



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

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October 2022

As Temperatures Cool Members Can Take Steps To Save

As members look forward to cooler weather moving into the Sac Osage area, they may be wondering what can be done to lower peak demand in the winter. Winter weather can lead to increases in peak load especially in homes using resistance heating.

Programmable thermostats can be very useful on homes with electric furnaces to beat the winter peak. Raising the temperature setting prior to the peak hours and having it lower during peak times can provide consistent saving. Members should keep in mind that Sac Osage charges on the highest one-hour demand during peak hours for the month, so changes should only be considered if they can be done consistently. One day of raising the thermostat in the hours of 6-9AM or 4-7PM will likely set a new peak.

While space heaters can often cause a higher bill if left running along with a central heating system, they can be useful in lowering demand if used properly. The key is to turn the whole house thermostat to a low enough temperature that it will not turn on during the peak hours. Then people can use a space heater for a small area they are occupying. The danger



is leaving a space heater running when the area is not being used and raising the overall electric bill unnecessarily. Also, a space heater running in a room when the thermostat is not turned down will only add to the peak and thus the member's electric bill.

All of the usual winter saving tips will apply to demand pricing as well.

- Open shades during the daytime to let sunlight warm the home.
- Make sure extra items such as electric blankets are not left on all day.
- Caulk and seal around windows and doors.
- Close storm windows and eliminate drafts.

These steps will save on both kilowatt hour energy charges and demand.

Give Safety a Shot when Preparing for Hunting

Hunters have their sights on wild game when preparing for hunting season; however, including thoughts of electrical safety can help prevent an accident with utility equipment. Safe Electricity urges hunters to take precautions and be aware of potential electrical hazards while hunting.

“Before leaving for a hunting trip, make sure that you have safety items to signal for help in case of an emergency,” recommends Safe Electricity Advisory Board member Richard McCracken. “Always carry emergency supplies in the event of an accident. A cell phone, whistle, and flashlight are necessary items to carry with you throughout a hunting trip.”

Never shoot nearby power lines or

other electrical equipment. A single shot can cause vast damage to the electrical system. Damage to electrical equipment can result in power interruptions and physical risks to those nearby. In order to avoid this, note the location of power lines and other electrical equipment before you begin a hunt. Be especially careful and observant in wooded areas where power lines are easy to overlook.

Obey all signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when selecting the location for a tree stand. Tree stands are the leading cause for hunting injuries. Although they are important for hunters to have a better perspective for game, without precau-



tions, tree stands can be extremely dangerous. If you are using a tree stand, make sure you read the manufacturer's instructions and inspect the stand for wear before use.

Never use power poles to support a tree stand. Look for an ideal tree for your stand, one that is sturdy and alive. While going up to the stand, keep at least three points of contact while you climb.

McCracken reminds hunters to keep electrical safety precautions in mind while lodging during an extended hunting trip. “If you are using a portable electrical generator on your hunting trip, make sure that you do not run it in a confined area. Do not use it inside a cabin or RV. Make sure that it is used outside.



MISSOURI ELECTRIC CO-OP YOUTH PROGRAM MEANS EDUCATION AND FUN

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative was proud to sponsor Charity Middleton of Northeast Vernon County High School and Megan Troutweiler of Osceola High School in the Missouri Electric Cooperative CYCLE (Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience) program. The conference was held July 13-15, 2022 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jefferson City.

MO and saw a live powerline demonstration as well as several electric vehicles at the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperative headquarters.

The CYCLE program is in its 19th year and is a recipient of the National Community Youth Service Award for the top youth program among all electric cooperatives in the country. For more information about AMEC

youth programs visit www.moyouth-tour.com/cycle.



Top: Charity Middleton and Megan Troutweiler.

Left: Touring the capital.

Below: Rachel's Challenge



Each year in July, this action-filled three days provides high school students opportunities to learn firsthand what it is like to be involved in politics, the cooperative form of business and being a leader. The program included nationally known speakers and time at the Missouri State Capitol learning how a bill goes through the process to become a law. To learn more about electric cooperatives, the group was divided up into teams that competed in various events like the "build a cooperative" game. Another highlight was hearing from the Rachel's Challenge Organization. Rachel's family and friends speak to youth around the world about Rachel's legacy of being a positive role model to everyone she met in life. Students also toured the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City,





Sac Osage Members Can Get Rebates on Energy Saving Products

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative in partnership with Associated Electric Cooperative has offered the Take Control and Save Rebate program to members for more than a decade. The program has a proven history of saving energy and saving members money. Over the years the program has been modified and expanded with the bottom line being kilowatt hours saved and more money in members' pockets.

The number one category of energy used across the cooperative is heating and cooling. The Take Control and Save program has concentrated efforts to address this largest area of electricity usage.

HEAT PUMPS

New ground source heat pump installations may qualify for a rebate of \$750 per ton. Qualifying replacement equipment may be eligible for a \$300 per ton rebate. Air to air heat pumps can qualify for a \$300 per ton rebate. All heat pumps must meet minimum energy efficiency and installation requirements insuring real long term value to members. Mini-split heat pump systems are a more recent edition to the air to air rebate and are an excellent solution for some members.

ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS

For those members who do not have a whole-house cooling solution, the Take Control and Save program offers a rebate on room air conditioners. Energy Star rated room air conditioners can qualify for a rebate of \$50.

THERMOSTATS

New smart thermostats can help members "beat the peak" and save in overall energy consumption. The Take Control and Save program offers a \$50 rebate on Energy Star rated advanced thermostats.

Outside of heating and cooling there are places members can save money. The Take Control and Save Program also offers rebates on other electric

energy users.

WATER HEATERS

Electric water heaters are eligible for a rebate up to \$50. Water heater can replace a current electric water heater with an efficiency less than 0.9, or a gas water heater. Heat pump water heaters are also eligible for a rebate.



ENERGY AUDITS

An energy audit provides great long-term value for saving energy. A professional energy audit will identify home improvements such as sealing air leaks, new windows, or added insulation that will save electricity year round. The audit will show the payback value of the work, helping members make wise energy renovation decisions. The Take Control and Save program has contracted with local energy auditors and will pay half the cost of the audit. Members who make changes suggested by the audit will qualify for further rebates up to \$500.

Commercial and Industrial members may also qualify for discounted energy audits. Rebates are also available for high efficiency lighting for businesses.

Further details about the Take Control and Save program can be found at www.sacosage.com. Forms detailing the qualifying requirements can be found there. Members can also request forms at Sac Osage headquarters in El Dorado Springs.

Use Space Heaters Safely

Space heaters can help warm a room while giving your household heating system a break. But they can also pose the risk of burns and fire if

used improperly. Heating equipment is involved in about a sixth of home fires. If you plan to use a space heater, make sure it fits your needs, and use with it safety in mind.

When it comes to selecting one, Mike Ashenfelter, Safe Electricity Advisory Board member suggests, "Look for one that stops heating if it is tipped over. Make sure the heater has been tested by a nationally recognized laboratory and includes up-to-date safety features."

Place your space heater on a hard, level surface where it will not tip over, out of high traffic areas and away from flammable materials. Keep it at least three feet from furniture, bedding, or drapes. Consider placement if you have children or pets, and make sure cords are not placed under rugs or carpet as they could cause a tripping hazard.

Ashenfelter advises, "Always plug your heater directly into an outlet rather than using an extension cord. When plugging in your space heater, make sure that your plug fits snugly in the outlet."

If you have suspicions that your heater may be damaged in some way, stop use immediately. Always turn off your heater completely if you are not in a nearby area to monitor it. Turn it off before you go to sleep, and never use your space heater in areas that may become wet, such as bathrooms or kitchens.

The safest way to use your space heater is to place it in areas that are continually occupied. If your heater requires fuel, make sure that you use the kind specified by the manufacturer, and that it's properly vented to avoid getting deadly carbon monoxide in the home.

In the event of a malfunction, make sure that you have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms at every level of the home. It is especially important that you have alarms installed near bedrooms to protect you while you sleep. Check every six months that each alarm has fresh batteries. For more information on electrical fire safety, visit SafeElectricity.org. - from Safe Electricity

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