

RESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY ENERGY MANAGEMENT TIPS

Dakota Electric Association is deeply concerned about the well-being of its communities, and understands the difficult position many members are facing due to COVID-19. More than ever, we remain steadfast on delivering safe and reliable electricity.

Members typically experience approximately a 25% increase in utility bills when one person works from home. Members who now have adults working from home, and children home from school, should expect to see an increase in their utility bills.

To help members manage their electric costs, Dakota Electric suspended disconnections for non-payment and is waiving late fees for residential and small commercial members. Please contact us at 651-463-6212 to make payment arrangements if you need help with your electric bill.

We encourage our members to be mindful of their energy use and consider adjusting certain habits to avoid high electric costs. The following simple money-saving steps can help lower monthly electric bills without jeopardizing safety or comfort.

HEATING & COOLING SYSTEM

Change your furnace filter monthly, or per manufacturer's guidelines.

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%.

Set your furnace fan to "auto" instead of "on" to reduce electricity consumption.

Have your heating and cooling system tuned up regularly.

KITCHEN

Use small appliances such as toaster ovens, electric pressure cookers, microwave ovens or convection ovens for small meals rather than your large stove or oven. This saves energy and can save on cooling costs because they generate less heat.

Run the dishwasher only when you have enough dirty dishes accumulated for a full load.

Turn off your dishwasher's dry cycle and let your dishes air dry.

When weather permits, use your outdoor grill instead of your oven.

Make sure refrigerator and freezer door gaskets are sealed correctly.

LAUNDRY ROOM

Use cold water in your clothes washer. Most newer washers are designed for cold water.

Throw a few tennis balls into the dryer with your load to reduce drying time.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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CONTACT THE ENERGY EXPERTS®

Dakota Electric Association®
4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024
651-463-6212 • 800-874-3409
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LIVING ROOM & FAMILY ROOM

Use energy-saving features that may be available on your electronic devices.

Plug all personal electronics in a power strip and turn off the power strip when devices are not in use.

When streaming content, choose the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching.

Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Enable auto power-down feature on gaming consoles.

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD

Install LED bulbs. They use 75% to 90% less electricity than incandescent bulbs, and last 10-to-25 times longer. Dakota Electric offers a rebate of up to \$2 per bulb.

Turn off lights, electronics and fans when you leave a room.

Spring often brings excess water; keep an eye on how much your sump pump is running and limit your dehumidifier use as much as possible.

Ensure gutters are properly diverting water away from the home.

Perform maintenance on equipment around your home to ensure efficient operation.

Fix any water faucet leaks.

RESOURCES

Dakota Electric Association

Contact Member Services for billing questions and payment arrangements at 651-463-6212.

Visit our website for [energy-efficiency tips and resources](#).

Contact the Energy Experts® for personalized energy-saving advice and help choosing the best programs and [rebates](#) for your home. Call them at 651-463-6243 or email energyservices@dakotaelectric.com.

Touchstone Energy

Play the [Home Energy Adventure](#) game to learn more about your home's energy efficiency and how to improve it. Involve the kids for a distance-learning lesson!

ENERGY STAR®

Visit energystar.gov for more home energy tips and information.

WE'RE HERE

Dakota Electric will work with members who are experiencing a financial hardship. We are taking steps to help members manage their electricity use and bills during this time. We encourage you to contact us for assistance.

Call 651-463-6212 or email customerservice@dakotaelectric.com for billing and payment concerns or questions.



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