

Sun River Electric Cooperative

Ripples



Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone Numbers: 406-467-2527 or 1-800-452-7516

Website: www.sunriverelectric.coop

After Hours & Weekend Dispatch:

406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

If calling from a local number or cell phone –
please use: 467-2526 or 467-2527

Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.

JANUARY 2019

Why do electric bills go up in the winter?

Even if you are prudent in the use of electricity, you may notice that your bills are higher during the colder months. This can be due to several factors:

- Heating extra water for those warm baths or showers on cold days can increase your consumption and your bill. Be sure your water heater is properly insulated if it's in an unheated space, and check for leaks.
- The winter holidays mean additional cooking and baking, and those holiday lights also add to your electrical usage.
- Shorter days and longer nights mean lights stay on longer both inside and out.
- Most heating systems use electricity for some functions, such as operating the fan –

many of them run almost continuously when it's very cold.

- Space heaters used in garages, basements or other unheated spaces are often our unseen and forgotten kilowatt hour users. Never leave them unattended, and unplug them when not needed.
- Electric blankets cost extra to operate.
- Engine block heaters on cars and tractors may be winter extras that you forget about.
- The clothes dryer usually operates much more often in the winter months.

For all these reasons, your winter electric bills may be higher. However it bears reminding ourselves that electricity remains one of the best values around.

Do you have a block heater to help warm up your vehicle on cold mornings?

Plugging in your heater overnight will use far more electricity than needed — use a timer to start the block heater just a few hours before you need your vehicle. 346365

Consider this: block heaters range between 400 and 1,500 watts, so we will use 950 watts for our example.

If your vehicle is plugged in from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. every day for a month, the Sun River Electric Cooperative kilowatt hour charge is 6.2 cents (not including the demand charge).

So let's calculate: $.062 \times 12 \text{ hrs/day} \times 30 \text{ days} \times 950 \text{ watts} = \$7.11/\text{day}$ or $\$21.30/\text{month}$.

Now let's calculate using a timer that comes on at 3 a.m. and runs until 6 a.m. every day for a month.

$.062 \times 3 \text{ hrs/day} \times 30 \text{ days} \times 950 \text{ watts} = \$1.81/\text{day}$ or $\$5.40/\text{month}$.

With this calculation you can save \$15.90/month by using a timer. If you use a timer, be sure and use one that is rated correctly and, if used outdoors, that it is outdoor safe.



Don't forget to stop by Sun River Electric Cooperative's booth!



Thursday- Saturday

January 17-19, 2019

Montana ExpoPark, Great Falls
Stop by the office to get free tickets.

Hidden numbers

If you find your account number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$50 credit on your next statement. There is one number hidden in every issue. Give us a call if you are the lucky consumer.

406-467-2527 or 1-800-452-7516

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: energy.gov



Swap Column

FOR SALE: John Deere A-tractor, \$1,500; 1974 Chevy 3/4 ton, 4x4 pickup with rebuilt heavy duty flatbed \$750; 5-ton floor jack, \$300; Champion portable space heater, model 50148A \$300; arc welder, AC/DC heavy-duty welder, 250 amp DC, 295 amp AC, \$500; portable ice-auger \$150; portable air compressor, \$125; 8-ton long ram

jack \$200. Norman Harris Estate. Contact Bill Harris, 264-5510.
FOR SALE: 2006 Ford F150 super-crew, 5.4L engine, excellent condition. Al Wiseman, 466-2718.

If you would like to place an advertisement in the *Ripples* Swap column, please contact Sun River Electric Cooperative at 1-800-452-7516 or 467-2527, or email Kathy at kscott@sunriverelectric.coop by the first of the month.

TIPS FOR PURCHASING NEW APPLIANCES

When shopping for new appliances, there are two price tags you should consider:

1. Purchase price of the appliance (think of this as a down payment)

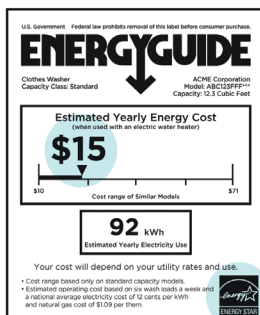


2. Cost to operate the appliance over its lifetime (how much energy the appliance uses)



That second price is important because you'll be paying for the appliance's energy use for the next 10 to 20 years.

- Look for the **ENERGY STAR** label. ENERGY STAR-qualified products exceed the federal minimum standards for efficiency and quality.
- Carefully review the **EnergyGuide** label on the appliance. The label provides information about how much energy an appliance uses compared to similar models.
- Once you choose your make and model, **compare prices**. Keep in mind, many retailers will match a lower price offered by competitors.
- Recycle or sell your old appliance**. Ask the retailer if they'll pick up your old appliance, or you can sell it yourself. Either option is better than the landfill!



Source: Department of Energy



REBATES

Remember that SREC has appliance and water-heater rebates. Go to www.sunriverelectric.coop for details.



Pay as you go with **prePAY** electricity from SREC.

It is easy! Call SREC to get started.



monitor. pay. alert. reload.

Reminder: Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.

Board of Trustees

Officers

John Burgmaier, President..... 406-463-2522
Randy Parker, Vice President..... 406-467-2974
Roberta Rohrer, Secretary/Treasurer ... 406-788-3960

Trustees

Russ Bloom..... 406-431-0168
Mitch Johnson..... 406-467-2109
Leonard Sivumaki..... 406-264-5482
Robert Pasha..... 406-733-2028
Scott Odegard, Manager..... 406-467-2527

**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**

