

Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

March 2022
Vol. 14 Issue 3

Using the clock to save energy

Did you know the time of day you use energy can impact electricity rates? Think of times of high energy demand like rush hour traffic. These are times when a lot of people in our community are using electricity—whether getting ready for work, or coming home in the evening to cook dinner, wash clothes, bathe the kids or wash dishes. During (506-37-135) these times of high energy use, your electric cooperative strives to ensure there is enough electricity available to meet the needs of all members. This often results in buying energy at higher costs (because of higher overall demand) as well as ensuring that grid infrastructure can deliver enough electricity when use is highest. This is especially true when extreme winter or summer weather pushes energy use even higher.

There are several ways members can help lower energy demand by thoughtfully timing energy-intensive activities at home. Peak energy hours are typically in the morning and in the evening after people return from work and school. Weekends and holidays are typically considered off-peak.

Here are few simple ways you can beat the energy peak:

- Adjust the thermostat. Move the

temperature up to 78 degrees in summer and down to 68 degrees in winter. Bump it further up or down when you're away from home.

- Postpone the use of major appliances. Move laundry loads to later in the evening or weekends. Delay running the dishwasher until well after dinner or use the delay cycle function.
- Your water heater uses a significant amount of energy. You can reduce its energy burden by moving showering and bathing to an off-peak time or lowering the temperature on the tank.
- During summer, consider grilling outdoors to keep the oven off during peak heat days.
- Unplug charging cables and small appliances when they're not in use. For bigger items like TVs, try plugging them into a power strip that can be flipped on and off.
- If you have an electric vehicle, charge it at night when electricity rates are typically lowest.

Timing energy use to avoid “rush hour” is a great way to keep costs down and practice better efficiency habits.

Avoid the rush hour with our new Time-of-Use Rate on page 3

Energy saving tip

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest. A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy

Mark your calendar

- Mar. 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 30 Electric bills due
- Apr. 5 Annual Meeting

February Auto Pay Winner Kurt Spartz

Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 bill credit. A winner is chosen each month.

Find your location number and win a \$10 credit

If you find your location number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) in this issue, you will receive a \$10 credit.

2 Manager's Message

3 Help us celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day

4 Save 35% on water saving products



General Manager
Adam Tromblay

The power of energy efficiency

Members often wonder, do energy-saving measures make a big difference in my home?

For the average household, it depends on your home's efficiency and your (4-30-46) habits. Your energy use is based on your home's equipment and how you use it. You might already have an efficient home and good energy use habits, or you might have room for improvement.

Energy keeps us comfortable in our homes, and our monthly bill is the associated cost for this energy use. To make energy-saving measures work in your home, it comes down to preventing energy waste while maintaining personal comfort in your home.

Let's take it back to the basics and see if we can find opportunities to save energy in your home. Filters, LEDs and thermostat settings are

Did you know? The service charge is everything needed to bring electric service to you

All members pay a minimum service charge to be connected to unlimited power from NCE's distribution lines. Even if you are not using any electricity, this charge ensures it is ready at the flip of a switch. Compare it to the expenses you pay to own a car, even if you don't drive it every day such as a driver's license, insurance, auto loan, taxes, tags and fuel. Here are just a few things that it helps pay for:

- Poles
- Storm repair
- Employees
- 24/7 service
- Wire
- Bucket trucks
- Technology
- Meters
- Accounting and billing
- System improvements
- Line equipment
- Insurance
- Safety equipment and programs

We ensure the lights come on at the flip of a switch



great places to start.

If your home has a forced-air system, you have a filter. The filter needs to be checked regularly (7-6-75) and replaced when it's dirty. A dirty filter can cause heating and air-conditioning systems to use 15% more energy, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Since heating and air conditioning make up almost half of your energy use, replacing your filter when it looks dirty is a habit that can reduce energy waste.

Upgrading your lighting to LEDs is a simple, low-cost way to cut energy use. Depending on your budget, you can do it all at once or change bulbs out over time. If you are going to replace a few at a time, prioritize the lights you use the most.

There are many LED options available. One major variation is the color temperature, which is listed on the packaging in Kelvin. I recommend 2700K be-

cause it is similar to incandescent lighting. I also suggest ENERGY STAR®-rated products because they meet strict quality and efficiency standards, use up to 90% less energy and last 15 times longer than standard bulbs.

It's amazing how much difference a few degrees can make. By adjusting your thermostat to your home habits, you can save year-round on heating and cooling costs.

For winter months, the DOE recommends setting your thermostat to 68 degrees when you are home and dialing it back 8 to 10 degrees when you leave the house or go to sleep. For summer, the recommendation is 78 degrees when you are home and 8 to 10 degrees warmer when you are away. Using a programmable or smart thermostat will allow you to set it according to your schedule.

Making these small changes will help improve your energy efficiency while maintaining comfort in your home.

We've talked a lot about rates the last few months. Would you like a personal rate analysis? If so, give us a call at 800-776-0517.

NCE is introducing new Time-Of-Use (TOU) rate and 5¢ energy: Is it right for you?

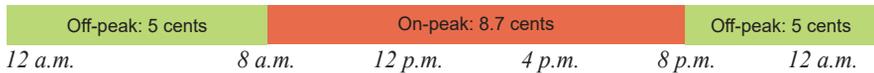
You've probably noticed that we charge you the same amount of money for your energy usage regardless of when you use it. The power costs the (5-5-57T) same when you get up in the morning and when you go to sleep at night. That flat rate has been used since the cooperative was first formed in 1936.



Electricity has changed dramatically over the years. The problem is the cost of power now is directly related to when you use it. Our power suppliers charge us at the time our members use energy. Most of us are not using power in the early morning or late at night when electricity is at its cheapest. We use it in the morning before work and when we return, when the demand for electricity soars.

Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) is introducing a new residential TOU rate to help promote more efficient usage and provide residential members with an additional rate option. TOU is a name just as it suggests—a rate structure that adjusts the price of your electricity based on when you use it.

You can save significantly on your electric use if you use your electricity during off-peak times (8 p.m. to 8 a.m.) when it is least expensive. If you would like to make the switch to a TOU rate, give us a call.



New TOU rate

- Service charge: \$50 per month
- **On-peak: 8.7¢ per kWh**
- **Off-peak: 5¢ per kWh**
- Off-peak hours: 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. (weekends and major holidays are recognized as off-peak)

TOU strategies

- Use the delay feature on your appliances
- Set your thermostat appropriately, particularly when you are away from home
- Turn off lights, appliances and TVs when not in use
- Consider purchasing a power strip and use the power switch to turn everything off when items are not in use
- Watch the clock. Anything after 8 p.m. and before 8 a.m., is 5¢ energy

HELP US CELEBRATE LINeworker APPRECIATION DAY - APRIL 11

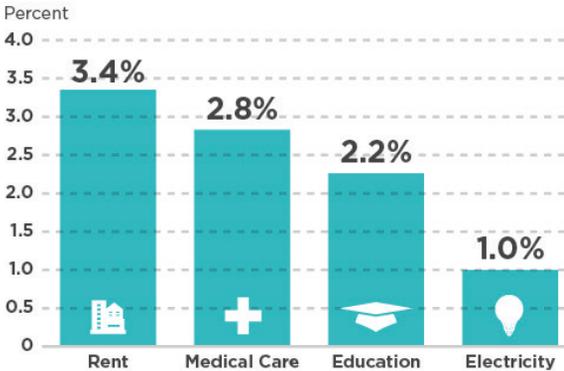
NCE has a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes committed to you. Join us in thanking our lineworkers for their exceptional service.



Nobles Cooperative Electric invites members to take a moment to thank our lineworkers for the work that they do. They are always up for the challenge. Show your support for those that help keep the lights on by dropping them a note on our Facebook page or with your next electric bill.

Electricity remains a good value

Average Annual Price Increase 2015-2020



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index
NCE's last rate adjustment was in 2012.

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses.

Using the prices between 2015 and 2020, rent rose 3.4 percent, medical care 2.8 percent, education 2.2 percent and electricity rose just 1 percent *nationally*.

If at times it doesn't feel like electricity is affordable, remember that even as demand grows, electricity still remains a good value!

We are committed to making sure you have safe, reliable and affordable electricity.



Nobles Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Official monthly publication

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7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Oct. 1 - April 30

24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

Electrical inspectors

Murray County
Randal Maha - 507-274-5261
Nobles County
David Koutek - 507-669-1500

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

Board of Directors

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Next Board Meeting

March 24, 2022

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Country Cupboard No Bread Breakfast Pizza

Lana Zins
Fulda

1 pkg. pork sausage - any flavor
1/2 c. scrambled eggs
1/2 can cream of mushroom soup

8 oz. mozzarella cheese
Toppings - seasoning as desired

Spread sausage on prepared pizza pan and bake for 15 minutes at 350 degrees. When browned, drain (33-70-49) grease. Spread on soup, eggs, toppings and cheese. Bake for another 15 minutes.

Send your favorite **bread recipe** to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE location number. All entries must be received by March 25. The winning recipe will be featured in the next edition of *Current Matters* and the winner will receive a **\$10 credit** on their electric bill.