

CLARK ENERGY LINES

A publication of Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc., proudly serving our members since 1938.

Think outside the box for energy savings

We all know the usual ways to save energy and money on the electric bill, like turning the lights off in an empty room and setting the thermostat back a few degrees before bedtime.

Here are nine not-so-usual ways to cut energy costs, courtesy of BankRate:

1 When replacing your roof, consider a “cool roof” that uses a highly reflective type of white paint or other material. Large, commercial buildings in hot, sunny climates can expect to save considerable energy on cooling according to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

2 Turn off everything, every night. Unused lights aren't the only energy-wasters in your house. Before you go to bed each night, check every room and turn off ceiling fans; unplug unused phone chargers and the cable box; and check for small appliances and cords that are turned off but still plugged in. Unplug them too.

3 Lower the water heater temperature to 120 degrees. That's a temperature that's hot enough to keep your water clean and bath-

ers comfortable. But it's low enough to prevent scalding and to save you a few bucks on your energy bill.

4 Replace disposable air-conditioning and heating filters with a reusable one. It will save you money on filters, but more importantly, it will allow you to clean the filter more often because you won't have to wait until you buy a new filter.

5 Switch to energy-efficient appliances. If your refrigerator, freezer, washer, or dishwasher is 10 years old, they're energy hogs compared with the latest models.

6 Caulk or weatherstrip around windows and doorframes, and around the top of the basement wall. Look for a small gap or crack between the concrete block

wall and the ceiling. Also fill in holes in the wall where wires, cables, and pipes enter the home from outside.

7 Compare your electric bill with your meter. Clark Energy does a careful, accurate job of billing you only for the energy you use. But it's prudent to check for yourself each month.

8 Buy ENERGY STAR appliances. Whenever you need something new that has anything to do with electricity—a major appliance, a fan, a light bulb—check for the ENERGY STAR label. Those products are guaranteed to use less energy than other devices. Those savings add up.

9 Install a programmable thermostat. The newest smart thermostats do everything from “sensing” that nobody's home—and set themselves back—to keeping a record of your energy use in case you want to figure out where you're wasting energy. Automatically turning the a/c up or the heat down a few degrees when everyone's asleep will mean substantial savings on your heating and cooling bills.



From the President's Desk

Contact Us

CLARK EC OFFICE LOCATIONS

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OFFICE HOURS

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**To report an outage, please call
(800) 992-3269.**

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Clark Energy is using high-tech innovation to attract jobs to our communities

Kentucky has a lot to offer to out-of-state, out-of-country companies looking for the next opportunity to open or expand a manufacturing facility.

We have a skilled workforce, access to over two-thirds of the U.S. population within a day's drive. We have outstanding transportation —airports, railroads, highways, and waterways—plentiful water, abundant natural resources, and some of the nation's lowest utility rates. The challenge is to tell our story in a way that convinces companies searching for new locations to look our way.

That's why we are using high-tech innovations to showcase our communities.

At Clark Energy we believe data is power. By using technology to tell our local community stories through economic data, we are featuring Kentucky in unique ways that have never been available before. Clark Energy is leveraging three technology initiatives to give our communities a competitive edge in the high-stakes world of economic development.

One key initiative is called PowerMap. We worked with other electric co-ops to develop this app for smartphones and other mobile devices, using GPS mapping of our co-op's service territory. People are using PowerMap to quickly and precisely pinpoint locations and retrieve information about our communities.

Housed within PowerMap is an online platform called StateBook, which provides the latest economic data about our communities. Statebook has 63,000 data points and can relay instant information about local sites available for development.

The latest update to PowerMap is called PowerVision. This initiative uses drone imagery so companies can virtually visit prospective industrial sites. With our five-minute PowerVision videos, interested parties can see available lots, property lines, highways, railroads, and nearby businesses. In minutes, anyone sitting anywhere in the world can get critical information that could put our communities on the short list for their next industrial project. Take a look at PowerVision by visiting www.DataIsPower.org or by downloading the PowerMap app.

Clark Energy is using high-tech tools to put our communities on the map of site selectors around the world. We want to bring good jobs to our communities and improve the lives of all those connected through our co-op's lines.



Chris Brewer, President & CEO

2017 Citizen-Scholar Scholarship

Clark Energy Cooperative is offering 16 \$1,000 scholarships in a program designed to enhance the education and resulting careers of students in our service area. The scholarships are one-time, nonrenewable grants paid directly to the student's chosen college, university, or trade school. Funds may be paid to both in- and out-of-state institutions.

Participation Requirements:

- Eligible applicants are graduating high school seniors planning to enroll in an accredited college, university, or trade school.
- Eligible applicant or applicant's parents/guardians must have a residential or business account with Clark Energy and the account must be registered in one or both names. In the event the applicant's parents or guardians reside in separate households served by different cooperatives that offer scholarship programs, the applicant's address listed on the official transcript will serve as the primary eligible account.
- Funds requested by the student, whether in full or partial payments, must be made within two years or the remainder of funds is forfeited, unless prior arrangements have been made.
- Students applying for Clark EC scholarships must have a minimum 2.5 GPA and be in good standing. An official transcript must accompany the application.
- Entries will be judged on the following: Essay—45%; School/Community Involvement—30%; GPA—25%. A panel of judges not employed by Clark EC will review the applications and judge the essays.
- The applicant cannot be related to an employee, manager, or director of Clark EC or Clark Propane Plus.
- Applicants must make a typed response of 250-500 words and discuss **something you have done to make a difference in your community**. Good grammar and spelling are judged heavily.
- All materials requested must accompany the application or the scholarship application is disqualified. Clark Energy will not contact the student for any missing material.

The deadline for applying is Friday, May 5, 2017, at 4 p.m.

For an application, please visit our website at www.clarkenergy.com, and click on "My Community." If you prefer, you can obtain an application in your school counselor's office, or request one by sending an email to lhatton@clarkenergy.com and one will be mailed.

DISCLAIMER: Citizen Scholar awards will be chosen by the decision of a panel of judges selected by Clark Energy Cooperative Inc. All decisions of the judges are final. All materials, images, resumes, essays, and applications submitted by the applicant become the sole and absolute property of Clark Energy Cooperative Inc. and its affiliated companies. It is the sole decision and discretion of Clark Energy Cooperative Inc. to disqualify any applicant who does not comply with any of the entry and participation rules as set forth in the application process. Incomplete or inappropriate entries will not be considered for awards.



Daylight Saving Time

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 12!** Set your clocks ahead by one hour.

Clean your house; lower your energy bill

The cleaner your house is, the more you could save on your energy bill.

While you're scrubbing your home from floor to ceiling this year, give a good cleaning to:

- **Air conditioning filters.** Keep them clean—or change them regularly if they're disposable—to ensure that air can easily pass through them when you run your air conditioner. That will help your system run more efficiently, which means it uses less energy. Plus, a clean filter helps prevent irritants like dust and pollen from blowing through your a/c vents.
- **Ceiling fan.** How often do you climb up high enough to dust the tops and bottoms of the blades—and, if they're attached to a light, to wipe down the bulb? While you're up there, flip the switch that controls the direction of the fan blades.

In the summer, you want the blades to push air down into the room, not pull it toward the ceiling.

- **Light bulbs.** The fan light is not the only bulb that has been collecting dust all year. Use a dry, microfiber cloth to wipe down bulbs in ceiling fixtures, lamps, and sconces. Remove decorative covers and carefully rinse them with warm, sudsy water. Dry thoroughly before replacing them.
- **Vents.** They're something most people never clean. Easily remove wall and ceiling vents with a screwdriver, and rinse them with water. Don't replace them until they're completely dry. A clean vent helps your a/c system with air circulation and cuts down on any airborne particles the a/c might blow into your house.
- **Electronics and appliances.** At least once a year, crawl in behind every

TV set, computer, printer, refrigerator, and washer/dryer in your home to dust off the cords, wipe down the back of the appliance, and sweep the floor. If your refrigerator has an ice maker, you might need to ask a plumber for assistance; you don't want to accidentally pull the plumbing connection out of the wall. While the fridge is away from the wall, vacuum any exposed coils.

- **Dryer vent.** You know how full of fuzz and pet hair the lint tray in your dryer is after every load of clothes? The vent that spews the hot air from the dryer to the outdoors so it won't get in your house is even fuller. Ask an electrician to clean your dryer vent at least once a year. If it's too clogged, your dryer won't operate efficiently. And in extreme cases, that clogged vent can catch on fire.

If you're rural and you're proud...



Electric cooperatives have a long history of serving underserved populations in rural and small-town America.

Since the 1930s, when cooperatives began lighting

up rural America—because investor-owned, city-based utilities refused to run their lines out to isolated communities—many co-op communities have grown and become a bit more urbanized. But cooperatives still have a mission to supply electricity to even the most rural neighborhoods.

If you're small-town proud, you can celebrate your rural roots with the Center for Rural Affairs (www.cfra.org), which advocates for healthcare, clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and community development in nonurban America.

It even sells “rural swag”—T-shirts, bags, caps, and cups.

The center is an organization of farmers, small-business owners, small-town officials, environmentalists, and rural advocates.