

Spotlight

FROM THE MANAGER—JIM HATHAWAY

Getting ready for winter

Labor Day weekend traditionally marks the end of summer here in Western Wisconsin. That means that winter is not too far away. Last winter was fairly long and cold. Long, cold winters mean higher energy bills. We frequently get calls after a cold winter month from members who wonder why their electric bill is so high. While winter's snow and cold temperatures are still a few months away it is not too soon to begin planning how to reduce your winter electric bill.

The most obvious way to save on energy bills is to turn down the temperature on your thermostat. For many of us that's also the most unpopular, but the fact is that each degree you lower your thermostat will save you about 3% on your heating bill. There are other ways to save money on heating bills, such as regular replacement of furnace filters and vacuuming dusty baseboard heaters. Both allow better circulation of heat to your rooms or house.

If you're not a big fan of reducing the setting on your thermostat, another great way to conserve is to increase the insulation in your home. A lot of older homes in Western Wisconsin are under-insulated. That can lead to energy and heat loss. Ok, so how do you find out what you need to do with your home? The best way to find out if

your home is under-insulated and what steps to take to fix the problem, is a home energy audit.

Through our Energy Sense program Dunn Energy offers a \$150 credit towards the cost of a home energy audit. Up to another \$500 if the work identified in the audit is performed. Check out our website at www.dunnenergy.com for details. The best part about insulating your home better is that the saving add up year after year.

In addition to increasing the insulation in your home, another way to save energy is to better seal your home. According to some sources the average home loses 30 percent of its heated or cooled air because of air infiltration. Sometimes air leaks are obvious. If you pass by a window or door and feel a change in temperature, something is wrong. Some folks think it means they need new windows, and that could be the case. But for most, spending a few minutes and a few dollars to seal a home adds up to big savings.

Cold air enters a home through small openings. To find problem areas, use a lit incense stick and move it around the edge of closed windows and doors. If the smoke moves there's a problem. Here are a few remedies to fix the problem:

- Add weather stripping to the edges of windows and doors. Stripping typically uses sticky tape to adhere to the side of the window and fill gaps.
- If your home uses single pane windows, consider adding storm

windows to the exterior as added insulation.

- Replace old cracked caulking. Make sure you use caulking designed for the application. There are different types of caulk for exterior, interior, and bathroom applications; don't use bathroom caulk on the outside of your home. Also, make sure the caulk can be painted if you want it to blend in with the rest of your home.
- Use insulated curtains to prevent further heat loss.
- Remove window air conditioning units when summer ends.

Dunn Energy is a member of Touchstone Energy; a nationwide organization of electric cooperatives. Touchstone Energy has developed a web site to help you identify more ways to reduce the amount of electricity you use and save money. The name of the web site is www.togetherwesave.com. If you visit the web site you will find a number of other ways that you can reduce your electric consumption and save money.

All of the tips and the information provided on the web site are designed to help you understand how you use electricity and how you can reduce the amount of electricity you use, and save money. Ultimately, energy conservation is likely to be the best way to save money and help the environment. Every kilowatt hour that you don't use means less electricity that has to be generated and less coal that has to be burned. That's good for you and good for the environment!



Be sure to visit
TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

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DORM SAFETY: 101

AVOID ELECTRICAL OVERLOAD



It's the time of year when college campuses are preparing for students moving all of their worldly possessions into their home away from home - the dorm!



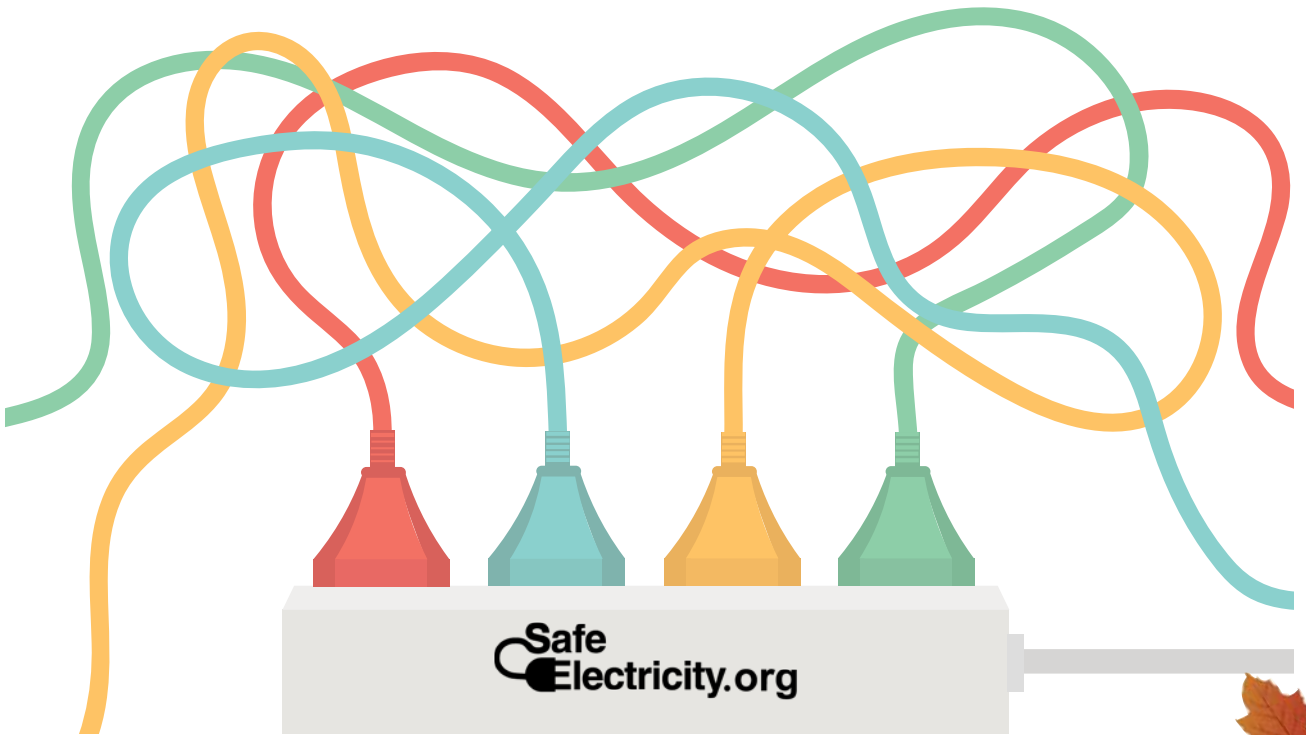
Safe Electricity urges everyone to make sure their college-bound students take precautions to prevent and protect themselves from campus-related fires and shocks. **Do not overload your electrical outlets, power strips, or extension cords.** Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.



Potentially older wiring in student housing and apartments may not be able to handle the increased electrical demand of today's college student. If use of an appliance frequently causes power to trip off or if its power cord or the outlet feels hot, the appliance should be disconnected immediately and the condition reported to a resident assistant or housing manager.



Visit SafeElectricity.org for a complete list of safety steps to prevent and reduce the risk of electrical fires.



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This newsletter is published for the members of Dunn Energy Cooperative. If you have questions or comments please give us a call. Visit the Energy Professionals at your local energy cooperative.

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Calendar of Events

September 2018

22 Women on Target – Menomonie Public Shooting Range – An event for women to learn to safely handle all types of guns from knowledgeable instructors – For registration information contact Patti at 920-979-1128 or by email at pattimira@gmail.com

If you have any upcoming events you'd like to post in our calendar, please call Jolene at 232-6240 or email her at jolene@dunnenergy.com.