



LYNTEGAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.  
TAHOKA, TEXAS

ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM & WORK PLAN  
March 2014

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Energy Conservation Program is to specify those plans, actions and procedures necessary to accomplish the objectives of the policy of this corporation regarding energy conservation.

II. POLICY

The Board of Directors of Lyntegar Electric Cooperative, Inc. has adopted the following policy:

The cooperative will make all efforts to assure the conservation of energy at all of its own facilities and in all activities of the cooperative. The cooperative will, through various methods available, educate and guide its consumers toward the conservation of energy.

The cooperative will engage in training its employees, to assure they are aware of the need for and the best methods available to conserve energy.

The cooperative will make efforts to coordinate its activities concerning energy conservation with those of other such power suppliers, statewide associations, governmental bodies, building industry other organizations that are concerned with the conservation of energy.

The cooperative will develop and maintain programs and activities designed to promote energy conservation and to monitor such programs and activities so as to measure their results.

The cooperative will consider the energy conservation program of the cooperative in future contemplated rate changes.

The cooperative will allocate resources to be used toward its commitment to energy conservation.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

The member services department has been designated to carry out the Energy Conservation Program of the cooperative. This department contains the manager of member services, and the member services advisor. It will be the responsibility of this department to develop plans, to represent the cooperative in all areas of energy conservation, guide consumers and employees toward better methods of energy conservation, to monitor results of this program, and to report those results to the management. The cooperative plans to have the equivalent of two full-time employees working in energy conservation. Cooperative employees spent approximately 3,266.5 hours working in energy conservation in 2013. A list of the employees involved in energy conservation and an estimated percentage of time each devotes toward energy conservation is as follows:

NAME	TITLE	% OF TIME
Paula Reynolds	Clerk	17
Barry Pittman	Manager Member Services	37
Laveta Bloodworth	Service Branch Clerk	13
Gary Cartwright	Branch Manager	2
Frank Collins	Branch Manager	11
Don Collins	Crew Foreman	1
Julie Stacha	Service Branch Clerk	2
Brady Askew	Member Services Advisor	38
Lea Swinford	Billing Supervisor	21
Michael Brattain	Lineman	1
Richard Moore	Member Services Advisor	38
Byron May	Member Services Advisor	41

IV. METHODS OF INFORMING CONSUMERS OF THE ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM OF THE COOPERATIVE, ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE, AND RESOURCES USED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROGRAM

A. Bill Stuffers

Bill stutters are mailed periodically that advise consumers that the cooperative personnel are available to aid them in the most modern methods of energy conservation.

B. Newspapers

1. The Texas Coop Power newspaper, published by the Texas Electric Cooperative Association, is mailed to each consumer monthly. Two special pages of this publication are designed by personnel of the cooperative and serve as an ideal instrument to advise consumers of the availability of cooperative personnel to aid them in methods of energy conservation. A major portion of this publication is devoted to energy conservation.
2. Local newspapers may be used to notify the public of the availability of cooperative personnel to assist them in energy conservation techniques.

c. Book Covers

1. Book covers are periodically supplied to area schools stressing energy conservation, and explaining the availability of cooperative personnel to assist consumers with regard to energy conservation.

D. Exhibits & Displays

1. Display booths at county fairs are set up containing energy conservation information, with cooperative personnel manning these booths to explain the availability of cooperative personnel to assist them in energy conservation.
2. Energy Saver Water Heaters are sold and serviced by the cooperative. If members inquire about these heaters, they are given all the information as to how they perform, stressing the conserving of energy and savings on their energy bill.

V. METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A. To Consumers

1. Personnel Contacts

Cooperative personnel visit with consumers and explain the policies and procedures of the cooperative, in addition to informing them of the importance of energy conservation and assistance available to aid them in their plans for energy conservation.

2. Personnel Services

- a. Cooperative personnel conduct energy evaluations for consumers of the cooperative, showing the saving available through energy conservation and the amount of energy that is presently being wasted. There were no walk thru energy evaluations and four energy conservation information visits performed by the cooperative personnel during the past year.
- b. Cooperative personnel advise consumers concerning remodeling techniques that conserve energy.
  - (1) Proper insulation
  - (2) Proper heating units
  - (3) Proper cooling units
  - (4) Proper design in construction for energy efficient structures
- c. Cooperative personnel advise consumers building new residences concerning techniques that conserve energy.
  - (1) Proper insulation
  - (2) Proper heating units
  - (3) Proper cooling units
  - (4) Proper design in construction for energy efficient structures.
- d. Cooperative personnel make visits to the homes of consumers giving information on the proper use and care of appliances and energy saving techniques.
- e. Cooperative personnel make visits, and take advantage of any situation to give information regarding energy conservation to consumers for all types of load. Cooperative personnel visited approximately 290 members during the year.
  - (1) Residences
  - (2) Irrigation
  - (3) Farm related
  - (4) Oil related
  - (5) Schools and Churches

3. Programs given to various groups by personnel of the cooperative designed to educate public in regards to energy conservation. There were 6 programs given to approximately 724 people. Such programs were given to:

- a. Civic Organizations
- b. Schools
- c. Clubs
- d. Employees

B. Cooperation with Builders and Contractors

Staff members work with and give advice to all builders and contractors in the cooperative's service area.

VI. RECORDS

A. Types of Loads for Which Records are Kept

1. Residential

A record is kept of the electrical requirements in a residence being remodeled, or in a new residence. These records give the estimated annual KWH usages as well as the estimated annual diversified KW demand.

2. Irrigation

A record is kept of all new irrigation motors installed by showing horsepower size, annual KWH usage and estimated annual diversified KW demand.

3. Farm Related

Records are kept on all major farm equipment that uses electricity for a source of energy showing annual KWH usage and estimated annual diversified KW demand.

4. Obtaining records from consumers give employees an excellent opportunity to explain the energy conservation program of the cooperative.

5. These records will enable the cooperative to study power requirements of different type loads.

6. Oil Related

Cooperative personnel assist oil companies monitoring consumption in relation to pumping time in order to maximize the efficiency of the pumping unit.

VII. ENERGY CONSERVATION REGARDING THE COOPERATIVE'S OWN FACILITIES

A. Buildings

1. All thermostats are to be maintained at energy saving levels.

2. Lights in buildings or offices not being used will be turned off.

3. Thermostats will be regulated in vacant offices, warehouses, and meeting rooms to use a minimum amount of energy.

4. Patrols will be made each afternoon to make sure all lights have been turned off for the night.

5. Use is made of double entrances at office building to minimize the loss of heating or cooling.

6. All new buildings of the cooperative will be built with energy conservation in mind.

B. Outside Lighting

1. Outside lighting is operated by electric eye switches to make sure energy is not wasted by lights burning during daylight hours.
2. Only enough outside lights are used as to insure safety and security.

C. Appliances

All appliances purchased by the cooperative are selected with energy conservation in mind.

D. Vehicles

1. All employees are instructed to control speed in order to conserve energy. The cooperative maintains its own vehicle shop and makes sure all vehicles are performing with peak efficiency.

E. Cost Savings

It is very difficult to establish the actual savings to the cooperative in regard to good energy conservation practices because of the wide variety of weather conditions that we experience in this geographical location and load added at each facility. However, we do believe that approximately 21,598 kWh were saved because of energy conservation practices resulting in an approximate \$1,826.17 savings in 2013.

VIII. TRAINING PERSONNEL

- A. The cooperative takes every opportunity available to send employees responsible for the Energy Conservation Program of the cooperative to schools, workshops and meetings that will aid them in becoming more knowledgeable in all types, methods, and techniques of energy conservation.
- B. The cooperative will engage in training its employees to better understand the methods available to conserve energy in its own facilities as well as being able to assist the consumers in the conservation of energy.

IX. BENEFITS TO THE CONSUMER

Exact savings to residential consumers are difficult to determine due to wide variety of weather conditions that are experienced in our geographical location and new load connected to our system throughout the year. However, due to the ongoing energy conservation practices emphasized to the cooperative's members, we believe that an approximate 3 percent savings in energy usage occurred in 2013. This results in a savings of \$189,950 based on approximately 1,899,040 kWh.

X. OPERATING COST AND EXPENDITURES

A. 2013 Expenditures

1.	Personnel (Payroll)	\$ 174,102.77
2.	Transportation	3,650.43
3.	Conservation Incentive Programs	9,040.00
4.	Signs and ads in publications	4,239.44
5.	Meeting & Travel	0.00
6.	Misc.	1,841.43
	TOTAL	\$ 192,874.07

B. 2014 Budget

1.	Personnel (Payroll)	\$ 201,609.00
2.	Transportation	4,227.00
3.	Conservation Incentive Programs	10,468.00
4.	Signs and ads in publications	4,909.00
5.	Meeting & Travel	0.00
6.	Misc.	2,132.00
	TOTAL	\$ 223,345.00

XI. MAJOR CONCERNS OF INEFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY

Irrigation is a major part of the load on our system. The cooperative completes a formal Power Requirement Study which includes our irrigation usage on the entire system outlining average efficiencies of the pumping plants today and the improvements that we hope to achieve by improving the efficiency of the pumping plants in the future.

XII. ELECTRIC HEATING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

A cash incentive payment is paid to consumers when building a new home or remodeling existing homes and installing an energy efficient "all electric" or "Dual-Fuel heat pump" home heating system. "Energy Efficient Home" guidelines must be met to maximize the incentive payment.

SUMMARY  
OF  
ENERGY CONSERVATION WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Borrower Texas 60 Lynn

No. of Consumers \_\_\_\_\_

1. <u>Conservation in Borrower's Facilities</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
A. Amt. of Capital Expen.: Last Yr. \$ <u>-0-</u>		
This Yr. \$ <u>-0-</u>		
B. Amt. of Annual Savings: Last Yr. \$ 1,705.19		
This Yr. \$ 1,826.17		
C. Solar Applications	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
D. Lightning	<u>    X    </u>	<u>    X    </u>
E. Thermostat Control	<u>    X    </u>	<u>    X    </u>
F. Weatherization of Facilities	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
G. Vehicles	<u>    X    </u>	<u>    X    </u>
H. Heating/Cooling System Modifications	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
I. Employee Education	<u>    X    </u>	<u>    X    </u>
J. other _____	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
_____	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
_____	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
2. <u>Consumer Education</u>		
A. Local Newspapers	<u>    X    </u>	<u>    X    </u>
B. TV	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
C. Radio	<u>    X    </u>	<u>    X    </u>
D. Meetings with Consumers	<u>    X    </u>	<u>    X    </u>
E. Display/Demonstration/Films	<u>    X    </u>	<u>    X    </u>
F. Bill Stuffers/Newsletters	<u>    X    </u>	<u>    X    </u>
G. Other: _____	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
_____	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
3. <u>Technical Services</u>		
A. Energy Audits (No.): Last Yr. 0 This Yr. 0	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
B. Assist in Arranging to have Suggested Measures Installed	<u>    X    </u>	<u>    X    </u>
C. Assist in Arranging Financing	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
D. Advise on Appliance and Equipment Efficiency and Suggested Usage Patterns	<u>    X    </u>	<u>    X    </u>
E. Assess Usefulness of Solar Applications	<u>    X    </u>	<u>    X    </u>
F. Other: _____	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
_____	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
4.	<u>Participation with Other Organizations</u>		
A.	Building Contractors	_____	_____
B.	Weatherization Contractors	_____	_____
C.	State Energy Offices	_____	_____
D.	Statewide/NRECA	_____	_____
E.	G&T	_____	_____
F.	Local and/or State Extension Service	_____	_____
G.	Other: _____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

		<u>Previous Year</u>	<u>Proposed Year</u>
5.	<u>Resources Dedicated</u>		
A.	Dollars		
	(1) Personnel	\$ 172,568.60	199,832.00
	(2) Information	4,239.44	4,909.00
	(3) Capital Expenditures	0.00	0.00
	(4) Supervision	1,534.17	1,777.00
	(5) In Cooperation With Others	9,040.00	10,468.00
	(6) Other: transportation:	5,491.86	6,359.00
	_____		
	Total	<u>\$ 192,874.07</u>	<u>223,345.00</u>

- B. Staff Time
- (1) No. Employee Hours 3,266.5
- (2) Names of full and part-time energy conservation staff:

(See page 1 of Energy Conservation Program & Work Plan)

ATTACHMENT

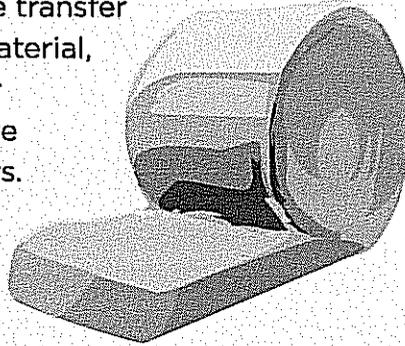
TO

LYNTEGAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

2014 SB-924 ENERGY EFFICIENCY REPORT

## Comparing Insulation VALUE

Adding insulation? Check the material's R-value—the ability of insulation to resist the transfer of heat. R-value depends on material, thickness and density. A higher R-value indicates more effective insulation, saving energy dollars.



**Compare R-values and common uses for several types of insulation:**

Type of Insulation	R-value per inch (range)	Common Uses	Installation Method
<b>Batts, Rolls</b>			
Fiberglass	3.17 (3.0-4.0)	Wall, floor and ceiling cavities	Fitted between studs, joists or rafters
Rock Wool	3.17 (3.0-3.7)	Wall, floor and ceiling cavities	Fitted between studs, joists or rafters
Cotton	3.2	Wall, floor and ceiling cavities	Fitted between studs, joists or rafters
<b>Loose, Poured or Blown</b>			
Fiberglass	2.2 (2.2-4.0)	Ceiling cavities	Poured and fluffed, or blown by machine
Rock Wool	3.1 (2.8-3.7)	Ceiling cavities	Poured and fluffed, or blown by machine
Dry Cellulose	3.2 (2.8-3.7)	Ceiling cavities	Blown by machine
Wet-Spray Cellulose	3.5 (3.0-3.7)	Wall cavities	Sprayed into cavities
Perlite	2.7 (2.5-4.0)	Hollow concrete block	Poured
Polyurethane	6.2 (5.8-6.8)	Wall and ceiling cavities, roofs	Foamed into cavities
Open-Cell Isocyanurate (Icynene)	3.6	Wall and ceiling cavities	Foamed into open or closed cavities
Magnesium Silicate (Air Krete)	3.9	Wall cavities	Foamed into open cavities

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, E Source

## Insulation Installation Safety Tips

When tackling home insulation installation on your own, safety should be foremost in your mind. Follow these tips from the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association on safe insulation installation practices.

**WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING.** To reduce the chances of skin irritation, wear a head cover, gloves and loose-fitting, long-sleeved, long-legged clothing.

**WEAR PROPER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.** Safety glasses and respiratory protection may be necessary, depending on your work environment. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Association offers guidelines in its Respiratory Protection Standard that may be helpful.

**TAKE CARE IF FIBERS GET ON YOUR SKIN OR EYES.** If insulation fibers collect on your skin, don't rub and scratch or remove with compressed air. Instead, lay tape, adhesive side down, and then remove it gently, so the fibers are pulled from the skin. If fibers get in your eyes, never rub—flush with water or eyewash solution. Contact your doctor if you have continued irritation.

**KEEP DUST TO A MINIMUM.** Leave the materials in packaging for as long as possible. Use tools that create the least amount of dust; power tools should have dust-collection devices. Put scrap materials in the trash and don't let equipment wander too far from the work site.

**MAINTAIN ADEQUATE VENTILATION.** Determine whether your work site needs a dust-collection system. Also, exhausted air containing fibers should be filtered before being recirculated into inside workspaces. Finally, ventilation systems used to capture fibers should be regularly checked.

Source: Home Safety Council

# Stay Warm and Safe This Winter

When used properly and safely, electric blankets and other heating devices can help keep you toasty during cold winter months. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind for electric blankets and heating pads:

- ▶ Purchase items only if they have been approved by an independent testing facility, such as Underwriters Laboratories.
- ▶ Inspect all cords and connections for cracks and frayed edges, which are huge fire and injury hazards. Replace blankets or heating pads that have faulty cords.
- ▶ Discard your blanket or heating pad if you see dark or charred spots on the surface.
- ▶ Do not put another cover on top of an electric blanket unless the safety instructions included in the packaging specifically state that it's safe to do so. Some newer models protect against overheating.
- ▶ Once your electric blanket or heating pad is switched on, keep it laid flat—a folded device can cause a fire, as can a blanket that's been tucked in (that can bend wires).
- ▶ Never use heated bedding while asleep—look for a model with a timer that switches off automatically.

## Space heaters

If you choose to use a space heater to supplement your home's heating system, some of the same rules of thumb apply, including purchasing a safety-certified model and reading the included safety instructions.

- ▶ Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from combustible materials such as bedding, drapes, clothes and rugs. Space heaters also have parts that can spark, so avoid using them in areas where you store flammable liquids such as kerosene or gasoline.



Keep your space heater at least 3 feet away from yourself and flammable items such as drapes, blankets and rugs.

- ▶ In general, plugging space heaters directly into a wall outlet is best. If you must use an extension cord, make sure it's the correct type and has the right size wire gauge for your particular space heater.
- ▶ Check safety instructions before using a space heater around water—some models are not intended for use in bathrooms.
- ▶ Be sure children are supervised around space heaters. Curious exploration can lead to electrical shock and burns.
- ▶ Unplug the space heater and store it in a safe place when you're not using it.



## Lyntegar Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 970, Tahoka, TX 79373

Operating in Borden, Dawson, Gaines, Garza, Hockley, Lynn, Martin, Terry and Yoakum counties

### CEO

Greg Henley

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Earl J. Brown Jr., President, *Brownfield*  
L.H. Nettles, Vice President, *New Home*  
Billy Weaver, Secretary-Treasurer, *Post*  
H.R. Barron, *Lamesa*  
Ricky Day, *Meadow*  
Benjamin D. Franklin, *O'Donnell*  
Wayne T. Howard, *Lamesa*

### COOPERATIVE OFFICES

Tahoka 1807 Main St.  
(806) 561-4588 or 561-4811

Lamesa 2013 S. Highway 137  
(806) 872-2632

Sundown 307 S. Slaughter  
(806) 229-3741

Seagraves 1681 Highway 82-385  
(806) 387-3002

### PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- Wi-Power high-speed Internet
- A.O. Smith and Marathon water heaters
- Char-Broil electric grills
- Surge protection systems



## CONTACT US

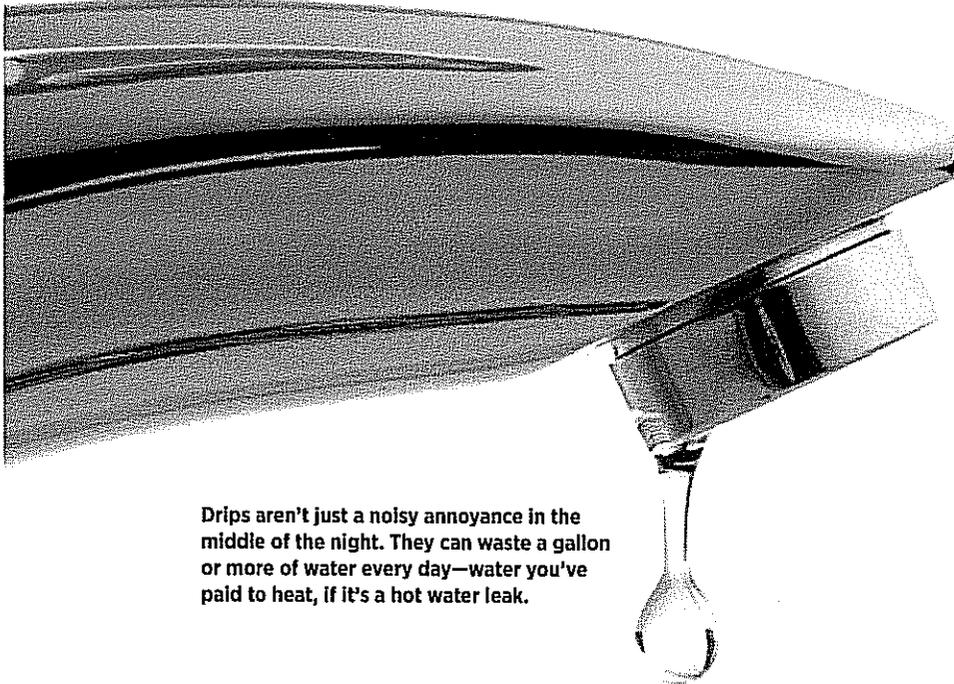
For information during office hours  
and outages after hours

### CALL US

(806) 561-4588 local or  
1-877-218-2308 toll-free

### FIND US ON THE WEB

lyntegar.coop



Drips aren't just a noisy annoyance in the middle of the night. They can waste a gallon or more of water every day—water you've paid to heat, if it's a hot water leak.

## It's Simple To Save Money on Water Heating

**Besides heating and cooling your home, heating your water uses more energy than anything else in the house.**

In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that the typical family spends up to 18 percent of its utility dollars on water heating.

Good news: It's simple to lower that cost. Here are eight tips:

**1.** Get rid of your old showerheads and bathroom faucets: They pump out way more water than you need to comfortably get clean. In their place, install low-flow faucets and aerating showerheads. The less water you use, the less you have to pay to heat it.

**2.** If you notice a leaky faucet, repair it immediately. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that a faucet that drips 20 times per minute will waste a full gallon of water every day. If that happens to be hot water, you are washing money down the drain with every drip.

**3.** Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees. The Department of Energy says that's a safe and sanitary temperature, and it will keep you comfortable at bath time, too.

**4.** Insulate your electric hot water tank—but don't cover the thermostat. Do-it-yourself kits are readily available and very affordable.

**5.** Wrap the hot and cold water pipes that connect to the water heater.

**6.** Drain about a quart of water from the tank every three months to remove sediment. Built-up gunk in the water heater can make it inefficient because it has to work harder to transfer heat to the water.

**7.** If you're in the market for a new water heater, choose a high-efficiency model with the Energy Star label. High-efficiency water heaters use 10 to 50 percent less energy than traditional models.

**8.** Water heaters can last for up to 15 years, but new models are so much more energy efficient than older ones that it may be worth it to replace yours if you've had it for seven or more years.



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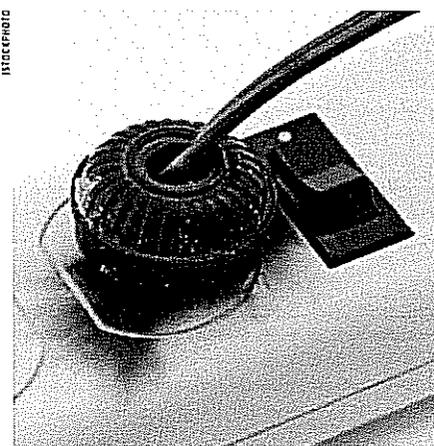
# Wicked Wiring Warnings

## What is your home telling you?

Our homes are a lot like us. They age just like we do. They begin to creak and moan. They begin to show their age. They, like us, have aging systems, some that can be seen and some that cannot. Just as we need to get checkups from time to time, our homes also need checkups. When it comes to the electrical system in our homes, it is important to schedule a house call in response to these warning signs. If you notice any of these issues, you should immediately call a licensed electrical contractor and have him or her give your home a checkup.

**YOU EXPERIENCE FREQUENT TRIPPED CIRCUIT BREAKERS OR BLOWN FUSES.** Breakers and fuses are rated in amperes and protect the wiring in our houses from overcurrent. Overcurrent may result from an overloaded or short circuit, or a ground fault.

**YOU FEEL A TINGLING SENSATION WHEN YOU TOUCH AN APPLIANCE OR METAL OBJECT.** Getting a shock from appliances in your house can indicate a more serious problem. You should immediately unplug the appliance and discontinue its use.



Any discoloration around an electrical outlet requires immediate attention and repair.

and trims indicated by the lighting fixture. It may also indicate that an appliance is overheating or malfunctioning. In this case, unplug the appliance or turn off the circuit breaker until further investigated.

**YOU SEE FLICKERING OR DIMMING LIGHTS.** This could indicate loose connections at electrical termination points on switches causing arcing and overheating. Left uncorrected, this poses a fire hazard. It could also indicate a short in the wiring system.

In summary, all these warning signs can be detected when your home is given its proper electrical checkup. A licensed electrical contractor may recommend the installation of lifesaving devices, such as ground-fault circuit interrupters, smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. He or she may also introduce you to arc-fault circuit interrupters, which have been required in new homes since 2000. These devices are intended to provide protection from the effects of arc faults and de-energize circuits before a fire can start. He or she might suggest that you get a total rewire of your electrical system. This is also recommended by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories when a home is more than 40 years old. Know the warning signs, and if your electrical system is beginning to show its age, get your checkup to ensure the safe and proper operation of your electrical system.

**YOU NOTICE THAT A RECEPTACLE OR WALL SWITCH BECOMES DISCOLORED OR IS ABNORMALLY WARM AND/OR SHOOTS SPARKS.** This could indicate arcing, smoldering or burning happening behind your outlets due to loose connections, damaged or improperly installed wiring in the outlet, or a problem with the receptacle itself. You should immediately avoid using the outlet or switch and contact a licensed electrical contractor as soon as possible to correct the problem.

**YOU DETECT A PERSISTENT BURNING SMELL FROM A LIGHT FIXTURE, APPLIANCE, ROOM OR AREA.** This may indicate that a light fixture may have the wrong size lamp. Use only the specified wattage

# Why Is My Electric Bill More Than My Neighbor's?

You have a television, DVD player, microwave oven, electric range and cooktop, refrigerator/freezer, stereo, heat pump and personal computer. So does your next-door neighbor. So why is your electric bill almost twice as high every month?

Consider: How well are your walls insulated compared to your neighbor's? Do you take longer, hotter showers? Are you cooking gourmet meals or baking from scratch while your neighbor opts to microwave? Does the TV keep you company even when you're not watching it?

Just as no two families live alike, no two electric bills are the same. Comparing your monthly statement to anyone else's would be like comparing your weekly grocery tabs. Two families of four will most likely not spend exactly the same amount on food because their tastes and habits are different.

Think about the conveniences for which you might be willing to pay, even though your neighbor isn't. Are you more comfortable sleeping in an extra-cool house on hot summer nights? Maybe your neighbor's thermostat setting is a few degrees warmer at bedtime.

Do members of your family entertain themselves in separate rooms after dinner—turning a light on in each—while the folks next door gather all together in a family room to watch baseball games on TV or play a board game?

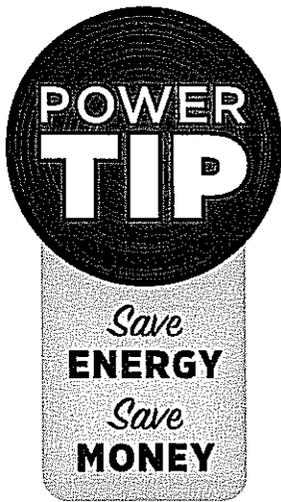
The way to lower your electric costs is to use energy more efficiently before the bill comes. If your neighbor's bill is lower than yours, ask for some tips about how to save money by conserving energy around the house or contact Lyntegar Electric Cooperative for energy-saving ideas.

Source: *Safe Electricity*

# Statement of Nondiscrimination

Lyntegar Electric Cooperative, Inc., is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Greg Henley, chief executive officer. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who thinks that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, DC 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

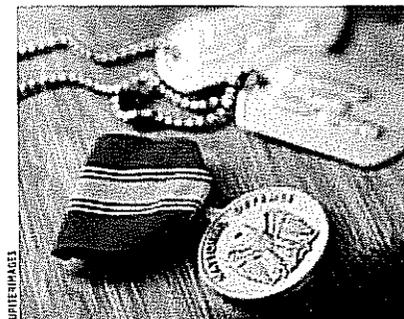


## Properly installed shades can be one of the most effective ways to improve windows' energy efficiency.

Lower them during summer; in winter, raise them during the day and lower them at night on south-facing windows. Dual shades, with reflective white coating on one side and a heat-absorbing dark color on the other, can be reversed with the seasons and save even more energy.

And, adding awnings and solar screens outside is effective in reducing heat-gain during the summer. Learn more at [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



## Lyntegar EC's offices will be closed Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day.

As always, crews will be standing by in the event of an outage. We wish you and yours a happy, safe and restful holiday.



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Greg Henley

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(806) 229-3741

Seagraves 1681 Highway 82-385  
(806) 387-3002

### PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- Wi-Power high-speed Internet
- A.O. Smith and Marathon water heaters
- Char-Broil electric grills
- Surge protection systems



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# Tips To Help Your Air Conditioner Take a Load Off

Your air conditioner has to work harder every time the temperature rises one degree. Make sure it's up to the task.

At the start of every cooling season, hire a licensed professional to give it a tuneup. If your unit is old or requires some major repairs, it could be cheaper to replace it with a super-efficient model—one with a SEER rating of at least 12—than to repair it.

SEER stands for “seasonal energy-efficiency ratio.” The higher the number, the more efficient the air conditioner—and the more money you save.

Relieve some strain on your air conditioner and knock a few dollars off your energy bill this summer. Here's how:

▶ Change the air filter every time you pay your energy bill. The unit doesn't have to work as hard to push air through a clean filter as it does through a dirty one.

▶ Turn up the thermostat and turn on ceiling fans. They circulate the air and help you feel cooler. For every degree you raise your thermostat, you will save 2 to 3 percent on air conditioning.

▶ Weatherstripping and caulking around doors and windows isn't just for winter. It can keep hot air from coming into your home during the summer, too. Seal leaky joints and seams around windows and doors to keep cool air in and hot air out.

▶ Draw blinds or shades during the day. If your windows don't have reflective coatings, add window film to keep the sun's heat from seeping in.

▶ Cook and operate washing machines, dishwashers and other heat-generating appliances after 9 p.m. Using appliances during these “off-peak” hours can save you money and reduce indoor heat when the sun is blazing.

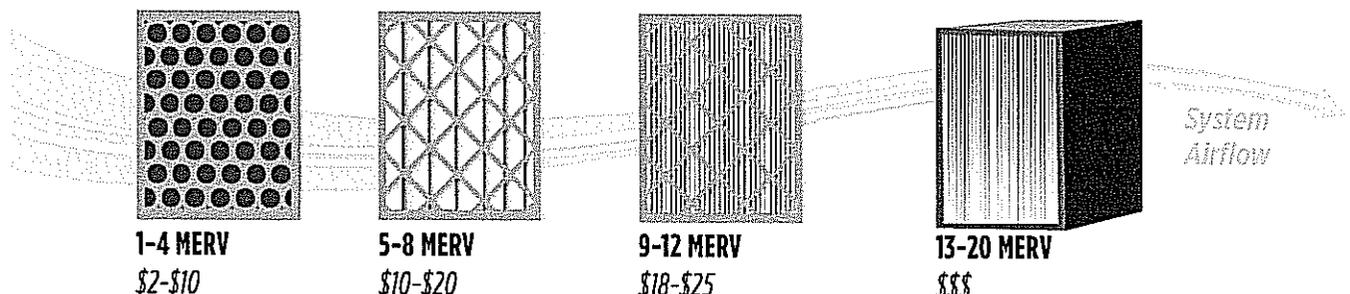
▶ Don't use your oven when the weather is hot. Nothing is more energy efficient for cooking than your microwave. It uses two-thirds less energy than your stove.

▶ Install patio covers, awnings and solar window screens to shade your home from the sun. Use strategically planted trees, shrubs and vines to shade your home.

▶ Consider changing your old thermostat to a programmable one. You can save up to \$100 a year by properly using a set-back thermostat.

## What Do Different Air Filters Block?

Air filters are rated by Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). Filters with a higher MERV block more dirt, but also reduce airflow and system efficiency. Use this guide to find the right filter for your home or business.



MERV Rating	Price	Blocked Items	Filter Types	Common Uses
1-4 MERV	\$2-\$10	Pollen, sanding dust, large insect bodies	Disposable, washable	Homes, window air-conditioning units
5-8 MERV	\$10-\$20	Pet dander, mold, spores, dust mites, hair spray	Pleated, disposable, electrostatic	Better homes, general office buildings
9-12 MERV	\$18-\$25	Lead dust, milled flour, car emission particles	Pleated, disposable, electrostatic	Superior homes, better office buildings, businesses
13-20 MERV	\$\$\$	Bacteria, virus, face powder, smoke, sneezes, paint pigments, oil, carbon dust	High-efficiency particulate arrestance (HEPA), box 6-12 inches thick, flexible 12-36 inches thick	Hospitals, drug and electronic labs

Source: [epa.gov/iaq](http://epa.gov/iaq)



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Share the work and reduce the heat by setting up a make-your-own sandwich bar for dinner.

# Keep Your Cool in the Kitchen

When the sun is blazing outside, making a hot meal for your family could cause your air-conditioning system to work harder to keep up with the extra heat generated by cooking appliances.

Here are some simple ways to minimize the amount of wasted heat and still put a meal on the table.

**DON'T COOK, CHILL.** Try a cool offering: a meal from the refrigerator. Serve up a refreshing salad. Offer a build-your-own sandwich platter with a variety of fillings, breads and spreads that might suit everyone's appetite. Make a cold dish like ceviche or gazpacho.

And for dessert, a bowl of ice cream or fruit ice will hit the spot.

**GIVE THE OVEN THE DAY OFF.** Avoid using your oven if you can. Not only does the oven use considerable energy, but it also adds waste heat to your living area. Instead, employ a smaller appliance, such as a toaster oven, to brown or bake. It will take less power and not raise your kitchen's temperature as much.

If you do choose to use the oven, bake two or three meals' worth of food at once. Refrigerate the extras and use the microwave to heat it up the next day.

**GIVE THE STOVE THE DAY OFF.** A portable appliance such as a rice cooker or slow cooker can handle a whole meal's worth of food at a fraction of the energy of cooking on the stovetop. Because many of those appliances are insulated, they keep much of the heat they generate contained, leaving your air system with less to handle.

If you do need to use the stove, remember to match the size of pots and pans to their burners, which will improve their heating efficiency. Plus, use a tight-fitting lid. That will keep more heat contained to the pan, which will help cook the food faster.

**TAKE IT OUTSIDE.** Nothing says summer like firing up the grill. Hot dogs and hamburgers don't have to be the only items on the menu, either. Many veggies, and even fruits such as pineapple or peaches, work great on the grill.

Cooking outside will keep 100 percent of the extra heat that cooking produces outside your home, instead of inside, where it taxes your cooling system.



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# Spotting Energy Myths and Scams

BY BRIAN SLOBODA

**A quick Internet search reveals many ways to save energy around your home—and a lot of them are too good to be true. Scams generally center around misstatements of science or confusion over utility programs. That's why it's always a good idea to call Lyntegar Electric Cooperative to verify or ask questions about any energy-saving program you see advertised.**

A popular scam involves a device that promises to save energy without requiring you to make any changes in behavior. People who sell these little boxes often claim outrageous energy savings—sometimes 30 percent or more—couched in legitimate utility terms such as power conditioning, capacitors and power factor.

The bogus marketing spiel usually goes something like this: *The model being sold will control alternating current power factor and reduce electric bills. It will condition your power and make appliances last longer. It uses no power and has no moving parts. It will make motors in your home run better.*

What's the reality? Although electric co-ops use various components to correct power factor for commercial and industrial consumers, power-factor correction is not a concern with homes.

Engineers at The University of Texas at Austin concluded that one of the units could produce no more than a 0.06 percent reduction in electric use in an average house. The Electric Power Research Institute, a nonprofit research consortium made up of electric utilities, including electric cooperatives, recently tested one of the most popular residential power-factor correction products and found that it generated average power savings of just 0.23 percent—far from the 30 percent claimed by its manufacturer. At that rate, it would take a typical homeowner more than 70 years to recoup his or her investment.

In short, these devices are nothing more than ordinary capacitors used in electronic circuits to store energy or differentiate between high- and low-frequency signals.

There are several questions you should ask a sales representative advertising the next magical cure-all:

▶ Does the product violate the laws of science? For example, does it claim to be capable of “changing the molecular structure ... to release never-before tapped power.” If that were possible, the invention would quickly be sold in every store across the nation, not marketed through fliers or sketchy websites.

▶ Was the product tested by an independent group? If product performance was not tested and certified by an entity not connected to the company selling it, be skeptical. Don't allow a salesman to verify claims.

▶ Is it too good to be true? If it seems so, it probably is. A video getting play on the Internet shows a consumer reporter for a television station testing one of these little boxes. By looking at electric bills before and after installation, he concludes the device is a good buy.

However, an excessively hot or unusually cool day can cause one month's electric bill to run significantly higher or lower than the previous month. Wise consumers always ask to see electric use for the same month from the previous year(s), not the previous month, and factor in weather anomalies for any savings claims.

Brian Sloboda is a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network.



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Be creative this holiday season and fill your basket with energy-saving gifts.

# Give the Gift of Energy Efficiency

Is there someone on your holiday gift-giving list who could use help with their energy bills? Consider giving the gift of energy savings this year.

Here are some ideas for practical gift solutions that can help plug some common energy leaks:

**VAMPIRE ELECTRONICS KILLER KIT:** Pair a watt meter with a couple of higher-quality power strips in a gift basket. The recipient can use the meter to find the most energy-draining "always-on" electronics, then plug them into the power strips. That way, when the electronics are not in use, they can be turned off with one flick of a switch.

**EFFICIENT COOKING PACKAGE:** If someone you know loves to cook, help that chef prepare their meals more efficiently with a new slow cooker. Using that appliance instead of a stovetop could help decrease energy use in the kitchen. Pair the cooker with a selection of spices or a slow-cooker cookbook to make mealtimes more special.

**A COZY NIGHT:** Combine a pair of slippers, a sweater and a lap blanket to give the gift of warmth for the winter. Warm clothing may allow the gift recipient to lower the thermostat. For every degree a thermostat is lowered in the winter, heating costs drop 1 to 5 percent, experts estimate.

**THE GIFT OF LIGHT:** Energy-efficient lights are a proven way to trim the costs of lighting, which consume about 12 percent of a typical home's electricity, according to Energy Star. Light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, are the most efficient and long-lasting of the bulb options available today. Choose Energy Star-rated bulbs, and perhaps throw in a strand of LED holiday lights, which can be used for years.

With a little creative thought, you can come up with your own combination of energy-efficient gifts that will be appreciated year-round.



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