

# COLUMBUS CURRENTS

## Winter Energy Efficiency

With the cold weather here you're probably thinking about the potential for higher electric bills due to the need to keep your home warm. Many factors contribute to energy efficiency, including weather, the age and condition of your home, and desired comfort levels. There are many ways for you to save on energy costs during the winter months. Here are some tips to help

Living in the southwest we get lots of sunshine. Open your curtains and allow the sun to heat your home. Remember to close them at night to keep the cold chills from cooling your home.

Eliminating air leaks and drafts is an inexpensive and effective way to keep warm air inside and cold air out. Use caulking for your windows and weatherstripping around your doors.

When you do have your heater on, remember to close doors and vents of the rooms that are not being used. Leaving them open can be a huge energy waster.

Wear warm clothes and use blankets to keep warm.

Take advantage of your ceiling fans in the winter by switching the airflow clockwise, which will produce and updraft that will push the warm air down.

Winter months are a time that most like to bake. When done baking leave the door cracked open and allow the extra heat to warm your kitchen. Always use caution when children are around.

Turn your thermostat down a few degrees when no one will be home. Installing a programmable thermostat will be helpful in doing this.

Avoid using bathroom exhaust fans and oven hoods when they are not needed because they pull away the warm air.

We all enjoy the bright and colorful holiday lights during this time. An efficient option for decorating the outside of your home is to use LED lights.

Lastly, now is a good time to switch out your light bulbs to LED light bulbs that use significantly less energy than incandescent light bulbs which can provide more savings for you.



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## Need Money for College?

Columbus Electric Cooperative offers education scholarships to members of CEC and their immediate family members. Scholarship recipients can receive financial assistance for up to eight semesters of undergraduate studies at the college of their choice. Applicants must complete an application and submit letters of recommendation. Applications may be obtained at [columbusco-op.org/scholarships](http://columbusco-op.org/scholarships). Deadline to submit scholarship applications is March 1, 2022.



## Winter Moratorium Notice

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2021. To avoid potential disconnection of services please contact the human services department at 800-283-4465 or the appropriate tribal or pueblo entity for eligibility information for low-income heating energy assistance program (LIHEAP). Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2021 through March 15, 2022, if you meet the qualifications of LIHEAP and have no past due amounts or you remain current on any settlement or installment agreement for amounts due as of November 15, 2021. Members of New Mexico tribes or pueblos who need help with translation or with other matters may contact the commission's consumer relations division at 888-427-5772, who will contact the appropriate tribal or pueblo for assistance.

Para informacion en espanol llame 800-950-2667

If you need payment arrangements or assistance, please call or stop by our office to speak to a Member Service Representative at 575-546-8838 Monday thru Friday from 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. We will work with members on a case-by-case basis to find a payment solution



Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family from everyone at Columbus Electric Co-op.

Our office will be closed Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> in observance of Thanksgiving Day!



## Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees, at its October meeting, approved the 2021 audit report ending July 31, 2021. The audit was conducted by Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, L.L.P. The Cooperative's financials are independently audited annually. Greg Gilbert, CPA, reviewed the results of the audit. It was a clean audit with no findings or exceptions.

*Emergency Response Number*  
**1-800-228-0579**

*Toll - free Office Number*  
**1-800-950-COOP (2667)**