

Give Your Electric Bill a Vacation, Too

TAKING SOME MUCH-NEEDED TIME AWAY during spring break can be expensive. A great way to save money is to give your electric bill a vacation, too. There are several steps you can take to trim your electricity usage while you're away:

Unplug some of your household appliances. Your house has many items that always use electricity when they're plugged in, even when turned off. Unplugging these items not only saves energy but also can prevent fires during your absence. Some of

the more common items are: TVs, DVD players, cable TV boxes, microwave ovens, toasters and other small kitchen appliances.

Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting.

The fridge can be set as high as 40 degrees without spoiling food; the freezer can be set at 5 degrees. On these settings, you can conserve up to 40 percent of the refrigerator's electric usage.

If you are going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off entirely. Remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew.

Set the thermostat higher (or lower) than the typical comfort level. In warmer weather, you can shut off the air conditioner during your absence, or at least consider setting it to a higher-than-normal temperature, 80 degrees or above.

If it's still cold out, you should consider lowering your thermostat but to no

lower than 55 degrees. Typically, you can save 10–30 percent on heating costs by doing this. A programmable thermostat can make these adjustments automatically.

Turn down the water heater. A large percentage of the cost of running a water heater comes from just keeping the water at the selected temperature. If you are going on a lengthy trip, turn down the temperature to the lowest setting. This can save you up to \$10 a month.

Consider using timers to turn lights on and off every night. Timers can save energy and also give an appearance that someone is home. For the lights that will be on the longest—inside and outside—use CFL or LED bulbs. These use at least 75 percent less power than traditional bulbs and last longer.

Follow these tips while you're away for spring break and put your mind at ease about your electric bill. Then you can enjoy that vacation even more!



Hire a professional to get your HVAC system ready for summer.

How Does Your HVAC Flow?

YOUR HVAC SYSTEM plays a key role in your comfort, so keeping it in tiptop shape is important.

The connections at vents and registers in your heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system are common spots for air leaks and disconnected ductwork. Make sure these areas are well sealed where they meet floors, walls and the ceiling.

Sealing and insulating ducts can help with common comfort problems, such as rooms that are too hot in the summer or too cold in the winter.

Leaky ducts can reduce heating and cooling system efficiency by as much as 20 percent. Sealing and insulating ducts increases efficiency, lowers your energy bills and can often pay for itself in electricity savings.

Clean the area around the outdoor components of your HVAC system.

As the seasons change, it's a good idea to have a professional inspect and tune up the HVAC system.

Don't forget to change air filters regularly. Dirty filters lower efficiency and increase the cost of operating your HVAC system.



Going on vacation? Adjust your thermostat to give your electric bill a break.

CATHERINE VEUILLET | ISTOCK.COM

JODI JACOBSON | ISTOCK.COM

Official Notice

THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE OF Wood County Electric Cooperative will meet at the cooperative office at 501 S. Main St. in Quitman at least 40 days before the annual meeting. The committee is composed of the following members:

Carolyn Bryant

201 E. Oak
Yantis 75497

Willie Cicero

1010 State Highway 64
Ben Wheeler 75754

James "Jimmy" D. Hamm

583 CR 4815
Winnsboro 75494

Clarence Meiske

1547 FM 2659
Hawkins 75765

Glenn E. Morris

268 FM 900 E.
Mount Vernon 75457

Judy Peoples

1646 VZ CR 1222
Grand Saline 75140

Beverly Waddleton

P.O. Box 996
Quitman 75783

Nomination and election of directors is defined in Article V, Section 3 of the bylaws. Copies of the bylaws are available upon request by calling the cooperative at (903) 763-2203 and at wcec.org.

The Elections Committee shall make nominations for directors in districts 2, 3 and 7. Directors whose terms are expiring are: Burke Bullock, District 2; Kenneth Langley, District 3; and Vice President Lewis Young, District 7.

The Annual Meeting of Wood County Electric Cooperative will be held at 2 p.m., Friday, October 6, at Gov. Jim Hogg Park, 101 Governor Hogg Parkway in Quitman.

Power Tip

The seasons are changing!

Call a heating, ventilation and air-conditioning tech to inspect your HVAC system before switching over from winter heating to spring and summer cooling.



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Did You Know

Refrigerators in the U.S. collectively consume about the same amount of energy as 25 large power plants produce every year. Newer models run more efficiently than older ones, drawing less electricity and saving money on users' electric bills.



Wood County Electric Cooperative

501 S. Main St. • P.O. Box 1827
Quitman, TX 75783

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Debbie Robinson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Pat B. Lindley, President, *District 1*
- Lewis D. Young, Vice President, *District 7*
- Cathy S. Roberts, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 5*
- Burke Bullock, *District 2*
- Kenneth Langley, *District 3*
- Brent Glenn, *District 4*
- Jane Roberson, *District 6*



Contact Us

CALL US

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info@wcec.org

OUTAGE HOTLINE

1-866-415-2951

FIND US ON THE WEB

wcec.org

MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- Online account access and bill payment
- Paperless E-Bill services
- Free bill-paying app
- Visa, MasterCard, and Discover accepted
- SmartPower prepay electric system
- Scholarships and youth programs
- Safety and energy conservation programs

MOBILE CONVENIENCE CENTER

- Monday**, First Methodist Church, *Van*
- Tuesday**, Family Dollar, *Mount Vernon*
- Wednesday**, City National Bank, *Hawkins*
- Thursday**, Brookshire's, *Winnsboro*
- Friday**, Economy Drug, *Grand Saline*