

NEWS



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For Immediate Release:

PLEASE HELP TO CONSERVE ENERGY DURING FORECASTED EXTREME WEATHER

NEW LONDON, OH, Friday, Jan. 17, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. — Record-setting low temperatures are forecasted to extend several days, starting on Sunday evening, Jan. 19. Northern Ohio is expected to see some of the coldest temperatures in 3 years, resulting in an extremely high demand for electricity.

Buckeye Power, Firelands Electric Cooperative's power supplier, along with electric providers across the state and region, are encouraging consumers to please conserve energy during the predicted extremely cold temperatures. Reducing load to protect the electrical transmission grid when supply is low can help to rebalance the system, prevent possible rolling outages, or blackouts, and avoid widespread uncontrolled power outages.

"During extremely cold weather, please help lower demand by reducing your use of electricity wherever you safely can," says Firelands Electric's Director of Communications and IT Andrea Gravenhorst. "Avoid using major appliances during high demand times, generally between 6-10 am and 5-9 pm, and adjusting your heating thermostat just four degrees can help to reduce the demand for electricity during peak demand periods."

Please cut back electricity use wherever safety possible:

- ❖ Close all draperies and window blinds to reduce energy loss
- ❖ Temporarily adjust your thermostat four degrees lower
- ❖ Turn off unneeded lights and appliances
- ❖ Postpone laundry, dishwashing, and showering
- ❖ Avoid use of large electrical items, including clothes washers and dryers

Ohio is part of the [PJM Interconnection](#) region, the nation's largest electric transmission grid operator, which coordinates the movement of electricity through 13 states. Rolling blackouts, also known as planned, controlled outages, move from one area to another so power isn't out for too long in one location. These possible widespread outages would be implemented and directed by PJM Interconnection's electrical grid manager, and not your local electric cooperative or utility company.

Firelands Electric Cooperative is asking members-consumers to safely conserve energy and be prepared and watch for alerts on the co-op's website, www.firelandsec.com, or Facebook page, www.facebook.com/FirelandsElectric, during extreme temperatures. Winter puts additional stress on an already-strained electricity grid and if an alert is issued by PJM, everyone should be prepared to take action to stay safe and warm.

Founded in 1936, Firelands Electric Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility serving more than 9,200 homes and businesses in rural areas of Ashland, Huron, Lorain, and Richland counties and ranks among the highest energy utilities in the country for customer satisfaction.

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