

Wake ElectriConnection

“the power to make
a difference”

a newsletter for members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation

Oct. 2007



Wake Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Energy use—myth versus fact

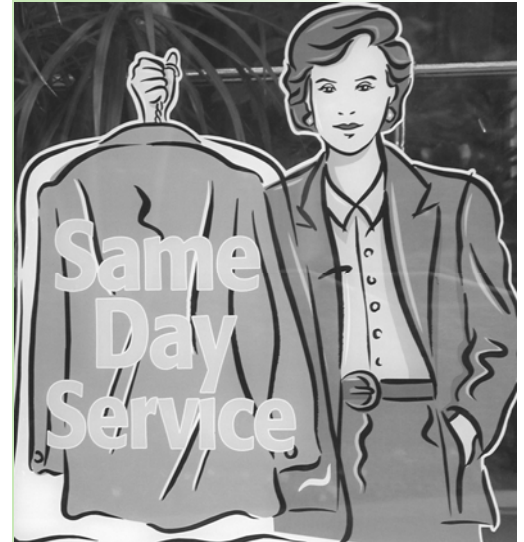
As electric bills start to rise, electric co-ops are looking for ways to help reduce their members' energy use and save them money. Although there are a lot of good ideas out there, there are a lot of misconceptions as well about what really works. Check out some of the most common myths and the facts to set you on the right path.

Myth: Screen savers reduce energy use.

Fact: Screen savers do not cut energy use. Screen savers were developed to mitigate a problem called “screen burn-in” that can occur in both cathode ray tube (CRT) and liquid crystal display (LCD) computer monitors and TV screens. Burn-in occurs when a given image, such as a logo or a menu bar for a computer program, appears on a monitor for a long period of time. By using a screen saver, you prevent specific images from being displayed in the same location when your computer is dormant for a long period of time, thus avoiding burn-in. But it takes just as much energy to display a screen saver on your screen as it does to display any other program. If not in use, turn off your monitor and computer to save energy.

Myth: When leaving a room for a short period, it's better to leave lights on than to turn them off.

Fact: For incandescent bulbs, it's always better to turn the lights off. For fluorescent lights, there are some trade-offs. Fluorescent lights use slightly more energy on start-up, but the light needs to be off for only about a second to make up for that surge. The life of a fluorescent light is also shortened by frequent on-and-off switching. The actual break-even point depends on the cost of the lamp and the local electricity costs and is typically 5 to 15 minutes. However, a good guideline for fluorescent lighting is as follows: unless you're switching the lights every few minutes, it is generally cost-effective to turn the lights off whenever you leave the room.



Did you know?

It costs approximately the same price to dry clean a business suit as it does to provide electricity to the average home for one day?

Electricity, a good value.

Decorating for Halloween? Remember...



Plug electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold.

Students who make at least one “A” on their report card can enter by Oct. 31 to win a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond!

That’s right. Any student making at least one “A” (or the equivalent) in grades K-12 whose parents or legal guardians live in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Wake, or Vance counties, can enter a drawing to win a \$50 U.S. savings bond. All you need to do is mail in your most recent report card highlighting the “A” by no later than Oct. 31. Mail to:



Give Us an “A”
Wake Electric
P.O. Box 1229
Wake Forest, NC 27588

Funds are made possible through member contributions to Operation RoundUp. Through the Operation RoundUp program, members have their light bill rounded up to the next whole dollar. For example, if your light bill is \$91.85, then your bill is rounded up 15 cents to \$92.00. For information on rolling deadlines and requirements or about Operation RoundUp, go to www.wemc.com or call 919.863.6376 or 1.800.474.6300.

Energy Saving Tip #121: If your water heater is located in an unconditioned space, consider installing a thermal wrap around it. Take care to install it according to manufacturer’s instructions. Visit our website for more energy saving tips at www.wemc.com.

Want a more convenient way to pay your bill?



Did you know that you can use your bank’s on-line bill payment service to consolidate all of your bill paying on one site? Just go to your bank’s website and follow the links to set up on-line bill pay. You can set up your account to pay most of your monthly bills on a date specified by you and for an amount specified by you. Never take another

trip to a post office or worry about a late payment again when it comes to bill paying.

For other options to make bill paying easier, be sure to check out the details on the front and back of your most recent electric bill. You’ll find ways to sign up for automatic bank draft service or to sign up for budget billing. For more information, visit our website at www.wemc.com.

So go ahead. Grab a cup of coffee. A muffin. A biscuit. A croissant. Sit down in a comfy chair in front of your computer and enjoy pain-free bill paying.

Installing Low-Flow shower heads and faucet aerators is the single most effective water conservation savings you can do for your home.

Inexpensive and simple to install, low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators can reduce your home water consumption as much as 50%, and reduce your energy cost of heating the water also by as much as



50%. This conservation of water and energy is not only good for the environment, but the savings in your utility bills will pay for the cost of the aerators within a few months. From then on, you enjoy continued savings.

Wake Electric is committed to community development

In September, Wake Electric sponsored the Triangle North Regional Update. The event was developed as an opportunity for business owners, professionals, and the general public to meet influential elected officials and to learn more about the exciting trends in the growth of northern Wake, Franklin, Vance, and Granville counties.

“When we first turned the power on over 50 years ago in this region, it was to a little over 300 farms, homes and businesses,” said Phil Price, assistant general manager and COO for Wake Electric. “Today we serve over thirty-two thousand members and we’re adding over 2,000 each year.”

Most of that growth has taken place in the past few years, said Price, who noted that Wake Electric has been one of the fastest growing cooperatives in the state for the past 15 years.

“This exciting growth brings with it many challenges to businesses and community leaders,” said Price. “We must provide the services for both the people here today as well as do a good job of planning for the future as we continue to make our area one of the best places to live and work in the country.”

The event was hosted by the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and Embarq Regional Headquarters.



Phil Price, chief operating officer and assistant general manager, welcomed area officials, including representatives for U.S. Senator Richard Burr and Elizabeth Dole, NC Senator Doug Berger, NC Representative Lucy Allen, Franklin County officials, Town of Wake Forest officials, and Town of Youngsville officials.

Put your windows to work by saving you money

Although windows provide our homes with light and ventilation, they can negatively impact a home’s energy efficiency. Air conditioning and heating units fight with poorly sealed and/or thin windows to keep your home at a comfortable temperature, which accounts for 10 to 25 percent of your monthly electric utility bill. Adding storm



windows to your home can help improve the efficiency of your windows.

Storm windows improve the comfort of your home by slowing the heat movement and reducing air leakage. They can also help protect the primary windows of your home from weather damage,

such as rain or snowmelt. Beyond saving energy, storm windows can lower the maintenance costs on your primary windows and reduce outside noise and pollutants from entering your home. Storm windows also make it more difficult for potential intruders to enter a home through a window.

Interior storm windows are better suited for apartments and homes with more than one floor. They are also easier to install and remove and require less maintenance because they are not exposed to outdoor elements. Exterior storm windows are energy efficient, but a bit pricey, and it may be more cost efficient to replace your current windows.

When installing storm windows, it is important to remember that despite the type of storm window you install, the storm window frame must be hung square with the primary window. You should also consider how easy it is to move the storm window for cleaning and ventilation.

Yummy Chocolate S'more Pie—Oh my!

This Halloween—you'll find that it's impossible to go wrong with layers of graham, chocolate, and marshmallow. Broiling the gooey top creates an irresistible golden crown that crackles each time the pie is sliced.

Ingredients

For crust

1 graham cracker crumb crust, baked and cooled completely

For chocolate cream filling

7 oz fine-quality bittersweet chocolate (not more than 70% cacao; not unsweetened), finely chopped

1 cup heavy cream

1 large egg, at room temperature for 30 minutes

For marshmallow topping

1 teaspoon unflavored gelatin (from a 1/4-oz package)

1/2 cup cold water

3/4 cup sugar

1/4 cup light corn syrup

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Vegetable oil for greasing

Preparation

Special equipment: a candy thermometer

Prepare graham cracker crumb crust and reserve.



Photo by Duane Winfield; recipe courtesy of Epicurious.com

then gently whisk until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth. Gently whisk in egg and a pinch of salt until combined and pour into graham cracker crumb crust (crust will be about half full).

Cover edge of pie with a pie shield or foil and bake until filling is softly set and trembles slightly in center when gently shaken, about 25 minutes. Cool pie to room temperature on a rack (filling will firm as it cools), about 1 hour.

Make chocolate cream filling:

Put oven rack in middle position and preheat oven to 350°F. Put chocolate in a large bowl. Bring cream just to a boil in a 1- to 1 1/2-quart heavy saucepan, then pour hot cream over chocolate. Let stand 1 minute,

Make marshmallow topping:

Sprinkle gelatin over 1/4 cup cold water in a large deep heat-proof bowl and let stand until softened, about 1 minute.

Stir together sugar, corn syrup, a pinch of salt, and remaining 1/4 cup water in cleaned 1- to 1 1/4-quart heavy saucepan. Bring to a boil over moderate heat, stirring until sugar is dissolved, then boil until thermometer registers 260°F, about 6 minutes.

Begin beating water and gelatin mixture with an electric mixer at medium speed, then carefully pour in hot syrup in a slow stream, beating (avoid beaters and side of bowl). When all of syrup is added, increase speed to high and continue beating until mixture is tripled in volume and very thick, about 5 minutes. Add vanilla and beat until combined, then immediately spoon topping onto center of pie filling; it will slowly spread to cover top of pie.

Chill, uncovered, 1 hour, then cover loosely with lightly oiled plastic wrap (oiled side down) and chill 3 hours more.

Brown topping:

Preheat broiler.

Transfer pie to a baking sheet. Cover edge of pie with pie shield or foil and broil 3 to 4 inches from heat, rotating pie as necessary, until marshmallow topping is golden brown, about 3 minutes. Cool pie on a rack 10 minutes. Slice pie with a large heavy knife dipped in hot water and then dried with a towel before cutting each slice.

Cooks' notes:

- To take the temperature of a shallow amount of syrup, put bulb in saucepan and turn thermometer facedown, resting other end against rim of saucepan. Check temperature frequently.
- Pie (before browning topping) can be chilled up to 1 day.

Call to report outages:

919.863.6499 or 800.743.3155

Regular Office Hours: M– F, 8 am—5 pm,

Telephone Hours: M– F, 7 am—9 pm,
863.6300 or 800.474.6300

Underground locating service
call N.C. One-Call Center, 811

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Wake Forest, NC 27588 ~ www.wemc.com

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