROGRAM RETURNS TO

Burlington

JANUARY 6, 13, 20, & 27

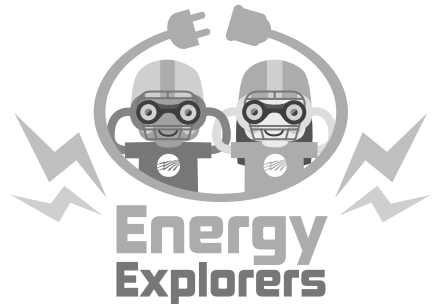
WANT TO LEARN MORE?
 www.comasterirrigator.org

READY TO REGISTER?
 SCAN HERE:



BE AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY MVP

Do you have what it takes to be the energy efficiency MVP (most valuable player) in your home? When you take proactive steps to save energy at home, you can help your family save on monthly energy bills *and* help the environment—that’s a win-win!



Read the sentences below and unscramble the **bolded** letters to complete the energy efficiency tips. Check your work in the answer key.

1. Turn off **glhsit** when you leave a room.

2. Unplug smaller electronic devices like phone **reahgcsr** when you’re not using them.

3. Reduce your **nesecr** time to save energy and spend more time outdoors.

4. Turn off the **reatw** while brushing your teeth.

5. Keep doors and **swdwnio** closed when your home’s heating/cooling system is running.

6. When it’s cold, wear an extra layer of **tohgncil** inside instead of adjusting the thermostat.

Answer Key: 1. lights 2. chargers 3. screen 4. water 5. windows 6. clothing

