

The

LAMPLIGHTER®

Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

November 2021

Serving members in Baldwin, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson counties.

It's all a matter of cooperative principles

For me, this is the time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is our wonderful community. I know I speak for all Washington EMC employees when I say that we are thankful to be in such an incredible place. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

You may recall my column last month touched on the first three Cooperative Principles, so this month, I'd like to tell you about the remaining four principles. Cooperative Principles are essential to the cooperative business model and benefit all members:

Autonomy and Independence

The fourth principle, Autonomy and Independence, means that the cooperative operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the

values and needs of our local community. This means that Washington EMC is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, we are led by the local members we serve.

Education and Training

The fifth principle, Education and Training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of cooperative employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the cooperative.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, Washington EMC is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the cooperative and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

the mission and operations of our cooperative. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest Washington EMC news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

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Community born.
Community led.
Focused on YOU.



An electric membership corporation

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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to fall back on November 7!
Set your clocks back by one hour.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

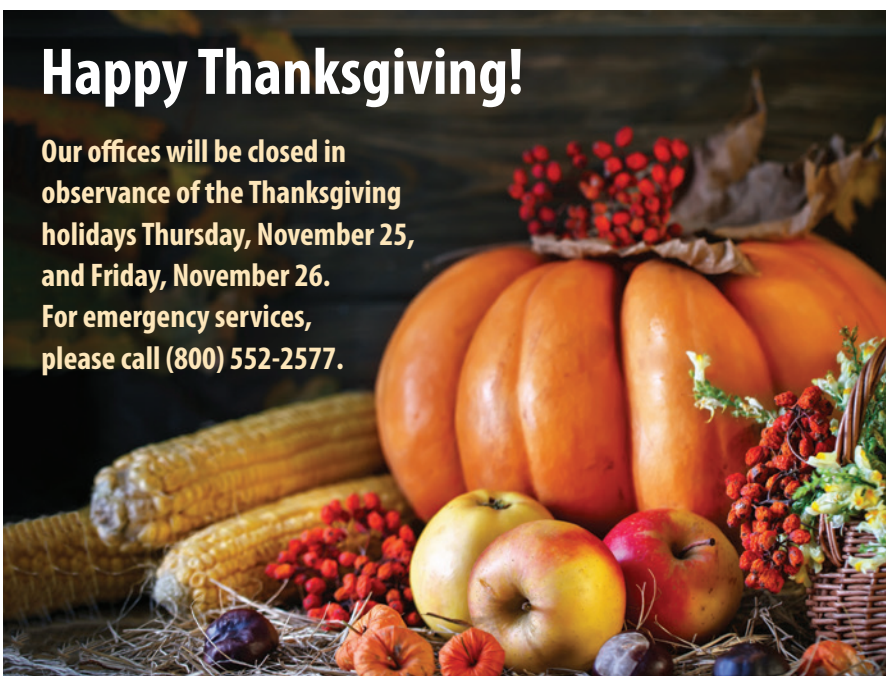
Source: www.energy.gov



Happy Thanksgiving!

Our offices will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holidays Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26.

For emergency services, please call (800) 552-2577.



Don't let Turkey Day gobble up electricity

Our use of electricity soars on Thanksgiving Day while the oven, stove, refrigerator and even our heating system go into overdrive as we spend extra time cooking and inviting family into our homes.

Don't spoil the holiday fun worrying about energy costs. Instead, make an effort to conserve energy even as you overuse your appliances, lights and heat. Here are some tips:

- If your dining room has an older chandelier that doesn't use compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), dim the brightness by at least 10%. If it doesn't have a dimmer switch, install one.
- Cook as many dishes at the same time as possible. Put two or three dishes in the oven together if their recipes call for the same temperature. That way, you can turn the oven off sooner.
- Lower your home's thermostat before you put the turkey in the oven. The heat that the oven and stovetop emit—along with the



COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

- Clean oven burners regularly.
- Match the pan size to the burner you're using.
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible.

*From our table to yours,
Happy Thanksgiving!*

heat that having extra people in a house creates—will keep your home warm enough without cranking up the thermostat, even if it's cold outside.

- Cook what you can in the micro-

wave or crockpot. They use less energy than the oven.

- Use a dishwasher instead of cleaning dishes by hand. Dishwashers use less energy and water than hand-washing.

Cooperative principles, *Continued from page 20A*

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperation Among Cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way that cooperatives work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle into action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, Washington EMC calls on nearby cooperatives to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts. We, of course, extend the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation

among cooperatives.

And because we are part of the national electric cooperative network, Washington EMC can connect and collaborate with other electric cooperatives to tackle industry-related challenges like cybersecurity and an ever-changing energy landscape.

Concern for Community

The seventh principle, Concern for Community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. Washington EMC serves our community not only by being an essential service but by helping power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism

or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home, too. Our Christmas toy drive is underway now, so feel free to drop off your donation at any of our offices. These toys are distributed throughout our service territory and help put a smile on a child's face during the holiday season.

I think you'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric cooperative.

On behalf of everyone at Washington EMC, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

The pros and cons of app-enabled lighting options

Out of all the smart home technologies available on the market, smart lighting is one of the easiest technologies to integrate into your home. Smart lighting can be controlled by voice command, through your smartphone or through a smart home hub like Amazon's Alexa, making them relatively easy to control. They are also among the most affordable smart home devices, starting at about \$10 per bulb.

There's a range of benefits from using smart light bulbs. One of the most useful aspects of smart lighting is the ability to control the lighting while you're away from home. For example, if you leave for work and forget to turn off the lights at home, you can easily turn them off with a few taps on a smartphone app. Alternatively, if you're traveling but want to appear as if you're home, you can turn on your lights at a certain time to create that illusion.

Similarly, many smart lights offer the option for a customizable schedule. Consumers can schedule lighting to turn on or off at certain times of the day depending on their preferences. For instance, turning off all the lights at home just before bedtime, or scheduling the lights to turn on just before returning home from work.

To increase safety at home, many smart light bulbs have motion-detection technology that can sense if a person is in the room or nearby. This feature can be programmed to send an alert to your phone when the smart lighting detects an unexpected motion, either inside or outside your home.

Beyond the more practical applications, smart lighting can simply be fun to use. Bulbs are available in a variety of colors and dimming options that can help set different themes or moods for the room, from an exciting bright white to a calming dim light. Various color temperatures can create different



PHILIPS

moods and also potentially help with winding down at night and improving sleep quality. Blue light, which mimics daylight, prevents the release of melatonin, an important hormone to feel sleepy. Setting smart lights to warmer-colored lights at night can help release melatonin, and therefore lead to a better night's sleep.

With all the benefits of smart lighting, there is also a higher price tag compared to regular light bulbs. Most smart lighting options on the market use LED light bulbs, which are more expensive but use less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs and need to be replaced much less often. Incandescent light bulbs cost about \$1; however, their life spans are relatively short at around 1,000 hours. LED bulbs typically start at about \$2.50 per bulb, but their life spans are almost 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Switching from incandescent bulbs to LED smart bulbs can help save energy and money over the long run, despite the higher initial cost.

As a new technology, there are plenty of benefits but also a few potential issues to be aware of before implementing the technology. Some smart light bulbs may have minor technical issues, such as not properly responding to a voice command. However, sticking

with reputable brands should ensure a well-functioning light bulb. Another factor to consider is that not all smart lighting options are compatible with dimmers since smart bulbs come with their own built-in dimming mechanisms. This could lead to inconsistent lighting between smart and regular bulbs, and could cause smart lights to flicker if they clash with the existing dimmer switch. To prevent this, simply avoid placing smart light bulbs in fixtures that already have a dimmer switch.

Before making any purchases, be sure to research which smart lighting options work best for your home. Read several reviews to ensure your purchase is reliable during the entirety of its life span. There are plenty of smart lighting options out there and choosing the best personalized option will help you make the most of it.

Maria Kanevsky writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.