

Easy Steps to Greater Energy Efficiency

Do you want to save money and electricity but have limited time, money and patience? According to the Department of Energy, a “typical American family” spends nearly \$2,000 per year on their home energy bills. Much of that money, however, is wasted through leaky windows or ducts, old appliances or inefficient heating and cooling systems.

Luckily, there are several relatively easy ways to save energy without a substantial commitment of time and money. These efforts will help you save whether you own or rent an older or newly constructed home. And, you won’t have to hire a specialist or call in a favor from someone who is handy with tools to help you.

Where to start

According to Money Magazine, “improving the envelope” of your home is a good place to start. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind vibrations can loosen up even a tight home, increasing air leakage. Doors and windows may not close tightly, and duct work can spring leaks, wasting cooled and heated air. By placing weather stripping and caulk around windows and doors, you can keep cool air inside during warm months and prevent chilly air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and creates greater efficiency. Apply weather stripping around overlooked spaces like your attic hatch or pull-down stairs.

Replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency and is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bill. Known for their longevity and efficiency, LED bulbs have an estimated operational life span of typically 10,000 to 20,000 hours compared to 1,000 hours of a typical

incandescent. According to the Dept. of Energy, by replacing your home’s five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating, you can save \$75 each year.

Wrapping up savings

Installing a blanket around your water heater could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 7 to 16 percent in water heating costs, according to the Dept. of Energy.

ensure your home’s heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is performing at an optimal level. Checking, changing or cleaning your filter extends the life of your HVAC system and saves you money.

Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Otherwise, dust and dirt trapped in a system’s air filter leads to several problems, including: reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs; lowered system efficiency; and costly duct cleaning or replacement. Many HVAC professionals recommend cleaning the system filters monthly. A simple task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently, keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

Take control of your energy savings

Take a look at your programmable thermostat. When was the last time you checked to make sure it was programmed for the current season and family schedule? This is one of the best energy-saving tools at your fingertips. It enables you to fine tune the temperature during particular hours of the day. Many models allow you to differentiate between weekday and weekend schedules, and internet-connected thermostats can learn your schedule and make adjustments automatically. Most models come with an override option so you can make manual adjustments without losing overall programming. You can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

Remember, there are easy steps you can take now to improve the energy efficiency of your home.

3 STEPS to ENERGY EFFICIENCY



1 Identify ways to save energy when using appliances and electronics in your home. Buy ENERGY STAR-rated appliances when possible and turn off electronics, such as computers and gaming consoles when not in use.

2 DIY projects can help you save energy. Caulk around drafty windows, use LED bulbs and check insulation levels in your home.

3 Check with your electric co-op about energy saving programs.

For a small investment of about \$30, you can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets and install them in about one hour. On a safety note, the Dept. of Energy recommends that you not set the thermostat above 130 degrees Fahrenheit on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket; the higher temperature setting could cause the wiring to overheat.

Given that a large portion of your monthly energy bill goes toward heating and cooling your home, it makes sense to

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In Case of Trouble

1. Check for blown fuse or tripped circuit breakers.
2. Check with your neighbors. Ask if their electricity is off and if they have reported it.
3. If not, call the office or download the Smarthub app to report the trouble.

	<u>Read</u>	<u>Billing date</u>	
Cycle 1	26th-31st	5th	1-1/2% penalty
Cycle 2	6th-11th	15th	applied 20 days
Cycle 3	16th-21st	25th	after billing date

Operating Statistics for November

	2015	2016
Operating Revenues	\$4,205,388	\$4,538,522
Wholesale Cost of Power	\$3,182,945	\$3,121,796
Percentage WPC is of Revenue	75.69	68.78
Consumers per Mile of Line	4.64	4.67
Revenue per Mile of Line	\$803.17	\$863.99
KW Peak Demand - This month	125,692	111,344
Billing kW demand	125,692	103,288
KW Peak Demand - YTD	153,277	154,489
KWh Purchased - This month	55,572,912	50,827,289
Taxes Paid	\$82,239	\$83,778
Interest on Long Term Debt	\$180,040	\$171,226
System Load Factor	61.4	63.4

New Services Staked in December

During the month of December, 21 new services were staked. The total new services staked in 2016 is 424. This compares to 363 for the same period in 2015.



Beware of Cheap Phone Chargers

When inspectors from UL—Underwriters Laboratories—tested iPhone chargers for safety, the results, they said, were “literally shocking.”

UL calls power adapters sold for iPhones but not made by Apple “counterfeit” and warns that they might not have undergone electrical safety tests and can shock or even kill the user.

In a 2016 UL test of 400 counterfeit adapters, 99 percent of them failed. That means they either became damaged themselves or harmed the phones during charging, or leaked current that shocked or could have shocked the user.

The counterfeit chargers came with the UL safety inspection mark printed on them, but they had not been UL tested, the report noted. Some of the chargers cost as little as \$1, while Apple prices on its “official” adapters start at \$19.

While counterfeit adapters can look just like legitimate Apple chargers, they usually have a few “tells,” UL reported. For example:

- All UL-certified Apple chargers are white.
- Certification labels on genuine Apple labels do not misspell words or names—like “Abble,” for example, and say the product was designed by Apple and not by any other organization.
- Expect to pay at least \$19 for a properly tested Apple adapter.
- If you find a charger loose in a bin of discounted electronics, it’s counterfeit. Apple products come in white Apple packaging.



**OPERATION
ROUND-UP**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BEGINNING BALANCE 11/30/16	\$238,405.90
DEPOSITS	8,179.72
INTEREST INCOME	112.38
CHECKS ISSUED	-16,158.82
APPROVED, NOT YET PAID	-19,729.48
BALANCE 11/30/16.....	\$210,814.70

CVEC Foundation administers and disburses funds collected through CVEC's Operation Round-Up Program.

Emerging Outdoor Lighting Technologies

Emerging technologies for outdoor lighting are coming in the form of new controls and networking capabilities. More on that shortly, but first, here is a quick recap of the lighting family tree.

All electric light sources have a common ancestor – Thomas Edison's incandescent bulb. Most of us think of the incandescent bulb as strictly residential in application, but in the beginning, it was all we had to work with. As a result, incandescent bulbs of various sizes were used for outdoor lighting. Unfortunately, incandescent bulbs have a relatively short life, and early versions had a relatively weak output. Still, any light on previously dark streets was an improvement.

As interest in energy conservation began to take hold, new bulbs surfaced, including high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamps and compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs.

Today, light emitting diode (LED) light sources shine in the spotlight. These light sources have a number of advantages:

- LEDs use less energy. Replacing an HPS light with an LED alternative delivers an immediate 50 percent increase in energy savings.
- The color of light produced is much more appealing and can be tuned if desired.
- Light from an LED source is easily focused to eliminate light pollution.
- LED sources have longer life spans.
- LED sources are much more durable since there are no filaments or electrodes to be damaged.

As mentioned in the beginning of this article, the next technological advances in outdoor lighting are coming in the areas of control and networking. Control of outdoor lights today is pretty rudimentary and focused solely

on turning them on and off at particular times or in response to motion.

LEDs are electronic devices and lend themselves especially well to control and networking strategies. What might be the capabilities garnered from advanced control and networking of outdoor LED lights?

- Ever notice that some streetlights seem to be out for a long time? With a networked system, the light itself can tell system operators it needs changing (if already out) or if it will soon need changing, resulting in improved maintenance. When changed before or shortly after the light fails, the effectiveness of the system and peoples' satisfaction is greatly improved.

- Varying the light output on a time or event basis can save energy and improve safety and security. Examples include 1102389505 reducing output when fewer people are spend-

ing time outdoors, increasing output during outdoor events and creating a "light path" for emergency responders to and from the site.

- Color output can be tuned for special events or to meet specific needs and requests.

Outdoor lighting is an essential aspect of modern life. Well-lit streets are safer for drivers and pedestrians, a deterrent to criminal activity and add to the overall image of a town, neighborhood or home.

The quest for energy savings, improved light quality and reduced maintenance costs has driven the evolution of outdoor lighting. Is the LED the end of the lighting family tree? Not likely. But for now, the next big thing will be the application of control and networking technologies to gain additional benefits from the highly efficient LED.

2 CVEC is Sponsoring Fantastic Youth Programs!



YouthPower Energy Camp for 8th Graders

Watch future issues of [ElectraLite](#) for more information!

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Electralite Classified Ads

Each CVEC member family is limited to ONE free classified ad per month. Length of the ad cannot exceed space provided below. Ads run only one time and must be resubmitted to appear in the next edition. **Return the completed form to P. O. Box 751, Seminole, OK 74818. Forms may also be dropped off at either office location, or email your ad to editor@canadianvalley.org. Ads must be received by the 5th of each month; if received after the deadline they will be printed in the next issue.**

All information below must be completed.

Name _____

Address _____

Account # _____

Phone # _____

FARM & RANCH

Small square bales, clean prairie hay, \$4/bale, 405-598-5860.

1952 Ferguson TO-30 tractor, very nice, new tires, battery, hydraulics, \$3,500, 405-833-0746.

Small square bales hay, Meeker, 405-474-2018.

New green tubular farm gate, 11' 7", w/hardware, \$65, 405-454-0510.

HOME & LAND

80 acres - 50 pasture, 30 wooded, 4 ponds, 12 house places, storm cellar on one place, both have rural water, turkey and deer hunting, \$110,000, 918-470-3651.

158 acres pasture, fenced, north of Prague, west on 970 Rd, or east of Sparks, call to look and for price, 405-258-6460.

100 acres M/L w/2 ponds, 5 miles south of Wewoka in Seminole County, \$1,700/acre, 405-221-2601.

2, 3, 5, or 15 acres near Rock Creek Rd. and Hwy. 9, 1/2 mile east of Higgins Trust on Rimer Rd., starting at \$3,900/acre, 405-323-7672.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bricks - New Trinity "Homestead", approx. 800, 40¢ ea., you pick up, 405-598-0941.

Compost, manure, garden soil, \$50, your small pickup, will load, off 3600 south of 99A, Strother, 405-683-9128.

Refrigerator, freezer, washer, dryer, cookstove, dishwasher, 405-273-7874.

Wind energy - residential class wind turbine generators, patented 2kW HDPE blade system, AC grid or DC storage, Garretts Lake Rd., and North Bryan, Shawnee, 405-788-7758.

40 Zane Gray 2nd edition hard-back books, new condition, \$100 firm, 405-390-2571.

Custom wood gifts, children's buckboard bed and chests, stained or natural wood, poolside wood for, custom-made indoor and outdoor furniture, Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother and Father's Day gifts, 405-885-0947.

Double-wide refrigerator, \$175; electric stove, \$100; front-loader washer and dryer, \$300, 405-275-3419.

Registered Akita puppies, \$450; Evergreen pine trees, all sizes, you pick up, you dig, \$15 to \$25 each, 405-878-6697.

20" Poulan 3450, \$60; Craftsman, 16", \$50; Stihl 032 AV 16", \$150; 100' fish tape, \$35, 405-659-5047.

FREE - Whirlpool washer, looks new water valve (selector) never worked good, finally quit, will deliver 25 miles free, 405-275-1891.

WANTED - 12-50 ton shop press; two-man deer stand, deer feeder, ranger finder, and spotting scope, 405-249-2507.

Avoid Electrical Hazards Following Earthquakes

You know we live in a crazy world when we have to talk about Earthquake safety in Oklahoma, it seems we are having more and more Earthquakes these days and need to start preparing folks how to avoid the Hazards Associated with a devastating Earthquake.

Earthquakes are terrifying and devastating events. Unfortunately, the danger is not over when the shaking stops. Safe Electricity encourages everyone to be aware of electrical hazards that can follow an earthquake and to know how to stay safe.

When the earthquake stops, follow these tips from Safe Electricity:

- In the home, do not use electronics, matches or lighters until you are sure there is no gas leak.
- If you are in a severely damaged building, leave and go to an open space outside.

• Be alert to dangers that could be hidden by debris, including downed power lines and broken gas pipes. If you hear hissing, smell gas or notice sagging utility lines, stay away and alert the utility(s).

• Stay away from downed power lines, and warn others to do the same. Buildings, trees, cars, debris, even other utility lines and other objects can become electrical hazards if they are in contact with a power line, so be cautious.

• If you can, turn off electricity at the main breaker. If your house is unstable or you must stand in water to do so, do not turn off electricity. Overturned and damaged water heaters and damaged electric circuitry can cause explosions and fires. Turning off electricity prevents this.

• If you smell gas or suspect a leak, get out of the house immediately without touching any switches. Once outside call 9-1-1, and notify your gas utility. If you can, shut off the main gas valve. Find the shut-off valve at your gas meter, and twist it with a wrench in either direction until it is off. Do not turn the gas back on; only a professional can safely do this.

• Aftershocks can be just as powerful as earthquakes. Be prepared, and practice the same safety procedures you would during an earthquake. If you are inside the home, experts at the Great ShakeOut recommend that when you feel the earth shake, drop to the floor, cover by getting underneath sturdy furniture and hold on to the piece of furniture until the shaking stops.

• If you enter damaged property after the earthquake, be certain the electricity and gas have been shut off.

For more on electrical safety inside and outside of the home, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Find Your Account Number and Win \$25

If you find your account number hidden in this issue of *The Electralite*, you could win \$25.

In order to win, the account number must be your own.

You need to report finding the number to us by the 15th of the month.

And you need to report finding it by phone, mail or in person.

Good luck!