



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MIDSTATE CONNECTION

Office Hours: 7:00 am-5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday
Closed Fridays & Holidays

Business Hours: 541-536-2126
After Hours Outages: 800-752-5935

Beat the Peak This Summer

As temperatures begin to spike, there are steps you can take to save money on energy bills this summer.

According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48 percent of energy expenditures just on the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (HVAC) system. Although a majority of that 48 percent is spent on heating expenses, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners.

Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer, higher-efficiency model, there are some things you can do to increase efficiency, which can help reduce your energy bills.

Besides weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors in your home (always a good idea regardless of the time of year), we recommend the following:

- Close curtains, blinds, and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76 percent of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to energy.gov.
- If you don't already have one, install a

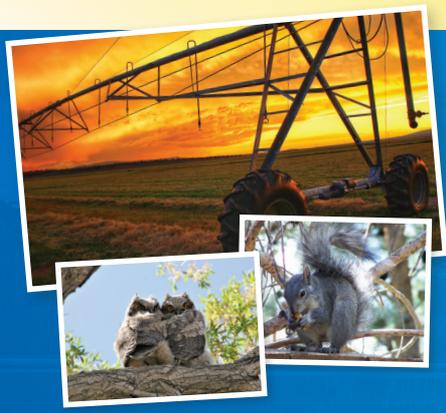
programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day, according to Energy.gov.

- Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.
- Consider changes to your landscaping. Greenery that includes shade trees and those that insulate the foundation can reduce energy costs.
- Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help hot air from building. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks around your home and adding insulation, homeowners can save around 10 percent annually on energy bills, according to energystar.gov.
- Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help your air conditioner run more efficiently.

- Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.
- Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
- Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.

Increased summer electric demand not only affects the monthly budget, but it can also seriously strain your home's electrical system, which can create dangerous shock and fire hazards. Flickering or dimming lights or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a qualified electrician.

To schedule an energy audit, contact the Marketing Department at 541-536-2126, option 5. For more information on electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.



Submit your photos for the Member Calendar Contest before the August 15th deadline!

We invite members to share their most beautiful, engaging, and fun photos for the chance to appear in our 2023 calendar. A total of 13 winners will be selected. Each monthly winner will receive \$50, and our cover photo winner will receive a grand prize of \$200. Digital submissions should

be submitted online at www.mse.coop/calendar-contest along with supporting information. Printed submissions can be dropped off at our office or mailed to: Midstate Electric Marketing Department, PO Box 127 La Pine, OR 97739.

Let's get connected on social media so you'll never miss an update on MEC activities, programs, and contests.





Safety Reminder – No Posting on Utility Poles

At MEC, safety is always at the top of our list: safety of our employees, safety of our members, and safety of the general public. This time of year, there are lots of yard and garage sales, which also means lots of signs. Please keep the following tips in mind when promoting your sale:

- Sharp objects on utility poles create a risk to our line crew when climbing boots snag or slip on embedded staples, screws, or nails.
- Despite safety gear, nails and screws can poke through gloves, boots, and protective clothing causing tears which reduce line workers' first line of defense between them and several thousand volts of electricity.
- When working to restore power, line workers can waste valuable time when they need to remove signs and balloons from utility poles.
- Holes created by nails, staples, tacks, and screws shorten and weaken pole life requiring more frequent and costly pole replacements.
- Posting signs and advertisements on utility poles violates city ordinances and state law.

7 CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS



Every College Student Should Know

Relay these safety tips to your young adults who are about to hit campus for the first time or return for another year.

1. Do not overload electrical outlets, power strips or extension cords. Use power strips with an overcurrent protector.
2. Be aware of your surroundings, especially when listening to music or texting.
3. Unplug small appliances when not in use and all appliances when away for extended periods.
4. This tip still holds true: never walk alone at night.
5. Avoid using generic cubes or cords. They could overheat, shock or burn you.
6. Locate the emergency call buttons or phones across campus in case of an emergency.
7. Do not put your cell phone on or under your pillow or bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.



Safe
Electricity.org®

Midstate Office Closed for Labor Day

MEC's office will be closed on September 5th, 2022.
Our outage line is available 24/7 at 800-752-5935.