



BEAT THE PEAK

Shift energy use to off-peak hours and take simple steps to save energy

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Clark Electric Cooperative must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply—regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family’s habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Clark Electric must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or “peak hours.” These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities including Clark Electric typically pay more for electricity—either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power—during those morning and evening “energy rush hours.” In addition, the peak demand time for electricity is higher from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. You can save energy by spreading energy use over these peak hours to reduce increased demand.

If the “peak times” concept is a bit puzzling, here’s an easy way to think about it, and it’s similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of

supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it’s more expensive. When they don’t, it’s cheaper—like a bargain matinee or an “early bird” special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy by turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

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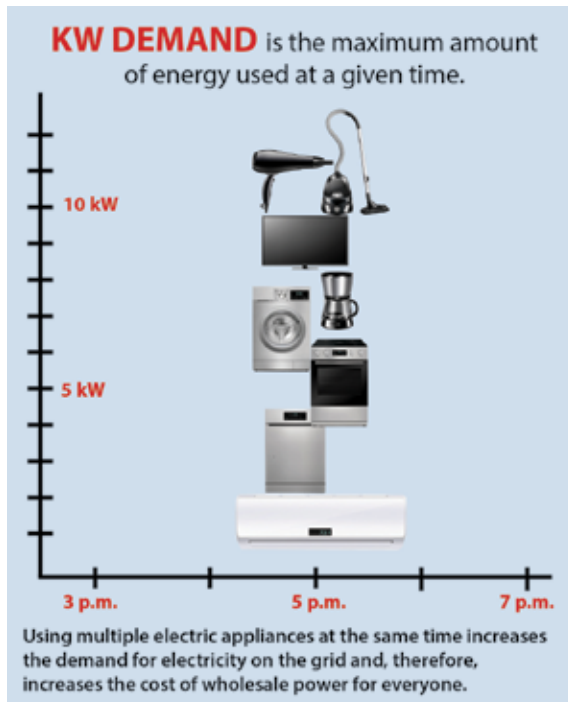
You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers, and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak rate periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve

pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy-intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.

Contact our office or visit our website to learn more about peak energy times and our time-of-use rates.



POWER UP YOUR AWARENESS: MAY IS ELECTRIC SAFETY MONTH

As we immerse ourselves deeper into the digital age, electricity has become an indispensable part of our lives. From powering our homes to fueling industries, electricity is the unseen force that propels modern society forward. However, with great power comes great responsibility. May, designated as Electric Safety Month, serves as a crucial reminder to prioritize safety in our interactions with electricity.

Electricity, while indispensable, can also be hazardous if not handled with care. Electrical accidents can result in injury, property damage, and even loss

of life. Therefore, it is essential to raise awareness about electric safety practices.

Home Safety Tips:

- **Inspection and Maintenance:** Regularly inspect electrical appliances, cords, and outlets for signs of wear and tear. Replace damaged items promptly to prevent electrical hazards.
- **Overloading Circuits:** Avoid overloading outlets with multiple appliances plugged into the same socket. Distribute the load evenly across different circuits to prevent overheating and potential fires.

- **Water and Electricity Don't Mix:** Keep electrical appliances away from water sources such as sinks, bathtubs, and swimming pools to prevent electric shocks.
- **Childproofing:** Install tamper-resistant outlet covers to prevent children from inserting objects into sockets. Educate children about the dangers of playing with electrical appliances.
- **Proper Cord Management:** Avoid running cords under rugs or furniture where they can be damaged. Use cord organizers or cable ties to keep cords neat and organized.

Workplace Safety Measures:

- **Training and Education:** Provide comprehensive training to employees on safe electrical practices, including proper use of equipment and identification of potential hazards.
- **Equipment Maintenance:** Implement regular inspections and maintenance schedules for electrical equipment to ensure they're in good condition.
- **Lockout/Tagout Procedures:** Establish clear procedures for isolating electrical sources during maintenance or repair work to prevent accidental energization.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Provide appropriate PPE such as insulated gloves, goggles, and protective clothing for employees working with electricity.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Have emergency protocols in place, including evacuation procedures and first aid training, to respond effectively to electrical accidents.

Electricity powers our world, but it also carries inherent risks. By observing Electric Safety Month, we reaffirm our commitment to prioritizing safety in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Clark Electric Cooperative offers electrical safety demonstrations showcasing the dangers of electrical hazards.





FARM FACTS

STAY SAFE DURING PLANTING SEASON

As spring planting season nears, here are some Agriculture-related facts from the American Farm Bureau Federation:

- Each year, one U.S. farm feeds 166 people domestically and abroad. The global population is expected to increase by 2.2 billion by 2050. This means the world's farmers will have to grow approximately 70% more food than what they produce today.
- Two million farms dot America's rural landscape, and 98% are operated by individuals, families and family-run partnerships or corporations.
- Eighty-six percent of U.S. agricultural products are produced on family farms or ranches.
- Americans throw away approximately 25% of the food they buy to eat at home.
- Women make up 36% of the total number of farm operators in the U.S.; 56% of all farms have at least one female decision-maker.

As farmers return to their fields this spring, Safe Electricity urges workers to be alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Follow these safety tips:

- Determine power line locations before going out into the fields, and designate preplanned routes that avoid hazardous areas.
- Be aware of increased height, including tall antennas, when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds.
- Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators or raising truck beds near power lines.
- Do not attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. (2878001)
- Coming too close to a power line while working can be just as dangerous as contacting one since electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting material or objects.
- Non-metallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay, will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.
- When grounded wires that stabilize poles, known as guy wires, are broken, they become hazardous. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Do not do it yourself.
- If your equipment contacts a power line, stay in the cab and call 9-1-1 or the utility for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives.
- If you must leave the cab, as in the case of fire, jump—not step—with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop. If you are unable to hop, shuffle with the insides of your feet touching. Do not return to the equipment until the power has been deenergized.



As you prepare for planting season, don't forget to plan for safety. Keep these safety tips in mind.



TRAIN OTHERS

Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, about electrical hazards.

SAFETY FIRST

Have daily meetings to review the day's work. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



WAIT TO UNFOLD

Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.

USE A SPOTTER

When working in the vicinity of power lines, always have a spotter on the ground who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.



DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB

If your machinery or truck makes contact with a power line, pole or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.

CALL 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 to have your electric utility dispatched to deenergize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with your feet together as far as you can.



Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

UW Stout | July 16-18, 2024

High school students entering their sophomore or junior year:

Make plans to attend Youth Leadership Conference (YLC)! This dynamic three-day event is a unique opportunity for cooperative students to learn about the cooperative business model, develop their leadership skills, and network with other students from across the state. All registration costs are covered by Clark Electric Cooperative.

Interested? Contact your FFA or FBLA advisor or contact Tracy Nelson at Clark Electric, 715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188 to register.

Deadline to register is May 14, 2024



REMINDER

Clark Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 8

Neillsville American Legion Hall

Business meeting starts at 9:30 a.m.

Spring Clean Up

Are your electric bills a mess? It's time to clean them up by setting up recurring and stored payments through SmartHub.

While you're there, check out the other great benefits SmartHub has to offer:

- Pay your bill online
- Check your usage
- Manage your account
- Sign up for paperless billing
- Communicate directly with the co-op

Clean up your bills by signing up for SmartHub online. It's Clark Electric Cooperative's FREE and mobile online payment system. Click on the signup link and follow the prompts to create your user name and password.



Questions? Call, click or visit Clark Electric at 715-267-6188 or www.cecoop.com.

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED MEMORIAL DAY

Clark Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Monday, May 27.

Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

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Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.