

CLARK ENERGY LINES

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

Make every day Earth Day with some simple energy savers

Earth Day is on April 22. Here are 10 ways to celebrate by saving energy at home:

1 Call a qualified air-conditioning technician to service your central air-conditioning system. HVAC equipment needs service every year to head off major problems and keep the system running smoothly all summer.

2 As long as the spring weather is mild, open a window instead of turning on the air conditioner. Draw soft breezes into the home by turning on your ceiling fans.

3 Cook outside on the grill as soon as the weather permits it. When you don't turn on your kitchen's cooktop or oven, you don't heat up your house.

4 Close the shades. It's tempting to leave them open on beautiful, sunny spring days. But if it's hot outside, that heat can find its way into your house through the windows and tempt you to crank the a/c up unnecessarily.

5 If it's sunny but not hot outdoors, throw those curtains open and let the natural daylight illuminate your home. Then, turn off the lights. You won't need them.

6 Don't have a programmable thermostat yet? It's time. Sometimes spring weather calls for heat and sometimes you need the a/c. A programmable thermostat will help you limit how much energy you use for either by automatically turning the temperature up or down as needed.



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7 Seal the ducts in your central air-conditioning system. Leaky ducts can push your cooling costs up by as much as 30 percent.

8 Likewise, caulk around windows and electrical outlets so cool air can't escape your house and hot air can't get in.

9 Keep your home's humidity levels low by running kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans—but only until the smoke or steam clears. Running them for too long will suck more humidity and odor from your home. Those fans can send your comfortable, conditioned air out of the house.

10 Change your a/c filter. A clogged filter forces your system to work harder and use more energy. It can also send the dust and allergens it collects right back into your indoor air.

From the President's Desk

Contact Us

CLARK EC OFFICE LOCATIONS

2640 Iron Works Road,
Winchester 40391
28 Bible Camp Lane,
Frenchburg 40322
170 Halls Lane, Stanton 40380

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.,
Monday - Friday

OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

Winchester - (859) 744-4251
Frenchburg - (606) 768-2383
Stanton - (606) 663-4330
Toll Free - (800) 992-3269
Emergency - (800) 992-3269
Fax - (859) 744-4218

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

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A Day in the Life of a Lineman

Lineman Appreciation Day April 10

It could probably be said that without our linemen Clark Energy wouldn't exist.

Our linemen are the ones who build our electric system and string the lines that bring safe, reliable, and affordable electricity into your home.

Our linemen are usually the ones you associate with Clark Energy. They are out in the community, usually at all hours, especially when inclement weather strikes, making sure your power keeps flowing.

Because of their importance to you and our co-op, in 2015 our national association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, set aside the second Monday of every April as Lineman Appreciation Day. This year's Lineman Day is April 10.

To really 'appreciate' what our linemen do, let's spend a day in the life of our linemen.

No two days are alike. When a lineman arrives at work, he or she receives a work order from the superintendent outlining the day's jobs. Then, the truck is loaded with the needed materials—poles, wires, transformers, hot stick, line hardware, tool belt, climbing tools, rubber gloves, and a host of other equipment to ensure their safety.

Once at the job site, a tailgate session is conducted to go over the job specifics again and to determine what, if any, job hazards there might be. SAFETY is always our top priority on any job!

A lineman's job may entail running service to a house or business (either overhead or underground), hanging a transformer, digging and setting a utility pole, or hanging security lights. At the end of each job, and before the power is restored, a lineman or a crew will run an inspection to make sure power flows properly. Sometimes a job may be put on hold if there is a power outage—getting your power back in the quickest possible manner is also a top priority.

At the end of the day, the line truck that was loaded is then unloaded—but only if it's a typical day. The day in the life of a lineman usually isn't typical, especially when bad weather hits. It's a tough job, and that's why we appreciate our linemen so much. Off they go, leaving loved ones in the dead of night, or even traveling several states away to help other electric cooperatives restore power. That's just what linemen do.

If you are out and about April 10 and you see any of your linemen, please take the time to tell them how much you appreciate what they do!



Chris Brewer, President & CEO

YOUR SAFETY MATTERS

Girl suffers burns after entering a substation

An 11-year-old girl participating in a game of truth or dare climbed over a 10-foot substation fence topped with barbed wire and suffered devastating consequences that forever changed her life.



She came into contact with equipment in the substation that electrically shocked her and caused burns over 45 percent of her body. Police in the small Vermont town where she lived believed she got close enough for an arc of electricity to jump from the equipment and shock her.

Thankfully, she survived. But many people who enter substations do not. Doing so is illegal, and it can be deadly.

Now that spring is here, this is a good time to have a conversation with your children and teenagers about substation safety. Tell them to stay away from

substations, and share with them that they do not have to touch equipment inside the substation to be shocked. Just getting close can cause an arc that can have tragic consequences.

'Danger' and 'Keep Out' signs are posted on substations, and it is breaking the law to enter a substation. Never enter a substation to retrieve balls, kites, pets, balloons, or other items. Call our co-op or any electric utility for help. This conversation can save your child's life.

And if you see a child inside a substation, call the police.

Clark Energy cares about your family's safety. Teach your children about substation safety. And keep them safe.

Thunderstorm safety tips from the American Red Cross

When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes, or increasing winds.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
- Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Keep away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower, or use plumbing.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency



- flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts, and sheds are NOT safe.

Source: American Red Cross

Hire the right electrician for the job

If you didn't buy your home new, or if it is more than 20 years old, you should have an electrician check your electrical system to be sure it can safely handle your family's growing electricity needs.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers tips for selecting the best electrician for the job.

- Look online for a directory of local electrical contractors.
- Ask the electrician to show you current insurance certificates for liability, property damage, and workers' compensation.
- Choose an electrician who has a contractor's license from the state.
- Do not hire electricians who go door-to-door asking for work. Reputable companies don't need to do that.
- Call more than one electrical contractor for estimates so you can comparison shop.
- Ask the contractor for local references or check with the Better Business Bureau.



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- Determine if the electrician is part of a national or regional electrical association. Membership doesn't guarantee a quality inspection, but associations offer educational programs to keep members up to date on technological advancements.

How to buy a HEPA vacuum cleaner

If someone in your home has allergies or asthma, you need to keep your home as free of dust and other airborne allergens as possible. A high-efficiency particulate air—or HEPA—vacuum cleaner can help you do that.

If you're in the market for a HEPA vacuum cleaner, consider:

- **The size of your home.** The bigger the vacuum cleaner, the more expensive it is. So if you live in a small apartment, buy a small vacuum. If you live in a big home, though, the investment in a large machine might be worth it.
- **Your floor coverings.** Few who suffer from severe allergies have wall-to-wall carpeting because it traps so much dust and dirt. If you do have a lot of rugs around the house, though, choose a vacuum cleaner with powerful suction, and consider

an upright model. It will be easier on your back. On the other hand, hardwood floors—or even a mix of rugs and wood—call for a canister vacuum that can easily glide from one kind of floor covering to the other.

- **The size of your closets.** Upright vacuum cleaners are easier to tuck into a corner or a closet than canister vacuums. But canister vacuums tend to be lighter than uprights that come with a lot of attachments for vacuuming ceramic tile floors, furniture, and car seats.
- **How bad your allergies are.** A HEPA vacuum cleaner can do a good job of sucking up tiny airborne allergens that have settled on furniture and in carpets. Between cleanings, however, those settled allergens wind up in the air you breathe every time someone walks

on the carpet or sits on a sofa.

- **For severe sufferers,** a built-in central vacuum cleaner system with a high-test motor and an extra-long hose might be a good choice. The vacuum is permanently installed in a basement, garage, or storage room, with inlets installed in walls around the house. Long hoses attach to those inlets so you can vacuum rooms. Dust and allergens are transported to a collection container in the permanent locations.



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