

ROCK ENERGY NEWS

FOR ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

www.rock.coop

September 2019

Save Money on Winter Energy Bills

Prepare Your Home Before Cold Sets In

The hot summer days are still fresh in our minds, but now is the best time to get your home ready for winter so you can be more comfortable and save money on heating costs.

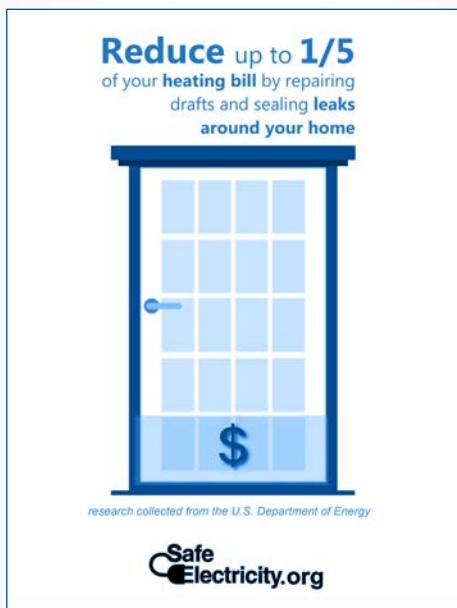
To stay warm, you can turn the thermostat down a few degrees, dress in layers, and have plenty of warm blankets around.

You can add extra blankets, use flannel sheets, and throw on a thick comforter so you can turn down your thermostat while you sleep.

It also helps to use insulated window coverings or lined curtains to keep the cold air out—not only in your bedroom but throughout your home.

Rock Energy also offers these energy-saving tips to help you save money this winter:

- Get your heating system regularly maintained and serviced by a HVAC professional so it's working at peak efficiency. Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly.
- Regularly vacuum or clean vents.
- If you have a fireplace, keep the



dampener closed when not in use. If you don't plan to ever use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney.

- Do not heat an empty home. A programmable thermostat can help this become automatic. Lowering the temperature by 7 to 10 degrees for 8 hours a day can reduce energy costs by up to 10 percent, according to the Department of Energy.
- A leaky house is expensive to heat. Sealing uncontrolled air leaks can save

from \$83 to \$166 a year, according to energy.gov. Weather stripping double-hung windows can save \$42 to \$86 annually. Windows, doors, attics, attic access, outlets, walls, chimneys, and pipes entering and exiting your home are common sources of air leaks.

- Let the sun shine in your home during the day to use Mother Nature's warmth. Close window coverings after dusk to reduce heat loss.
- Run your ceiling fans in a clockwise direction to push down and redistribute warm air that naturally rises.
- Consider turning down your water heater to 120 degrees.
- When it's time to replace your furnace, consider replacing it with an energy-efficient version by looking for the EnergyStar designation.
- Decrease the use of the built-in ventilation fans in your kitchen and bathrooms. In the colder months, they transfer heat from inside your home to the backyard. Use the fans only when needed and turn them off as soon as you can.
- Bring in the moisture with a humidifier. Dry air makes the air feel colder. Increasing moisture in the air causes indoor air to retain more heat.

Member Appreciation Day

Saturday, Sept. 14

Pancake Breakfast, Activities
8 - 10:30 a.m.
Rock Energy headquarters
2815 Kennedy Road, Janesville

Electronics Recycling, Paper Shredding
8 - 11 a.m.
Universal Recycling Technologies
2535 Beloit Ave., Janesville

Details at www.rock.coop

Home Insurance Covers Losses from Power Outages

Rock Energy Cooperative works diligently to make sure your electricity and natural gas are there when you need them. But like all things, nothing is 100 percent guaranteed.

Outages or voltage issues—whether triggered by a storm, lightning, trees, equipment failure, animals, or vehicles hitting power poles—can damage computer equipment, TVs, and other appliances in your home.

These events are out of our control, and Rock Energy Cooperative does not compensate for any damaged equipment.

However, most homeowner and business insurance policies cover losses from interruptions caused by lightning, windstorms, and other sources.

Make sure you're familiar with your policy and what is covered. Call your agent if you're not sure about your specific coverage.

You can help protect your own equipment by unplugging it during a storm or power outage and by installing surge protection.

Happy Labor Day!

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day.

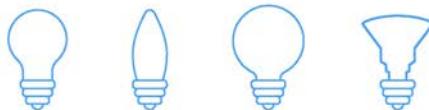
Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are always available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you need to report a power outage, please call 866-752-4550.

Lighting Labels and Lingo

These days, consumers have endless options when it comes to purchasing light bulbs, but the labels can be confusing! Use the information below as a helpful guide for browsing bulbs.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Read the Label

Under the Energy Labeling Rule, all light bulb manufacturers are required to give consumers key, easy-to-understand information on bulb efficiency. Take advantage of the Lighting Facts label, which gives you the information you need to buy the most energy-efficient bulb to meet your lighting needs. The label includes information on the bulb's brightness, energy cost, life, light appearance and energy used (wattage).

Save Energy

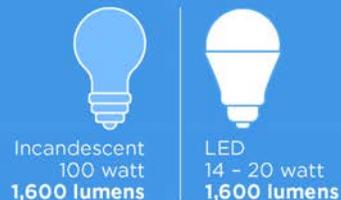
Bulbs are available in many shapes and sizes to fit your home's needs. Choosing more efficient bulbs can help reduce energy consumption and save you money!

- LEDs use 25%-30% of the energy and last eight to 25 times longer than halogen incandescent bulbs.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR-rated bulbs to maximize energy efficiency.

Buy Lumens, not Watts

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Tip: To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that produces about 1,600 lumens.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cookware Tip: Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees, and your meal will cook just as quickly.

Source: energy.gov



Know what's below.
Call 811 before you dig.

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