

## Electricity Use Spikes in Colder Weather

As we enter what is traditionally the coldest time of the year, we use more electricity to keep our families comfortable.

That's because home-heating systems run longer to generate heat and circulate warm air through the home. If you use a heat pump, it may have to use auxiliary heat to maintain comfort when the outside temperatures approach freezing. The auxiliary system can add significantly to your home-heating costs. To stay warm, some families also use space heaters, which can add to monthly energy costs.

### What else causes higher electricity use?

- We all stay inside more on cold days, using more electricity. Lights, TVs and computers are used for longer periods of time as we find ways to entertain ourselves or our family indoors.
- Families cook more meals at home, using the stovetop, oven and other kitchen appliances – utilizing more energy.
- Hot water is used more frequently. Using more hot water causes the electric water heater to work harder and more frequently.



### Quick Tips to Keep Electricity Use Down:

1. Use a programmable thermostat and set it to 68 degrees or lower.
2. Close fireplace dampers when not in use.
3. Minimize the use of space heaters.
4. Check for and seal air leaks around small cracks and holes near windows and doors.



## Enroll in Budget Billing

**Would you prefer to pay the same amount each month without worrying about big changes? If so, budget billing might be for you.**

- Your monthly bill is based on the average of the previous 12 months.
- Budget billing is available to all members who are current on their monthly bill.
- The amount is adjusted twice each year to compensate for variations in your energy use and power costs.
- Total cost to enroll? It's free!



**Call us at 800-552-3904 or email [office@myrec.coop](mailto:office@myrec.coop) to sign up today!**

## 2019 REC DIRECTOR ELECTIONS



The 2019 Director Elections open March 1. Look for additional details about the director elections in the March-April issue of *Cooperative Living*. Director elections will be conducted this year in the following three regions:

- **Region I** - the counties of Frederick, Shenandoah & portion of Page, Warren & Rappahannock. Currently represented by Michael W. Lindsay
- **Region VI** - Caroline County. Currently represented by Linda R. Gray
- **Region VII** - Louisa County. Currently represented by J. Mark Wood