

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: BE ENERGY EFFICIENT YEAR-ROUND

Seal in comfort and savings

As energy consumers, we can all play a part in conserving resources and reducing our bills. Here are some practical tips to boost your home's energy efficiency throughout the year:

Know your energy consumption

Start by reviewing your energy bills for the past 12–24 months. Calculate your average monthly usage to establish a baseline for measuring your energy-saving efforts. If you want to skip the calculator, you can log in to SmartHub and see your average usage for the last 12 months.

Adopt no-cost ways to save energy

Small changes can lead to significant savings:

- Turn off lights and unplug electronics such as chargers when not in use.
- Close or lower window coverings to regulate the temperature indoors.
- Change your air filters regularly as recommended.
- Use ceiling fans strategically: counterclockwise in summer and clockwise in winter to force warm air down.
- Grill outdoors in summer to keep the heat out of the kitchen.

Insulate your home

Weatherproofing is key to maintaining comfort and reducing energy use:

- Check for air leaks around windows and doors using the wet finger or tissue test.
- Apply caulk or weather stripping to prevent drafts.
- Remember to keep doors closed to maintain indoor temperature.

Get smart with your thermostat

Optimize your heating and cooling by using your programmable thermostat's features — many homeowners never use them — and allow it to adjust the temperature when you're asleep or away.

- Consider upgrading to a smart thermostat for automatic adjustments
- In general, adjust the thermostat a few degrees up or down for energy savings.

Explore renewable energy

Consider harnessing the power of natural energy sources:

- Look into installing solar energy panels for your home.
- Research local community solar programs that may be available.

Consult your electricity provider early in the process. They can provide valuable information about:

- Grid connection requirements.
- Cost considerations.
- Potential rebates available for renewable energy installations.

By implementing these tips, you'll not only save on energy costs but also contribute to a more sustainable community. For more tips on building a resilient and efficient home, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).



6 Tips for Year-Round ENERGY SAVINGS

- 1 Use your ceiling fan** counterclockwise in the summer for a down breeze, and clockwise in the winter for an updraft to force warm air down into your room.
- 2 Turn off lights** and unplug chargers and electronics when not in use.
- 3 Regularly change or clean your furnace and indoor AC filters** as recommended, and keep the area around your outdoor AC unit clear of obstructions.
- 4 Close or lower window coverings** to keep out heat or cold.
- 5 Insulate your home** and weatherproof windows and doors.
- 6 Use a programmable or smart thermostat.** Adjust the temperature a few degrees for overall savings.

Get more tips on creating a resilient and efficient home:



FROM THE BOARD ROOM

November 2024 Board Meeting Highlights



Monthly Reports:

The Operations report discussed winter projects including pole replacements, low clearances, and work plan projects. Bid documents were sent out and the opening date for bids is December 5, 2024. The

dump truck has been placed on the Wisconsin Surplus Auction site.

The Energy Management report noted the lead time on new meter orders is shorter than in recent history, water heater sales are up, and training for the new load management system has begun.

The CFO discussed October's financial performance, as kilowatt-hour sales and revenue were below budget.

The CEO/General Manager had various updates for open session. The SunDEC 4 solar purchased power

agreement has been completed and construction should be finished by the end of 2025. Staff is still working on the Strategic Plan for 2025-26 and board input is requested.

The following items were approved:

- Capital credit estate payout for deceased members.
- Audit committee report of all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investment accounts.

Other Business:

Reviewed the monthly report of new Cooperative members.

Reviewed the monthly educational piece, the NRECA Governance podcast on New Director Orientation.

Clean up your paper clutter this New Year!



HELP

Begin the New Year cleaning up your paper clutter by signing up for paperless billing through SmartHub. While you're there, check out the other great benefits SmartHub has to offer:

- Pay your bill online
- Check your usage
- Manage your account
- Set up recurring and stored payments
- Communicate directly with the co-op

Start the New Year off right and sign up for SmartHub online. It's Dunn Energy Cooperative's FREE and mobile online payment system. Click on the sign-up link and follow the prompts to create your user name and password. Questions? Call or visit us at 715-232-6240 or www.dunnenergy.com.

