A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

P.O. Box 790, 509 E. Carthage, Meade, KS 67864
620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353
www.cmselectric.com

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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LIGHT BULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's light bulb winners:

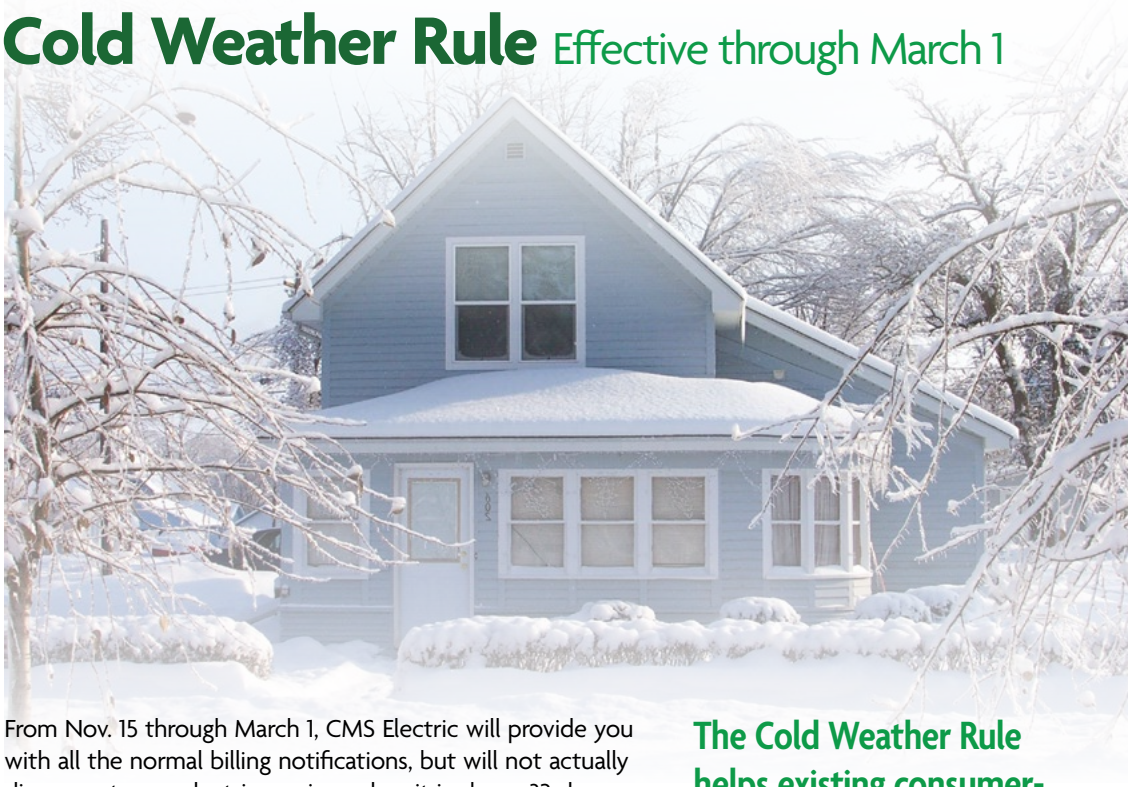
- Tammy Sanders
- Sally Selzer
- Rachel Speer
- Cody Taton
- Jared Toews
- Brandon Unruh

Contact us today for your free light bulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Cold Weather Rule Effective through March 1

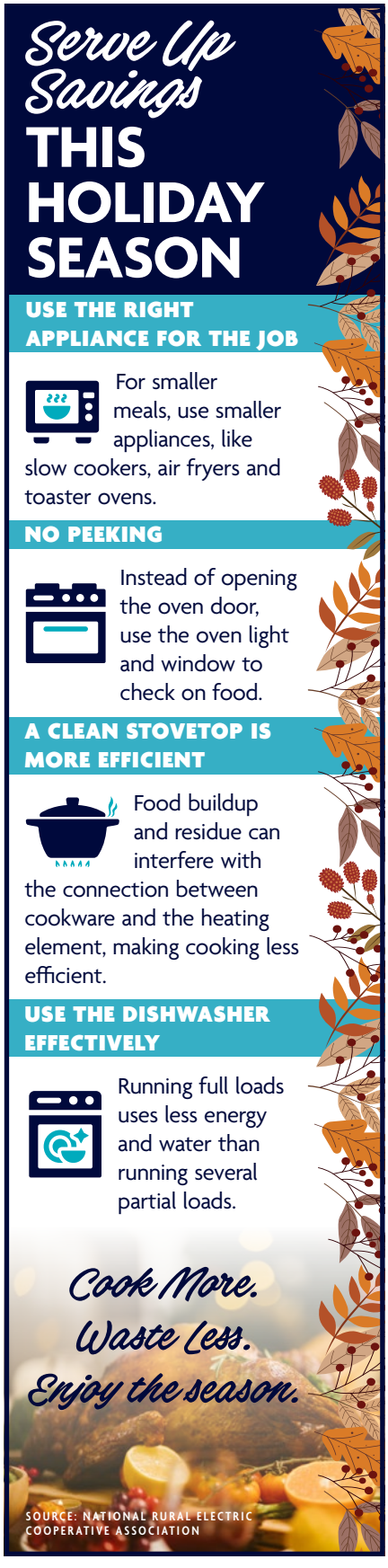


From Nov. 15 through March 1, CMS Electric will provide you with all the normal billing notifications, but will not actually disconnect your electric service unless it is above 32 degrees on date of disconnection.

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.





Save Some Green on Energy Bills This Winter

How can you save on heating costs this winter?

Some answers to that question are simple: Turn down the thermostat a few degrees from your usual setting, and dress in layers. Keep your feet warm and have plenty of blankets nearby.

Most people like to pull up the covers at night when it's cold outside. Use flannel sheets and a thick comforter so you can turn down your thermostat while you sleep.

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

Another way to make sure your home is as energy efficient as possible is to get an energy audit before the cold weather hits. The changes you make based on the audit could help you save energy costs this winter.

Other energy-saving tips include:

- Get your heating system regularly maintained by an HVAC professional so that it is working at peak efficiency. Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly.
- Vacuum or clean vents regularly.
- Keep fireplace dampers closed when not in use. If you do not use your fireplace, plug and seal the flue.
- Do not heat an empty home. A programmable or smart thermostat can help this become automatic. According to the Department of Energy, lowering the temperature by 7 to 10 degrees for 8 hours a day can reduce energy costs by up to 10%.
- Seal uncontrolled air leaks. Use weather stripping around doors and windows as needed. Check attics, attic access, outlets, walls and chimneys, as well as pipes entering or exiting your home for common sources of air leaks.
- Let the sun shine in during the day to use Mother Nature's warmth. Close window coverings after dusk, however, to reduce heat loss.
- Set ceiling fans to run clockwise to push down and redistribute warm air that naturally rises.
- Consider turning down your water heater to 120 or 125 F. Also install a water heater blanket to insulate it and help warm your water faster.
- Consider updating your furnace or HVAC system with an energy-efficient model by looking for the Energy Star designation when it's time to replace it.
- Decrease use of 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 moisture with a humidifier or research other ways to do that (e.g., well-watered plants, containers of water throughout the home). Dry air makes the air feel colder, and more moisture in the air helps indoor air retain heat.

Contact us for more information about energy audits or energy efficiency. For more information about electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



Bright Ideas for Lowering Your Electric Bill

Save energy at home with efficient lighting

Changing a light bulb may seem small, but the right bulb can make a noticeable difference on your electric bill. Lighting accounts for 15% of an average home's electricity use, so switching to energy-efficient bulbs can be one of the fastest and easiest ways to save energy.

Today's most common lighting options are LED bulbs, compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs, and halogen incandescent bulbs. According to Energy.gov, halogen incandescent bulbs meet federal minimum energy efficiency standards but are not the most efficient choice.

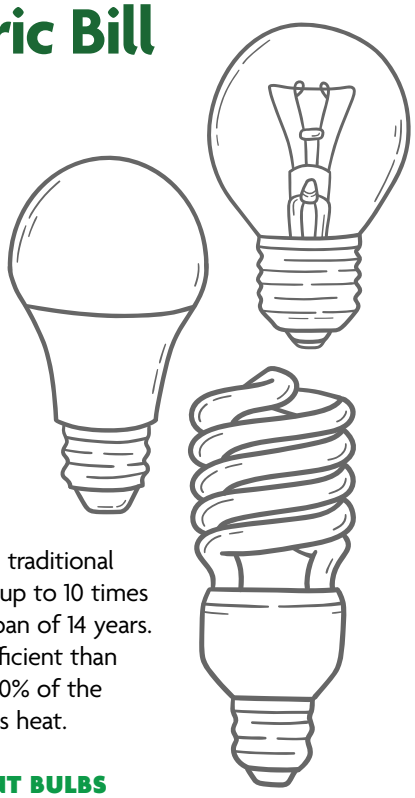
For the biggest energy savings, LEDs and CFLs offer the greatest return. Energy Star-certified LED bulbs use up to 90% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last 15 to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs. With the average U.S. household using about 70 light bulbs, switching to energy-efficient lighting can add up to significant long-term savings.

LED bulbs typically cost more upfront than CFL bulbs, but since they last longer and use less energy, the cost can be offset over time.

Here's a breakdown of how the most common lighting options compare:

LED BULBS

LED bulbs are the most energy-efficient lighting option available. They are designed to turn more electricity into light and waste less energy as heat. Because they direct light where it's needed, they're ideal for recessed downlights, task lighting and accent lighting. LEDs can last up to 34 years — three to five times longer than CFLs. They also produce very little heat, which helps reduce energy waste and the risk of overheating.



CFL BULBS

CFLs are compact versions of fluorescent tube lights commonly found in older kitchens, garages and workplaces. They use about 70% to 75% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer, with an average lifespan of 14 years. While they're much more efficient than incandescent bulbs, about 80% of the energy they use is still lost as heat.

HALOGEN INCANDESCENT BULBS

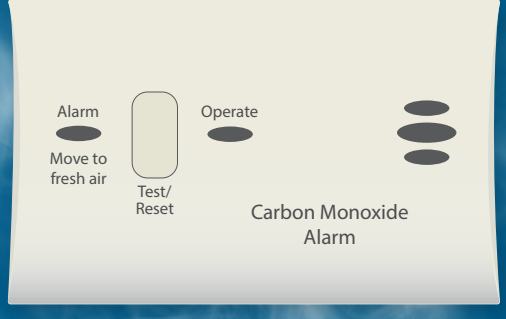
These are an improved version of the traditional incandescent bulbs. A small capsule of halogen gas allows the filament to operate more efficiently, using about 20% to 30% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs. They are fully dimmable and come in a wide variety of shapes and colors. However, they have the shortest lifespan of the three options, lasting 4.2 years on average.

For more information on energy efficiency, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

As home heating use increases, so do cases of carbon monoxide (CO) leaks.
CO is an invisible, odorless, colorless and tasteless gas.
CO detectors help keep your home and family safe.

- Test your carbon monoxide detector monthly to help save a life.
- Check the device's expiration date. Replace the device if need be.
- Never run a generator inside or in an enclosed space. Do not run a generator near windows, doors or in garages.



SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISIONING:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Vomiting

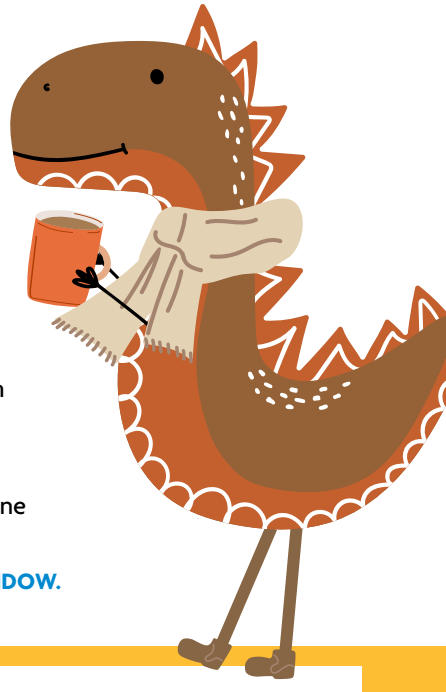
If you experience these symptoms and/or your CO alarm sounds, immediately move outside to fresh air. Call 911 and notify them you believe you have a buildup of CO in your home. Do not reenter your home until you are told it is safe to do so.

KEEP THESE SAFETY TIPS IN MIND.

SOURCES: CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION AND NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

Energy Explorers

FALL ENERGY SAVINGS WORD SEARCH



Fall is a great time to put energy efficiency into action! Read the following energy-saving tips, then find the **BOLDED** words in the puzzle below.

- Turn off the lights when you **LEAVE** a room.
- **UNPLUG** chargers when you're finished using them.
- On chilly days, open **CURTAINS** to let sunlight help warm your home.
- Wear a sweater instead of turning up the **HEAT.**
- Turn off the TV and other **ELECTRONICS** when you're done using them.
- Tell an adult if you see a dripping faucet or a drafty **WINDOW.**

WORD BANK:

LEAVE
UNPLUG
CURTAINS
HEAT
ELECTRONICS
WINDOW

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