




Co-op News from Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 
The power of human connections

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From your manager






Miller

When you read this, our 75th Annual Membership Appreciation Dinner and Meeting will be behind us, but today, as I'm writing, we still have two weeks of preparations.

The annual meeting summary will be in our May newsletter. For April, I want to talk briefly about goals. Well, one goal.

My goal, for this membership, every year, is to make certain you have the opportunity to do more with less. I'm talking about electricity.

It seems like each year we add more conveniences to our lives. A lot of those conveniences use energy. We don't necessarily have to spend more on energy in order to take advantage of new products. Some help us save energy.

-  Use compact fluorescent light bulbs instead of incandescent bulbs in places where the light stays on for extended periods.
-  Buy Energy Star-rated products and stop using the less-efficient products they replace.
-  Size motors properly.

In this newsletter, I want you to pay close attention to Magen's article about programmable thermostats. Programmable thermostats work. They are affordable. They save energy. They save money. They're easy to use. I highly recommend them.

You've charged me with the job of keeping your cost per kilowatt-hour low while keeping your electric reliability high. I'm willing to go a step further. Let's keep your access to, and use of, technology high, while watching your energy bill either stay the same or decrease.

I'm happy to talk with you about any Wyrulec issues including energy efficiency, or ways we can help you take advantage of the conveniences that are available. Call the office or you can reach me on my mobile at 307-575-2435.

Programmable thermostats can solve a collection of high use issues

By MAGEN HOWARD

Programmable thermostats, when used correctly, have the potential to save up to \$180 a year on your heating and cooling costs, according to ENERGYSTAR.gov. If you're considering purchasing a programmable thermostat, it's important to install and

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Programmable thermostats can solve high use issues

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program it correctly save the most energy and money.

Installation

First, your thermostat should be situated on an interior wall, about five feet above the floor and away from heating and cooling vents and other drafty places, such as doors and windows. Also keep it away from skylights, direct sunlight, or lamps. If your thermostat is not properly situated, consider having an electrician move the location.

Next, shut off the electricity before you begin the replacement. Programmable thermostats require a low-voltage wiring installation and will have two to 10 wires, according to ENERGYSTAR.gov.

"As with any home-wiring project, safety should be the number one priority," says Rollie Miller, Wyrulec Company general manager. "Be sure to read all instructions carefully and exercise caution throughout the installation."

And if you are replacing an old thermostat that has a mercury switch, take care not to break the tube that holds the toxic metal.

Refer to the instruction manual on how to wire your new thermostat. Two handy tips before you begin disconnecting wires: Using a piece of tape, label each wire with the letter of the wire's terminal (printed on the thermostat), as these wires are not color coded.



NRECA

Programmable thermostats come with a variety of options, including settings for when you leave the house and when you're asleep.

Installing a Programmable Thermostat

Keep these tips in mind when installing a new thermostat: Stay away from doors and windows, lamps, heating and cooling vents, and make sure it's mounted about five feet off the floor.



Source: ENERGYSTAR.gov, Home Depot

And once your old thermostat is removed from the wall, wrap the wires around a pencil to keep them from falling back into the wall.

If the project is more complicated than a basic replacement, contact a certified HVAC technician to make sure the thermostat is installed properly and safely.

To see a start-to-finish thermostat replacement, check out this Home Depot video on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owV0t_8zNpk.

Choosing the right thermostat

Programmable thermostats are not for everyone. They're best for families who are away during the day and homes with HVAC systems other than heat pumps. When a heat pump works in its heating mode, setting back the thermostat can cause the unit to operate inefficiently, thereby canceling out any savings

Programmable thermostats can solve high use issues

achieved by lowering the temperature. Maintaining a moderate setting is the most cost-effective practice for homes with heat pumps.

If you decide a programmable thermostat is right for your home, consider which type best suits your lifestyle:

- ◆ 7-day models allow you to set different programs every day and provide the most flexibility.
- ◆ 5+2-day models follow the same schedule during the week and a different one for weekends.
- ◆ 5-1-1 models keep the same schedule during the week and different ones for Saturday and Sunday.

Many units come with multiple features, such as telling you when to change your HVAC's air filter, settings for vacations, and voice programming options.

Getting the most savings

Programmable thermostats enhance your home's efficiency only when set properly. To be sure to save, set the temperature back for at least eight hours at a



Honeywell

It's important to properly program your thermostat to see the most cost savings.

time—for example, when you're at work during the day or asleep at night. You can save 5 percent to 15 percent per year on your heating bills by setting your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees over that period.

Program the thermostat to begin warming or cooling to your desired temperature shortly before you get home or wake up, so your home is comfortable when you need it to be.

"The most important thing to do is set it, and then leave it alone," remarks Brian Sloboda, senior program manager for energy efficiency at the Cooperative Research Network, the research arm of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. "You'll see energy savings without doing another thing to it."

To see how much you can save by installing a programmable thermostat, use ENERGY STAR's savings calculator: http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/bulk_purchasing/bpsavings_calc/CalculatorProgrammableThermostat.xls.

*Magen Howard writes on consumer and cooperative affairs. *Donald L Oliver* She's employed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

Sources: ENERGYSTAR.gov (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), EnergySavers.gov (U.S. Department of Energy), Home Depot, Cooperative Research Network

Thunder and lightning rolling your way

Weather summer storms safely with these helpful tips.

All thunderstorms produce lightning and all have the potential for danger. Those dangers can include tornadoes, strong winds, hail, wildfires, and flash flooding, which is responsible for more fatalities than any other

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Thunder and lightning rolling your way

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thunderstorm-related hazard.

In the United States, lightning kills 300 people and injures 80 on average, each year. The risk lightning poses to individuals and property increases because of its unpredictability—it often strikes outside of heavy rainfall, up to 10 miles away.

Identify danger

Ready America, a national public service campaign from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA *Max Senteney*), champions the 30/30 Lightning Safety Rule. Go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.

It's also important to be familiar with the terms used to identify thunderstorm hazards. For instance, a thunderstorm watch means there is a possibility of a thunderstorm in your area. *Peter J Christeleit* A thunderstorm warning means a thunderstorm is occurring or will likely occur soon. If you are advised to take shelter, do so immediately.

Steps to take

There are several things you can do to prepare your home for summer storms:

- ❖ Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage during a severe thunderstorm.

- ❖ Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage. *Roma Greathouse*
- ❖ Shutter windows and secure outside doors. If shutters are not available, close window blinds, shades, or curtains.

Finally, as with all emergency situations, listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials. For more tips on weathering storms safely, visit www.ready.gov.

Source: Ready America

Be Prepared Before the Storm

Here are some basic items you should store in your home in case of emergency:

- **Water:** Three day supply, one gallon per person per day
- **Food:** Three day supply, non-perishable, high-energy
- **Clothing, bedding, and sanitation supplies**
- **Tools:** Can opener, plates, utensils, flashlight, batteries, cash, bleach, hand sanitizer
- **First aid supplies, medicine**
- **Important documents**

Visit redcross.org/domore to learn more about disaster kits.

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Rhonda K Boetcher

❁ Startle the bunnies ❁

We have CFLs in stock that are 100-watt replacements. They will fit into any light fixture rated over 23 watts. They operate at 23 watts but provide light equal to a 100-watt incandescent, nothing to compete with Easter morning, but certainly enough to dress for the sunrise breakfast. They are \$1.00 each.

Collecting goodies

Each month, we hide the names of five members in this newsletter. If you see your name this month, please call and accept the "Good Egg Surprise" (\$25) from us!