

Power Lines

BRIDGE WEIGHT LIMIT 5 TONS
www.central.coop
P.O. Box 329 - Parker - PA - 16049

 **Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections
1-800-521-0570

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What's inside

This month's issue of *Power Lines* is focused on low-cost or no-cost ways to reduce your home's energy bill. See Pages 3,4 & 6.

CEC's annual coloring contest for kids returns. Page 5.



CEC board, staff & employees wish all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

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Change a Light, Change the World!

with ENERGY STAR®

The ENERGY STAR® Change a Light, Change the World Campaign is a national call-to-action from the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to encourage everyone to help change the world, one energy-saving step at a time.

Going into its 7th year, the campaign continues to build national momentum throughout the year. Key supporters of the campaign include manufacturers, utilities, retailers, non-profit organizations, state governments, schools and community groups who join together to run promotions and events in support of the nationwide effort.

At the campaign's heart is the ENERGY STAR® Change a Light Pledge found at www.central.coop link. This online pledge is a simple, but vital method of forming a community of inspired individuals to commit to reducing greenhouse gases and saving energy. Central Electric encourages its members to sign on the pledge and do their



Ken Clark

Assistant General Manager

part to meet this nationwide goal. To join, just visit the www.central.coop web site.

Every light changed is a step in the right direction to preserve energy resources and our environment for this generation and the next. Lighting accounts for 20 percent of the average home's electric bill and is one of the easiest places to save energy. Simple steps, such as changing a light at home, can

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Fluorescent bulb =
7 to 10 times
standard bulb life



ENERGY STAR ®/From Page 1

save on energy bills while also helping reduce the risks of global warming. Burning fossil fuels generates most electricity in our country, which releases greenhouse gas emissions into our atmosphere.

If half of all American homes used **ENERGY STAR**® products, and took other energy-saving steps that appear in this issue of *Power Lines*, the change would prevent billions of pounds of emissions. **ENERGY STAR**® encourages Americans to be aware of their energy use and to start by switching the five lights they use most to ones that have earned the **ENERGY STAR**® label.

Energy-efficient light bulbs and fixtures that earn the **ENERGY STAR**® label offer warm, bright light with the added benefits of using at least two-thirds less energy and last up to 10 times longer. **ENERGY STAR**® qualified compact fluorescent lamps are available in different sizes and shapes that fit almost any fixture. On average, each CFL can

save more than \$30 in electricity costs over the lifetime of the bulb and prevent more than 450 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

ENERGY STAR® qualified light fixtures come in hundreds of styles, including portable fixtures and hard-wired fixtures. When choosing a fixture, compare the amount of light it will provide to the old fixture to ensure that it offers the same or more light. **ENERGY STAR**® bulbs and fixtures produce about 70 percent less heat, making them safer to use and more efficient for home cooling during the summer months.

If every American home replaced the five most frequently used lights or bulbs with **ENERGY STAR**® ones, each home would save more than \$60 a year in energy costs. At the same time, we'd prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from more than 8 million cars, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Take the pledge and sign on today!

Please use care during hunting season



From 9 o'clock to 4 o'clock sounds like pretty good working hours, doesn't it? In most cases, the answer would be yes, but not when it is at night and you have already worked eight hours that day.

Reason? A power outage due to broken insulators that had been used for target practice and were victims of gun fire.

Hunting season is open once again and with it comes the task of warning hunters of the dangers of shooting insulators. A single blast from a gun can cause an inconvenience for hundreds of Co-op members. A fallen wire can inflict injury or even electrocution to someone in its path. Fire is also a possibility. Cracked or broken insulators are tough items to find in daylight and on a rainy windy night, the job is even more difficult.

Insulators are usually made of porcelain and withstand the elements very well, but they will not withstand the impact of rifle bullets. The lineman's job is a tough one so don't make it even more difficult - Please don't shoot at insulators, Mr. Hunter.



Managing Your Energy Needs Can Save Money

This month's issue of *Power Lines* is dedicated to a review of some low or no-cost recommendations that can be done now to help lower your home's energy bill. The tips and information given below address the four impact areas that most influence home energy use: the home itself, the heating system, the appliances and lighting, and people.



by Chris Panian
Manager of Key Accounts

The Home

How well a home is constructed and insulated is one of the biggest factors in determining a home's energy use. A larger, well-insulated and well-sealed home can have much lower energy bills than a much smaller, poorly insulated home. Drafty windows and doors, cold walls or ceilings, and ice dams on the roof are all symptoms of air leaks or poor insulation. Leaky ductwork also robs heating systems of efficiency and drives up bills. Here are some tips on how to better manage your energy needs:




- ✓ **Find and stop air leaks:** Look for leaks around plumbing and wiring, electrical cover plates, gaps in walls and around weather stripping. Seal gaps at the bottom of doors and around windows, and especially around window air conditioners that are left in the window permanently. If all the hidden air leaks in the home are added up, they can be equivalent to an opening the size of a window! Check for leaky duct work with a smoke stick or incense. Seal the leaks with material approved for the purpose.
- ✓ **Add insulation:** Make sure the home is well-sealed first. A well-insulated attic or ceiling is one of the main defenses against heat loss during the winter.
- ✓ **Complete a Free Online Energy Audit:** Visit Central Electric's Web site at www.central.coop and click on the link for the home energy audit. This comprehensive audit tool will give you a good idea of how insulation, weather and fuel prices impact the home's energy bill. While at our site, click on "Member Center" then "Weather and Your Bill" and see weather data for our area.

Interested in learning more about energy-saving measures? Is a new home or addition being contemplated? There are several excellent Web sites that discuss building to and beyond today's energy efficiency standards. Check out: www.energy.gov, www.comforhome.com, www.eere.energy.gov/consumer (This site can be reached by clicking on *Consumer Guide to Energy Efficiency* on Central's Web site.)

Heating System

It should be obvious that the heating system is one of the biggest areas for savings in a home, but the heating and cooling system is regularly overlooked when a home is being built. Often, homebuyers are faced with a choice like, "Do we spend \$5,000 on granite counter tops or \$5,000 or more on a high-efficiency heating and cooling system?" It is pretty easy to guess which choice wins – the counter tops. Many people don't really pay much attention to their heating and cooling system, so these inefficient units go along wasting money for years, even as the counter tops are taken out and replaced by the next great kitchen fad. If home buyers invested in a high-efficiency heating system when the house is built or a heating system is upgraded, they would be saving money every month instead of wasting it. Regardless of which kind of system your home has or its efficiency, here are some simple and inexpensive things you can do to keep your heating costs low:



- ✓ **Keep the thermostat at 72 degrees in the winter:** Or even better yet, get a programmable thermostat for your house that allows you set the temperature back when you are away or at night when you are sleeping. These are relatively inexpensive and easy to install. Check out some examples at www.programmable-thermostat.com or any of the "big box" retailers' Web sites.

- ✓ **Take advantage of natural heat and light:** If it is sunny outside, take advantage of the free heat and light offered by the sun. More and more architects are designing “green buildings” that maximize that which nature gives us for free by incorporating the use of natural light and renewable resources such as solar energy. For more information on “green buildings” visit www.epa.gov/greenbuilding.

- ✓ **Keep your heating system clean and safe:** Having an annual heating system check-up will assure that your heating system is working at peak efficiency and safety. Remember to change the filter. It is made to keep the furnace's heat exchanger running clean and efficiently.

When it comes time to upgrade a home's heating system, or when a decision needs to be made on a heating and cooling system for a new home, please consider safe, clean electric heat. The price of electricity has remained stable over the years while the price of natural gas, oil and propane has fluctuated dramatically. Central Electric has a special rate available for electrically heated homes enrolled in our load management program that can save hundreds of dollars a year. We can also advise you on different heating systems and their efficiencies. For more information, contact Ken Maleski at kenm@central.coop or click on the “Go Electric” button on Central's Web site.

Appliances & Lighting

There are a couple of big users in most homes that contribute to the bulk of the appliance portion of the monthly energy bill. Water heaters and refrigerators use a great deal of energy depending on how they are used, how old they are and how well they are maintained. However, don't discount the contributions to energy consumption that small devices, such as coffee pots, DVD players, TVs and computers can have. Nowadays, almost everything uses a little bit of power, even when it appears to be off. Lighting, too, plays a role as we leave more lights on during long winter nights and dark cold days. Here are a few quick and easy things to do keep appliance energy costs down:

- ✓ **Clean the water heater and reduce water temperature:** Turn all the gas and electric to the water heater off. For electric tanks, shut the breaker off. Attach a garden hose, and open the drain at the bottom of the tank. Drain the tank slowly to remove sediment. Sediment acts as an insulator and reduces efficiency. Fill the tank back up with water before turning it back on. Set the thermostat to 120°F or less for normal use, and lower the setting whenever you will be away from home for extended periods. For every 10° you set back your water heater temperature, you cut energy use 3 to 5 percent.

- ✓ **Keep your refrigerators full:** Keeping automatic-defrost refrigerators full helps keep energy costs down. An electric heating element keeps frost from forming in these refrigerators during the defrost cycle. Cold food actually keeps the temperature from getting too warm during defrost, so the refrigerator doesn't have to run as much to get back to the thermostat temperature. Also check to make sure doors have good seal and keep the condenser coils clean to keep your fridge working at peak efficiency.
- ✓ **Use ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent lamps:** These lamps have the same or better light output as incandescent lamps, but use much less energy. Plus, they last 7 to 10 times as long as the old incandescent lamp. For example, a 40 watt incandescent lamp lasts a thousand hours and has a light output of 500 lumens. An equivalent ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent lamp uses only 16 watts and puts out 700 lumens – and lasts 9 times longer! You save money two ways: by saving on your energy bill and by not having to buy 8 or 9 conventional lamps.

- ✓ **Unplug appliances not in use:** As stated earlier, just about everything that is plugged in any more uses a little energy. For example many appliances have a clock in them that is using some electricity. A conventional instant-on TV set can use up to \$12.00 a year in electricity just sitting there.

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**HEY KIDS! Enter Central Electric's Holiday Coloring Contest!
Entries must be received by December 15, 2006!**

NAME: _____

AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____ **ACCOUNT #:** _____

GRAND PRIZE IS

A BICYCLE AND HELMET!!

The contest is open to Central Electric members' children ages 5-12. Central Electric employees children are not eligible. **Mail contest to: Central Electric Cooperative, Att: Holiday Coloring Contest, P.O. Box 329,**



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There are a vast number of resources and information available on appliances and their efficiencies. The U.S. Department of Energy has established strict guidelines for all types of energy-consuming products. Products that meet these standards earn the right to display the Energy Star® label. Visit their Web site at www.energystar.gov. Savings can be calculated by using the simple savings calculator on the site. Just select "products," click on "appliances," and choose the item you are interested in. Also, when selecting new appliances, make sure you check the Energy Guide Labels. These big yellow decals compare similar appliances by showing their annual operating costs at various energy rates. The labels show where a particular appliance rates on a spectrum from least efficient to most efficient. Central Electric also has a brochure "Electric Use in the Home" that lists costs and consumption for most household appliances at our rates. Please e-mail member@central.coop to get a free copy.

People

Ultimately, people are most responsible for the energy bills in their homes. The choices that are made when appliances are purchased or a new home is built, or when it is decided that Dad's old fridge will go in the garage as a beer or soda cooler all have a lasting impact on monthly energy costs. The habits of people while at home, or when they leave, impact the energy bill as well. Do people always remember to turn off all of the lights when they leave? Do they set the thermostat back before going away? Do they keep letting the caulking job that has needed done slip by for another season? Of course they do. But if a personal commitment to reducing energy costs is made by an individual, energy costs will be reduced.

Please take some time to visit the Web sites listed in this article. Try to use some of these low and no-cost ideas to save energy now. As winter is just beginning, several months of savings can be had before spring comes again, the leaves emerge anew and we once again prepare to enjoy the long warm days of summer. Winter will be forgotten with the first robin's song and our minds will turn to fishing, family vacations and, well, rising summer energy costs.



What's Cookin', our recipe column returns next month! Don't forget to submit your favorite recipe

Read *Power Lines* and



Read your issue of Central Electric Cooperative's *Power Lines* and Win! It's simple - you can win a \$50 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading *Power Lines* and then completing the quiz that appears below. Answer the questions (answers are contained in each issue of *Power Lines*), then complete the quiz and personal information and return it with your bill payment.

Important Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to all Central Electric Cooperative members with active accounts as of the drawing date.
2. Only one entry per member is permitted.
3. Employees and Directors of Central Electric, along with members of their immediate families, are not eligible.
4. The winning entry will appear as a credit on the member's bill and may not be redeemed for cash.

Complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment!



1. **True or False:** Central Electric encourages its members to take the online Change a Light Pledge.

Answer: _____

2. **True or False:** There are no dangers for hunters to shoot insulators.

Answer: _____

3. **True or False:** Keep your refrigerator nearly empty to save money in energy costs.

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____ Account Number _____

Winner of October Power Lines quiz:

Ben Jankosky of Butler

Congratulations!



Central Electric Cooperative will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 23. The board, staff & employees wish a **Happy Thanksgiving to all!**