



GM'S REPORT

SERVING
UP

savings



There's so much to love about Thanksgiving: gathering with family and friends, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, football. And of course, there's the food — turkey, dressing, pie, and my personal favorite, sweet corn that my mom prepped and froze over the summer.

There is one minor downfall to all this holiday hustle and bustle, however. The added guests, along with increased cooking and baking, can result in higher energy usage. Combined with the fact that November is often the first full month of the home-heating season, some may see an increase in their electric bills. But not to worry — your cooperative has some suggestions to help you avoid, or at least lessen, the impact of spending more time in the kitchen this holiday season.

- **When possible, cook with smaller appliances.** Using appliances like slow cookers, toaster ovens, microwaves, and air fryers is more energy efficient than using your stovetop or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half of the energy needed to operate a full-sized oven.
- **Bake multiple dishes at once.** When you do need to use the oven, remember that it takes as much energy to cook one dish as it does to cook several.
- **Help large appliances work less.** For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills so they'll reflect heat better. Use the right sized burner for the pan to reduce energy loss. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first so that the fridge doesn't have to work as hard.
- **Use your dishwasher efficiently.** Only run full loads in your dishwasher and avoid using the "rinse hold"

function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes. This feature uses three to seven gallons of hot water every cycle. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an air-dry option, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open.

- **Take advantage of your co-op's rebate programs.**

Firelands Electric has rebates available for members who replace certain existing kitchen appliances with qualifying ENERGY STAR-certified models. Rebates offered include those for refrigerators, stand-alone freezers, and dishwashers. We also have rebates for new electric water heaters. Visit our website at www.firelandsec.com/member-programs for details on all of our current rebates.

Before I leave you to your holiday planning, I have just one final energy-saving tip: Don't forget to take advantage of the co-op's FREE energy consultations! Call our office at 1-800-533-8658 to schedule your no-cost appointment with Firelands Electric's energy advisor, Scott Carbary. He's always happy to help you look for ways to reduce electric usage in the kitchen or any other room in your home — during any season!



Don Englet
GENERAL MANAGER





ENERGY EFFICIENCY

SCOTT'S ENERGY SPOT: **WINTER WEATHER PREP**

Tips from Firelands Electric's energy advisor



Scott Carbary
ENERGY ADVISOR

Ready or not, cold temperatures, and the need for gloves, boots, and heavy coats, are just around the corner. Before snow-shovel season arrives, it's a good idea for members to start thinking about preparing their homes for the upcoming winter cold (and snow and ice that go with it) by preparing their homes' HVAC system, plumbing, roof, and yard for Ohio winter conditions.

The 11 tips below are a great place to start.

1. **REPLACE YOUR FURNACE FILTER** to improve airflow and air quality, as well as inspect your duct system for air leaks. Service your furnace and HVAC system. Schedule a professional to inspect and tune up your heating system to ensure it runs properly and efficiently.
2. **CHECK INSULATION.** Inspect your attic and walls for proper insulation to prevent heat from escaping. Consider adding more, if necessary. In Ohio, ENERGY STAR recommends a minimum value of R-49 for the ceiling and R-18 for the walls. Remember, the higher the R-value, the better your home will be protected from the cold outside making its way inside. Adequate insulation can also help prevent ice dams from forming on your roof, which can damage your roof and siding. (It's also a smart move to clean leaves, sticks, and debris from your gutters and downspouts.)
3. **SEAL LEAKS.** Use caulk or weatherstripping to seal cracks and gaps around exterior doors and windows. Installing storm windows and doors can also add an extra layer of insulation. Another option is a newly available type of storm window that is added to the inside, rather than to the outside, of the home.
4. **REVERSE CEILING FANS.** Changing the direction of ceiling fans to spin clockwise helps push warm air that has risen to the ceiling back down into the room, which can help make your living space more comfortable and lower heating costs.
5. **CLEAN THE FIREPLACE** to improve safety and efficiency. Buildup in the chimney can cause a fire. Clean at least once a year to not only prevent fire, but also limit carbon monoxide and improve air flow.
6. **INSPECT HEATING PADS AND ELECTRIC BLANKETS.** Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads for dark, charred, or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged.
7. **MAINTAIN CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS.** Since you will be using your heating system more, test and replace the batteries in all carbon monoxide and smoke detectors to ensure they are working properly.
8. **CHECK THE SUMP PUMP.** Test your sump pump to ensure it is in good working order before heavy snow or ice melt by pouring some water into the pit to confirm it turns on.
9. **TRIM TREES.** Cut back any tree branches that are dead or hanging over your roof. Now is also a good time to visually inspect the power line coming into your home. Contact Firelands Electric to report any branches

or trees leaning over or toward the service line. Heavy snow and ice can cause weak branches to break, potentially damaging your home and causing a power outage.

10. **TEST YOUR GENERATOR.** Make sure your generator will start and make any necessary repairs, if needed. Also check that you have an adequate fuel supply available.
11. **REVIEW YOUR EMERGENCY KIT.** Ensure your emergency kit is stocked with fresh batteries, flashlights, and non-perishable food in case of a power outage. A weather radio and extra blankets are also recommended. FEMA advises having enough food and water on hand for one week per person in your household.

Visit www.firelandsec.com for additional efficiency and safety tips. And, as always, reach out to Firelands Electric Cooperative by calling 1-800-533-8658 if you have questions.

Happy
Thanksgiving!

The Firelands Electric office will be closed




Nov. 27 and 28

so that our employees may enjoy
the holiday with their families.

Emergency service is available 24/7
by calling 1-800-533-8658.

THREE BENEFITS OF AN ENERGY CONSULTATION

A **FREE** in-home consultation with the cooperative's energy advisor can determine the overall efficiency of your home or business and help find ways to improve it.

-  A consult will identify where most of your energy use is going and ways to use energy more efficiently to save money.
-  It can determine whether appliances and heating/cooling equipment are properly sized for the home or business.
-  A consult can identify potential safety issues.





STEP UP FOR SOLDIERS DRIVE



SUGGESTED DONATION ITEMS:

- deodorant
- bar soap
- body wash
- shampoo
- floss
- toothbrushes
- razors
- tissues
- sunscreen
- playing cards
- chewing gum
- cookies
- crackers
- granola
- trail mix
- protein bars
- chips
- fruit pouches
- beef jerky
- hard candy
- mints

Learn other ways you can help or make a tax-deductible monetary donation at <https://ohio.uso.org>.

Once again, Firelands Electric Cooperative is joining forces with local radio stations WLKR-FM and K96-FM to collect items for USO Ohio's annual Step Up for Soldiers drive.

Since 2007, the cooperative has proudly supported U.S. military personnel during the holiday season by serving as a collection location for donated care package items. Starting Tuesday, Nov. 11, and running through Friday, Dec. 19, members of Firelands Electric and the surrounding communities can deliver donated items to Firelands' office, located at 103 Industrial Drive in New London. Items may be dropped off in the collection boxes located right inside the front entryway during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year, USO Ohio will use donated items to stock their centers found throughout the Buckeye State. Locations receiving items will include the Columbus Airport Jake Brewer Lounge and Military Entrance Processing Station, Camp James A. Garfield, and Camp Grayling.

Donations like yours offer a small yet meaningful boost to military personnel who visit the more than 250 USO centers located across the globe.

While all donations are appreciated, USO Ohio does ask that items be limited to travel-sized hygiene items and individual, single-serve-sized snacks.

USO Ohio serves military families throughout Ohio and northern Kentucky. From collecting and distributing donations to helping those preparing for deployment and connecting families for mutual support, the USO touches the lives of tens of thousands of active duty, guard, and reserve members every day.

LIGHT UP SOMEONE'S HOLIDAYS WITH A



Perfect for that hard-to-buy-for person on your gift list, a H.U.G. (Home Utility Gift) allows anyone to give the gift of electricity. It's ideal for all types of occasions: holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, or even "just because." Available for purchase year-round, a H.U.G. is also a great option for someone who could simply use a helping hand with their monthly utility bill.

H.U.G.s are available in any amount, and they may be purchased by both co-op members and non-members. Recipients must be Firelands Electric members, and the gift-giver must have the first and last name of the intended recipient, as well as the member's service address, to ensure the gift is applied to the correct account.

A H.U.G. may be bought in person at the co-op's office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Firelands Electric Co-op. *Due to privacy regulations, Firelands CANNOT accept payments for a H.U.G. over the phone, and payment by credit card is available ONLY at our lobby window.* Please note that Firelands Electric's employees also cannot provide a member's account number to anyone who is not listed on the account.

You can also purchase a H.U.G. by completing the form below and sending it, along with a check or money order made out to the cooperative, to: Firelands Electric Co-op, H.U.G. Program, 103 Industrial Drive, New London, OH 44851-9112. Additional copies of the form are also available on our website at www.firelandsec.com/hug and at the office.

H.U.G.s will appear as a credit on the recipient's next monthly bill and may remain anonymous. If you wish to let the receiver know about your gift, simply ask office staff to send the recipient a "You've received a H.U.G." notice when purchasing. We'll take care of the rest!

If you're stumped what to get someone for the holidays this year, consider buying them a H.U.G. from Firelands Electric. It's the perfect gift!

GIVE THE GIFT OF A H.U.G.!

Your first and last name

Your address

Your city and ZIP code

Your phone number

Recipient/member first and last name

Recipient/member address

Recipient/member city and ZIP code

- ☐ YES! I would like Firelands to notify the recipient of my gift.
☐ I will notify the recipient myself.

Make checks out to Firelands Electric and return completed form and payment to:
H.U.G. Program, Firelands Electric Cooperative, 103 Industrial Drive, New London, OH 44851-9112.
For questions regarding the H.U.G. program, contact our billing department at 1-800-533-8658.



IN THE COMMUNITY

CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS

at the *Huron County Fair*

Firelands Electric Cooperative places a high value on supporting the local community and our youth, which is often reflected in sponsorships of local fairs and festivals, among other community initiatives.

In addition to remaining a long-term supporter of the Huron County Fair, the cooperative decided to head back to the fair in-person this year. This was a great opportunity for employees to engage with members of the community.

Congratulations to the winners of our Huron County Fair prize drawing! Firelands representative Tracy Gibb (right) presented Gail Risner of Norwalk with the OSU tailgating package valued at \$200. Firelands' Andrea Gravenhorst (lower right) presented Bob White, also of Norwalk, with his certificate for a \$50 bill credit.



CO-OP NEWS

EMPLOYEE PROMOTION

Congratulations to Firelands Electric's Jake Willbond!

In August, Director of Operations Rick Bowers (left) announced Jake Willbond's graduation to the position of journeyman lineman. Willbond (right) recently completed the apprenticeship program through COLT, the best-in-class lineworker training facility managed by Ohio's Electric Cooperatives.



ARE YOU ON OUR LIST?

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS REFUNDS

Firelands Electric is trying to locate current and former members who may be entitled to unclaimed capital credits. A list of individuals and businesses can be found on the co-op's website at www.firelandsec.com/capital-credits-and-unclaimed-funds.

If you recognize a name on the list, please let that person know to contact us. For listed members who are deceased, let one of their relatives know about the unclaimed check. The person named or their relative must contact our office in order for the check to be re-issued.

*Official notice is given that the current or former patrons on this list have cash retirements of capital credits or other payments from Firelands Electric Cooperative that have gone unclaimed for more than four years. According to Article VIII, Section 3, of the Code of Regulations, unless claim is made within 60 days of the second publication of this list, such funds will become an irrevocable gift and assignment by such patron to the cooperative. Inquiries should be directed to Firelands Electric Cooperative, 103 Industrial Drive, New London, Ohio 44851, by phone at 1-800-533-8658, or by email at accounting@firelandsec.com. **THIS IS THE SECOND OF TWO NOTICES.***





COOPERATIVE UPDATE

BOARD MEETING *highlights*

Firelands Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees met Aug. 26 and covered the following items:

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative received 42 membership applications for approval by the board.
- General Manager Don Englet reviewed the monthly safety and training, tree-trimming, outage, and personnel reports.
- Director of Operations Rick Bowers reported on activities in the operations department.
- Englet provided a recap of the cooperative's participation in the recent Huron County Fair and plans for the upcoming Ashland County Fair.
- The board reviewed and approved the 2025 Power Requirements Study.
- Director of Communications and IT Andrea Gravenhorst reported on recent activities involving the member services and IT departments.
- Englet and the board reviewed the recent strategic planning meeting.
- Englet advised that a representative from CFC would be at the board meeting in November to discuss the co-op's KRTA.
- The board reviewed the current rates and invoices of other electric utilities.
- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the July financial reports and provided an update on recent accounting and billing department activities.
- Englet advised that Jake Willbond completed his training and was promoted to Journeyman Lineman.
- Schloemer recapped an OREC meeting he recently attended, which included a report on the long-term debt of Ohio's cooperatives.

The cooperative's next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 25. If you would like to attend the next scheduled meeting, please contact the Firelands Electric office at 1-800-533-8658.

FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

OUTAGE HOTLINE

1-800-533-8658

OFFICE

103 Industrial Drive
New London, OH 44851
1-800-533-8658

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
www.firelandsec.com



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dan Schloemer
President, District 1

Kevin Reidy
Vice President, District 6

Carl Ayers
Secretary/Treasurer, District 5

Joe Williams
District 2

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District 3

Lon Burton
District 4

Greg Hess
District 7

Adrian Finlay
District 8

Brian Cucco
District 9

GENERAL MANAGER

Don Englet

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
members@firelandsec.com

Firelands
Electric
COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 