



Electric Line Newsletter

Tips for Managing Energy Use During COVID-19

As American families and businesses transition to remote-work, they may see a surge in home energy use – and in upcoming electric bills. Simple money-saving steps can help lower monthly electric bills without jeopardizing safety or comfort.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative understands the increased financial hardships facing families and businesses due to the economic impact of COVID-19. With that in mind, CWEC has suspended disconnections for non-payment and is waiving late fees. Members will still be responsible for those bills when the pandemic has passed, so members are encouraged to pay all or a portion of their bill if they can. It's important for families to be mindful of their energy use and consider adjusting certain habits to avoid higher costs later on.

Recommended energy-saving tips include:

Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings. Setting your thermostat one degree lower when heating or one degree higher when cooling can reduce energy use by up to 5%.

Do full loads of laundry and wash with cold water. Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more.

Air dry dishes. This step can cut your dishwasher's energy use by up to 50 percent.

Substitute LEDs for conventional light bulbs. Lighting can amount to up to 12% of monthly energy use. LED bulbs can cut lighting costs by 75%.

Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use. Small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in use. When powered on, game consoles, televisions and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12 percent of energy use.

CWEC offers rebates for energy efficient appliances, insulation, windows, alternative water heaters, LED lighting, and qualifying heating and air conditioning. For a detailed listing please visit www.cwecoop.com or give us a call.

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Important Dates:

- April 1: April Fool's Day
- April 4: Electric Bill Due
- April 5: Palm Sunday
- April 10: Good Friday
- April 12: Easter Sunday
- April 13: National Lineworker Day
- April 20: Patriot's Day
- April 22: Earth Day

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Remember to #ThankALineworker on April 13

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 13, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of CWEC.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

CWEC is proud to honor its lineworkers who maintain more than 1,400 miles of power lines in our service territory.

CWEC invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 13, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's linemen (L to R): Jason Walter, Chris Tuszke, Quinton Zdroik, Nate Singer, Mackenzie Yarbrough, Josh Wick and John Bestul.