

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ James Adams
- ▶ Paul Alvarez
- ▶ Michaela Bethard
- ▶ Carl Birney
- ▶ Mike Brown
- ▶ Richardo Chairez

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Cold Weather Rule

Effective through March 1



From Nov. 15 through March 1, CMS Electric will provide you with all the normal billing notifications, but will not actually disconnect your electric service unless it is above 32 degrees on date of disconnection.

We are always willing to work with our members and encourage any members who are unable to pay on time to make payment arrangements. Please contact our office for more information at 800-794-2353.

The Cold Weather Rule helps existing consumer-members maintain electric services during the winter.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

2026 CMS Scholarships AVAILABLE

The CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. scholarships are six \$1,000 scholarships awarded annually to eligible applicants.

APPLY
BY
FEB. 13

PURPOSE

To support development of effective leaders through educational opportunities.

OBJECTIVE

To provide financial assistance to make it possible for six high school graduates based upon scholastic and extracurricular achievements to continue their education.

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Current high school seniors whose parents/guardians are members of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., are eligible to apply for these scholarships. Each applicant must intend to enroll as a full-time student in an accredited university or college, including junior, community, vocational or technical college. All applicants for the CMS Electric Scholarship shall be considered on the above criteria without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, national origin, or existence of physical handicap.

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

Scholarship merit is based on three categories: scholastic achievement, school extracurricular activities, community activities

HOW TO APPLY

Students who wish to apply should contact the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. office, or a CMS Board Trustee from within the district in which they reside to obtain application forms, or visit www.cmselectric.com. Completed applications must be postmarked and/or returned to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. **BY FEB. 13, 2026.**

Mail applications to:

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
PO BOX 790
MEADE, KS 67864

Questions about the scholarship program should be directed to Kirk A. Thompson, CMS general manager, at 620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Selection is made by the scholarship committee of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. Applicants must be willing to be interviewed by the committee, if necessary. Decisions made by this committee shall be final.

Runners-up will be selected in the event the recipient forfeits rights to the scholarship.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship recipients shall provide proof of college enrollment satisfactory to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. The cooperative will then pay the institution. Should the recipient withdraw from college, payment of scholarship monies shall cease and reimbursement of unused monies shall be made to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

CONDITIONS

In the event the scholarship recipient receives financial assistance from other sources, which would constitute a full scholarship, the recipient shall notify CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. and relinquish rights to the scholarship. The money shall then be awarded to the runner-up, provided that person continues to meet all criteria.

Should I Use a Space Heater or Turn up the Heat?

Drafty room? Before reaching for your space heater, consider whether it's better to plug it in or simply turn up the thermostat.

Space heaters are designed to warm small, targeted spaces — not your entire home. If you find yourself relying on one often, it may be time to address your home's energy efficiency.

FIX EFFICIENCY FIRST, THEN SUPPLEMENT WITH A SPACE HEATER

Improving your home's efficiency helps it retain heat, reduces drafts and reduces your energy use. Many solutions are affordable and do-it-yourself friendly, such as:

- ▶ Seal air leaks. Use caulk and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors to prevent drafts.
- ▶ Add insulation where it matters. Attic insulation has the biggest return on investment, and loose-fill insulation is an affordable option.
- ▶ Check your heating system. Schedule regular service for your furnace or heat pump. If it's outdated or struggling, it could be time for an upgrade. Check with your utility for potential rebates and incentives.
- ▶ Use programmable thermostats. These can help reduce energy waste by heating only when and where needed.

Once your home is sealed and insulated, a space heater can be used to increase comfort and warm specific rooms, like a home office or bedroom,

without turning up the heat for the whole house.

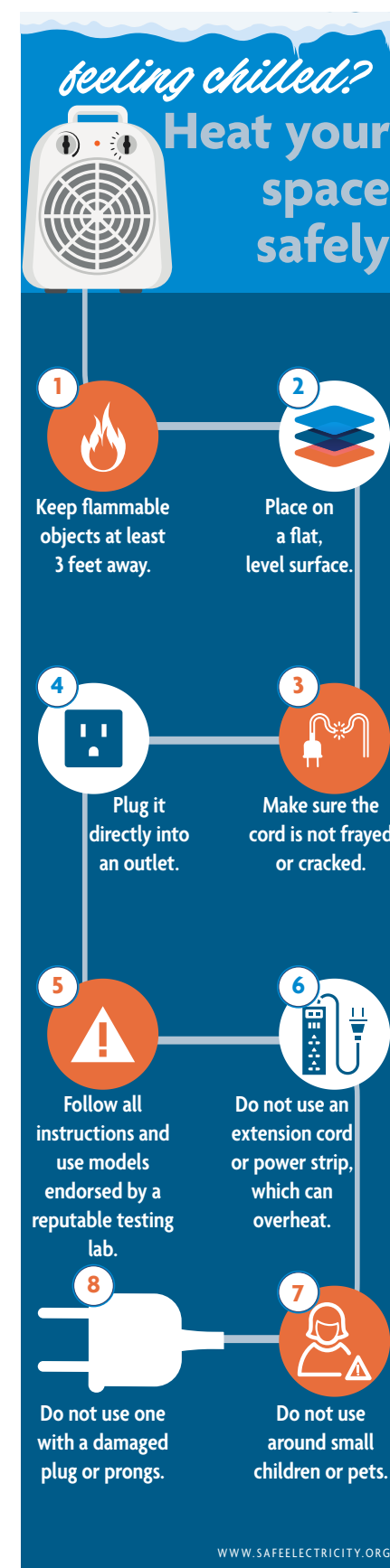
A space heater is like a ceiling fan; it can improve comfort in a small area, but it's not a whole-house solution.

USE SPACE HEATERS EFFICIENTLY:

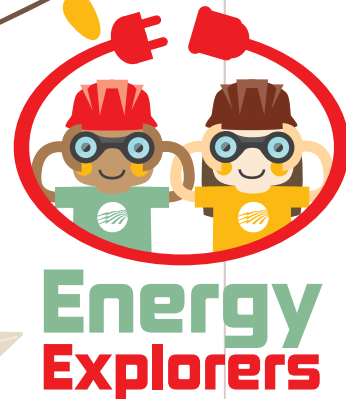
- ▶ Heat only the room you're currently in.
- ▶ Close doors to keep heat contained.
- ▶ Choose the right size — too small and it won't warm you; too big and it wastes energy. Check manufacturer sizing guides.
- ▶ Use a heater with a thermostat and timer to avoid overheating the room or wasting electricity.

STAY SAFE WHILE STAYING WARM:

- ▶ Place the heater on a solid, flat, nonflammable surface — never on carpets or rugs.
- ▶ Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use extension cords or power strips.
- ▶ Keep children, pets and anything flammable, such as curtains or bedding, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- ▶ Choose a heater with built-in safety features, including:
 - ▶ Overheat sensor.
 - ▶ Tip-over shutoff switch.
 - ▶ UL, ETL or CSA International certification label.
- ▶ Never leave a space heater unattended, especially around children or pets.
- ▶ Turn off the heater when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- ▶ Unplug it when not in use to prevent electrical hazards.



HOLIDAY EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH



The holidays are a fun, festive time of year! But this is also a time when we typically use more electricity at home because the weather is colder and we're home for the holiday season.

Read the efficiency tips below, then find and circle the **BOLDED** words in the puzzle.

HOLIDAY EFFICIENCY TIPS:

- ▶ Decorate your tree with energy-saving **LED LIGHTS**.
- ▶ Save energy by using a **TIMER** to turn off holiday lights when you're sleeping.
- ▶ If you have a **FIREPLACE** in your home, remind an adult to close the damper when a fire is not burning.
- ▶ Open blinds and curtains during the day to let **SUNLIGHT** in to warm your home.
- ▶ Lower the **THERMOSTAT** when you invite friends or family over.

W	F	M	M	V	X	W	Q	L	B	P	V	E	J	E
J	I	Z	O	P	T	W	E	N	A	W	A	C	N	E
R	E	M	I	T	M	D	E	R	U	K	V	A	H	B
I	J	X	Z	L	L	R	D	Y	L	A	P	L	J	F
K	L	F	A	I	N	Z	I	J	K	P	Q	P	P	H
T	R	P	G	C	T	B	O	X	A	S	R	E	G	T
J	T	H	E	R	M	O	S	T	A	T	Q	R	V	H
T	T	F	E	S	Y	A	F	G	C	T	X	I	G	T
S	R	B	R	A	Y	O	U	A	B	E	H	F	H	Y
J	Z	E	H	V	L	T	U	H	W	L	O	G	V	Y
E	F	O	P	L	Q	H	Y	K	K	L	I	B	B	I
A	R	A	W	M	V	W	D	Y	X	L	L	Q	Q	I
A	W	G	S	Z	A	W	R	O	N	J	J	J	P	Z
R	P	U	Q	U	K	D	G	U	P	B	K	D	K	Q
B	Z	S	C	J	Q	B	S	G	V	F	X	U	J	F