

CLARK ENERGY LINES

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

Make your home smarter one gadget at a time

Making your home even a little bit “smarter” can help your family conserve energy and keep utility bills in check.

Here are five smart devices—electronic gadgets that can interact with each other or with a computer network—that you can add to your home to cut down on wasted energy.

1 Smart plugs Even if your appliances aren't smart, you can plug them into a smart plug. Depending on the model of plug, you may be able to set your appliances and lights to automatically turn on or off. Some models monitor the appliances' energy use.

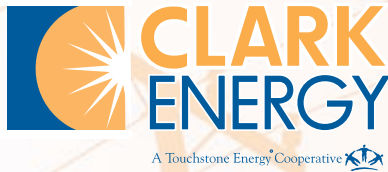
2 Smart thermostat These devices can manage your central air conditioning and heating system and adjust the temperature of your house. According to ENERGY STAR, homes equipped with smart thermostats use an average of 8% less energy.

3 Smart lighting A hub connecting to smart LED lighting fixtures allows the homeowner to schedule them to turn on and off or to control them remotely.



4 Smart motion sensors When they're connected to a wirelessly connected smart lighting system, motion sensors “know” when lights all over the house need to turn on—like when someone walks into the room—or off—when they detect no movement over a period of time. Even without the “smart” feature, a motion sensor in a single room can help your family cut down on wasted electricity.

5 Smart home energy monitors When attached to your home's electrical box, a home energy monitor keeps track of your energy consumption and can reveal patterns in energy use over a day, week or month. The more aware you are of your energy consumption, the more prepared you will be to decide where you could use less.



From the President's Desk

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

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Veterans, thank you for your service

This month our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving and the family feasts that often accompany it. But in our hurry to get to the turkey and stuffing, we often overlook another important date: Veterans Day.

Kentucky is home to more than 300,000 veterans deserving of our gratitude for their service to this country. I'm proud to count many of them as member-owners of Clark Energy.

For 10 years, Clark Energy has honored veterans by joining with Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to sponsor Honor Flight. The all-expenses-paid, one-day tour of Washington, D.C., takes veterans to see memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifices.

Veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War were scheduled to go on this year's Honor Flight, but it was canceled due to COVID-19. Among the group is two-time Bronze Star recipient Bobby Gibson, who served in an artillery unit in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division in the Vietnam War.

During a 12-month tour of duty in Vietnam's jungle, he spent most of his time positioned behind a 155 mm howitzer, an artillery piece that could strike with accuracy up to 9 miles away. Large Chinook helicopters were constantly airlifting Gibson and his squad to "where the action was." The fighting was intense and too often lethal.

It took "a little bit of bravery and a little bit of silliness" to survive the experience, he says.

Gibson and other veterans who were on the roster for Honor Flight 2021 are profiled in articles found at <https://honorflightky.org/aboutus/news-3>.



Kentuckian Bobby Gibson served in an artillery unit in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division in the Vietnam War. During a 12-month tour of duty, he was out of the A Shau Valley and away from fighting along the Ho Chi Minh trail for less than 24 hours. Photo: Tim Webb

As we give thanks this month, let's remember the blessings of America that have been brought to us by the men and women who stepped into the gap in defense of our nation.

To all veterans, we thank you for your service.



Chris Brewer, President & CEO

JUPITERIMAGES

Have a yummy and safe Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving dinner marks the start of the winter holidays and can be a time for family, fun and fabulous food.

It also creates a risk for kitchen fires, usually because of unattended cooking, the use of cooking fryers and the increase in the amount of baking and cooking.

Year-round, cooking causes more house fires and in-home injuries than any other activity. Increased cooking time around the holidays increases the chance of a fire.

Here are some tips for safe Thanksgiving meal prep from the National Fire Prevention Association:

- If the stovetop burners are turned on, you should be in the kitchen.

- Turkeys need to roast for hours. Check on yours often while the oven is roasting.

- Keep children 3 feet away from the hot stove. Not only could they burn themselves on a working burner, the

splatter from steam, hot gravy and brewing coffee can harm them.

- Clean up before you cook. Too much clutter in the kitchen—especially near the stove or on the floor—can cause people to trip, hot food to spill and small appliances or pans to fall over.

- Don't leave knives out when you're not handling them. It might be inconvenient to take them out and put them away all day long, but that makes it harder for a child to pick one up or a cook's helper to accidentally brush against one.

- Candlelight adds ambience to the Thanksgiving table, but don't light the candles until everyone is

ready to sit down. And blow out the flames before you leave the room.

- Check the batteries in your home's smoke alarms. Simply push the test button and listen for the beep.



ANDREY ARMYAGOV/DOBBE STOCK

Clark Energy salutes two Honor Flight heroes

Frank Mulder, a 79-year-old Vietnam veteran, and Andrew Pelfrey, a 79-year-old Vietnam veteran, are Clark Energy's Honor Flight honorees for 2021.

Mulder served in the Air Force from 1960 to 1980.

Pelfrey was in the Air Force from 1961 to 1969.

The two were sponsored by Clark Energy on an Honor Flight that was scheduled to Washington, D.C., in September. Unfortunately, this year's flight, coordinated by Winchester-based Honor Flight Kentucky, had to be canceled due to safety concerns related to the coronavirus, but we hope their mission will take place next year.

We have renewable power resources and two great options

More people are investing in solar energy than ever before. That's a good thing.

Before installing solar panels on your home, please look at these two options offered by our co-op:

- Cooperative Solar: For a one-time fee of \$460, you get a 25-year license for a single solar panel, located at our

60-acre solar farm near Winchester. Each panel produces between 23 and 50 kilowatt-hours of solar energy monthly, and you can license as many panels as you need to offset your annual usage. Every month, the energy output of your licensed panels is credited to your bill. Learn more at www.cooperativesolar.com.

- Envirowatts: You can select energy generated from environmentally friendly solar, wind, biomass and/or hydro sources for as little as \$2.75 monthly. Learn more at <https://www.envirowattsky.com>.

If you have questions, call us. We're your trusted energy advisor.



TIM WEBER

Your Safety Matters

How to safely install holiday lights

One of the most magical things about the holidays is seeing the lights. If you aren't careful, though, improperly installed lighting can cause injury or an electrical fire.

An important first step is to choose the right lights. Outdoor lights are manufactured to withstand rain, wind and snow, while indoor lights have a thinner insulation that can be damaged by weather, resulting in a fire or electric shock.

- Be sure your cords are not frayed because damaged cords can cause an electrical short.
- Always start with a decorating plan and avoid hazards to ensure that your project flows smoothly.
- Don't hang your lights near power lines, and keep indoor lights away from space heaters, candles and fireplaces.

- Avoid hanging lights when the weather is bad. Climbing a slippery ladder onto the roof can be dangerous.
- Wear slip-resistant shoes, climb slowly, avoid sudden movements and make sure to place the ladder on a flat surface.
- Always work with a buddy when hanging decorations. Extend the ladder at least 3 feet beyond the roof edge. Don't step on the top two rungs of the ladder and ask a friend to hold the ladder to keep it secure.
- While climbing, keep your hands free by using a tool belt. Lean the ladder at the correct angle by following this rule: for every 4 feet of ladder height, space the base of the ladder 1 foot from the wall. Stand on the ladder centered between the rungs.
- Don't overreach. Always move the ladder when necessary.



- Never use nails, tacks or staples for hanging because this can pierce the protective insulation on the lights and create a fire hazard. Use gutter clips especially designed for string lights to secure them in place.

By slowing down and being careful, you can stay safe as you deck the halls this holiday season.

Time to say goodbye to old electric blankets and heating pads

If nothing makes you feel more cozy and warm than the electric blanket you've had since you were a teenager, consider how safe that old safety net is.

Almost all of the 500 fires caused by electric blankets and heating pads each year start in those that are more than 10 years old.

If yours is showing signs of age, consider replacing it with a new version with built-in safety features.

You'll know it's time to put your "blankey" to rest when:

- You notice charring on the fabric. This can appear as dark or frayed spots.
- The electric cord you use with the pad or blanket is



cracked, frayed or worn.

And a few safety tips for using electric blankets and heating pads:

- Never use the two together; don't layer them.
- In fact, don't put anything on top of an electric blanket or heating pad that is plugged in. It could overheat. That means you shouldn't cover an electric blanket with a regular blanket or allow your dog or cat to sleep on top of it.
- Don't fold the electric blanket when you're not using it.
- Don't tuck it in under your mattress.
- Unplug it when you're not using it. And always unplug it before you fall asleep.

OFFICE CLOSING

Clark Energy's offices will be closed on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26, 2021, for the Thanksgiving holiday. In the event of an emergency, please call (800) 992-3269.

Wishing you and yours a happy, blessed and safe Thanksgiving.