

Special points of interest:

- CWEC office closed Tuesday, July 4, 2017 to observe Independence Day
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Zion Lutheran Church & CWEC Partner to Make Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Zion Lutheran Church in Tigerton and Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative partnered to make the church more energy efficient. Phase one of the energy efficient upgrades included replacing old inefficient lighting fixtures with new energy efficient ones and adding LED lighting in some areas. Church Treasurer Jan Thompson showed how happy she is with the new lighting by cleverly remarking “I can see the light”. Phase two focused on air leaks that were revealed by an energy audit. Several types of weatherization methods were used to fix the air leaks including adding foam & fiberglass insulation and caulking.

The Church was able to reduce its cash outlay for the upgrades by tapping into Central WI Electric Co-op's Capital Credits for Conservation program. In addition, the church received \$711 in rebates from the Co-op for the upgrades. “We're pleased to be able to help the church complete these efficiency upgrades,” said Co-op Vice President Mark Forseth. “We congratulate Jan and the church council for their commitment to making the church more energy efficient”.



Jan Thompson, Church Treasurer, accepted the check on behalf of Zion Lutheran Church.

Identify Your Energy Abusers

Have you ever wondered what your appliances cost you to run? If so, CWEC has a device that can help you identify energy abusers in your home. With the Kill A Watt electricity usage monitor you can find out what appliances are actually worth keeping plugged in. Simply connect any household appliance to the Kill A Watt, and it will assess how efficient they really are. The large LCD will display the power consumption by the kilowatt hour which is the measure we bill you for each month. With Kill A Watt you'll know if it is time to unplug that old refrigerator in the garage or replace an old energy inefficient appliance with a new energy efficient one. We'll let you borrow one from us (deposit required) or purchase one for only \$35.



Energy Efficiency Rebates Available

Did you know your cooperative offers rebates for energy efficiency upgrades? If not, we're pleased to inform you we offer rebates for all sorts of upgrades including Energy Star appliance purchases, insulation, new windows, heat pumps, alternative water heaters, LED lighting and much more. For a detailed listing please visit www.cwecoop.com or give us a call.

Mark Your Calendar.... Labor Day Celebration

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, September 4, 2017, in recognition of Labor Day. Regular business will resume on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. From everyone at CWEC, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend!

Easy steps to greater 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. 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 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. To learn about additional ways to save, contact Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative at 1-800-377-2932 or visit our website at www.cwecoop.com.

2017 Member Photo Contest Deadline

Don’t forget to submit your photo(s) for the photo contest. The deadline is August 25, 2017. For complete rules visit our website at www.cwecoop.com or call our office.



Electric Line

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