

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

POWER FACTS

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

NOVEMBER 2012



Worry about your waistline, NOT your electric bill this Thanksgiving

You can almost smell it, can't you? That golden, roasted turkey full of stuffing that includes all of your favorite spices. Those bubbly marshmallows on top of the sweet potato casserole. Homemade biscuits. Zesty cranberry sauce and lots and lots of desserts! Yummy...

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and if you are like most people, you can't wait for all of the delicious food and family gatherings that come along with it. However, along with this time of year comes higher electric use. Your oven is baking and broiling. That dishwasher is working overtime in order to wash load after load of dishes. The water heater is constantly working to make sure that you and your guests have hot water for showers, dish water, and laundry. The refrigerator is repeatedly opened causing it to work harder than usual. Also, visitors coming in and out make your heating unit come on more often. And don't forget those Christmas decorations that most of us put up the day after Thanksgiving.

Yep, this is one of those holidays that can put a strain on more than just your waistline. Try some of these tips to make that load on your electric bill a little easier to bear.

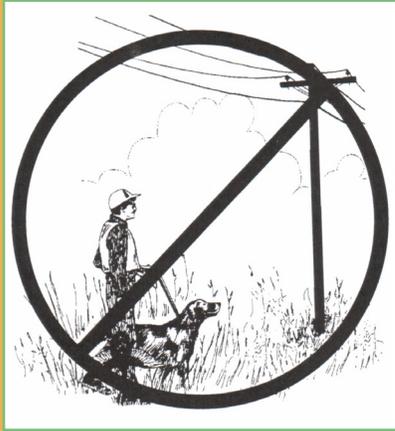
- Do not preheat your oven to cook your turkey or ham. Breads, pastries, and pies are the only items that need pre-heating.
- Use glass or ceramic pans, this will allow you to cook at a temperature of 25° lower.
- Cook multiple items at one time in order to lessen the time your oven is on.
- Try to get everything you need out of or in the refrigerator at one time. It's better to leave it open for longer periods of time than to open and close it several times.
- If you use a dishwasher, pre-rinse with cold water and be sure that you have completely loaded the dishwasher before turning it on. Don't forget to use the energy-saving cycle if you have one.
- Add timers to all of your Christmas decorations. It is recommended to have your decorations on a maximum of 4 hours a day.

(Check out our December Power Facts for more Christmas energy-savings tips.)

Other Ways To Cook:

- Fast and efficient microwaves use less energy than ovens, and they won't heat up your kitchen.
- Slow cookers are perfect for busy families, and you can cook a whole meal much cheaper than using a stove.
- If you're baking or broiling small items, use a toaster oven.
- Electric skillets can do everything a skillet on the stove can do, plus they can double as serving dishes.
- Be adventurous: November in Virginia is usually mild enough to cook outdoors. Roast your turkey outside on the charcoal grill. If you haven't tried a deep-fried turkey yet, you're in for a treat!

Hunting and electric lines don't mix.



It's fall, the season of the year when a great tradition takes to the field. The joy that a hunter gets heading out in the crisp early morning air to land a trophy kill is second to none for many, and Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative wishes each of you a successful and safe hunting season. However, we would also like to remind you of a few rules when it comes to electric lines, safety and ultimately...keeping the power on.

1. Keep electric lines, poles, transformers and substations out of your sights at all times.
2. Never use electric lines to hang or suspend decoys – or any other item.
3. Never climb electric utility poles while hunting – or any other time.

In short, please stay away from electric lines for your safety and for the safety of our utility workers. We want you to enjoy your sport and go home safely at night carrying your fresh game to your family. Electricity is your safe and reliable servant. Use it wisely.

Remembering our Veterans

November 11 is a chance for us all to salute those brave men and women who have served our country in times of conflict in order to protect the freedoms that we so often take for granted. On this day, we honor approximately 22 million living military veterans and pay tribute to them for the courage, devotion and character they have demonstrated in service to our country.



This is the time to say thank you to those who have given of themselves to ensure a brighter future for the rest of us. Whether serving abroad or at home, these individuals have sacrificed their lives for each of us. They are our families, our neighbors and our co-workers.

Those of us at Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative would like to say thank you to each member, active and retired, of America's armed forces for your selfless acts in defending our nation's values and freedoms. You are true heroes, and we want you to know how grateful we are for your service to this great country.

Clean Up Your Heating System

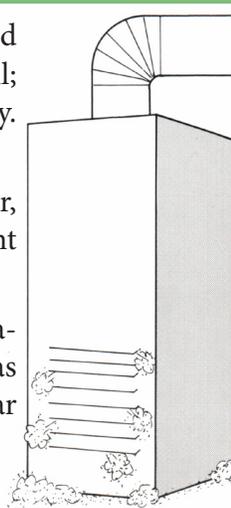
It Pays

Having your heating system cleaned may not be your first thought this fall; but, in the long run, it saves you money. All it takes is a phone call.

Not only does a clean system run better, it runs more efficiently. A more efficient system uses less energy.

A system that's cleaned on a regular basis will also last longer. The harder it has to work because of dirt, the more wear and tear on the system.

So keep it clean, keep it longer.



MEC offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23, for Thanksgiving