



Cook up an Energy-Efficiency Thanksgiving Feast

Make this year's Thanksgiving your most energy-wise ever. Enlist the whole family—even those visiting just for the holiday—to come up with energy-saving ideas.

Along with your invitation to family and friends, ask everyone to bring more than a side dish. Instruct them to come prepared to share their favorite ways to save energy and reduce their monthly electric bills. After dinner, go around the table and have each person share a favorite tip.

Save your own ideas for last. Here's a cheat sheet to help you show off:

- Turn down the thermostat. With a full house and a hot kitchen, your house will be too steamy at its usual setting.
- Replace your lightbulbs with LEDs and new LED fixtures. Your guests won't notice a difference in lighting, but you'll see a difference in your energy bill.
- Don't just stuff the turkey—stuff the oven. As long as your oven will be running all day, make the most of it by cooking several dishes at once. A variation of 25 degrees in either direction from the recommended cooking temperature will still produce the desired result.

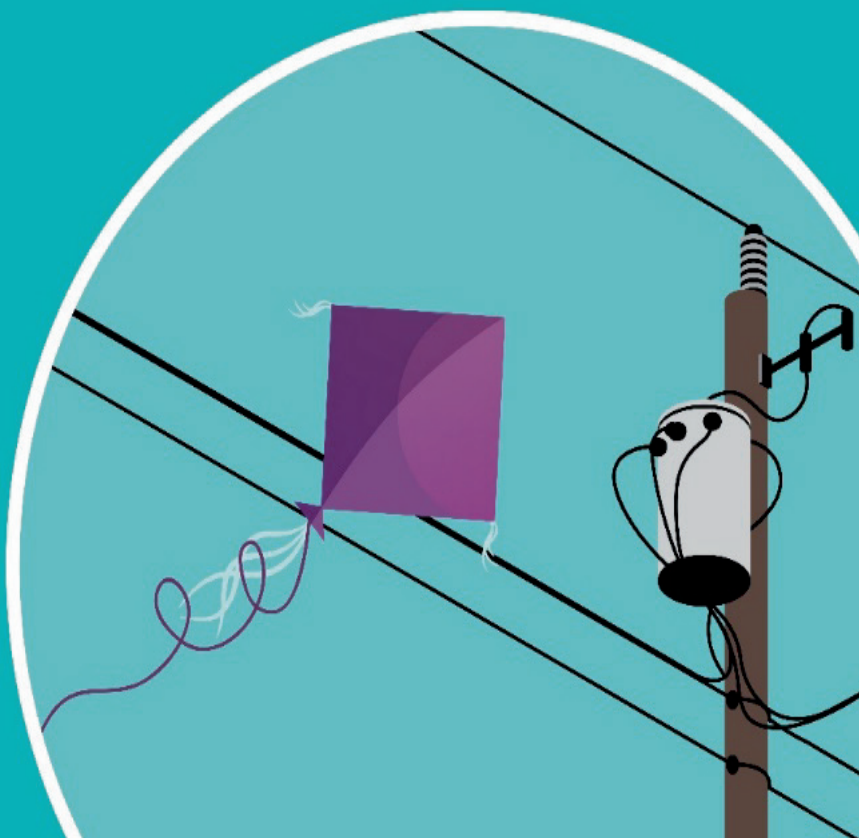
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- Cook at least one dish from start to finish in the microwave. Microwaves are faster than the oven and use about one third the electricity.
- Keep cleanup easy. Load the dishwasher completely full. With a mountain of dinner plates, using the dishwasher will be more efficient than hand washing.
- Don't rush to put leftovers in the refrigerator, which will work harder to cool off hot foods. Let leftovers cool slightly on the counter.



Talk to your children about the importance of practicing electrical safety.



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative

Affordable Electricity Powers Quality of Life

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

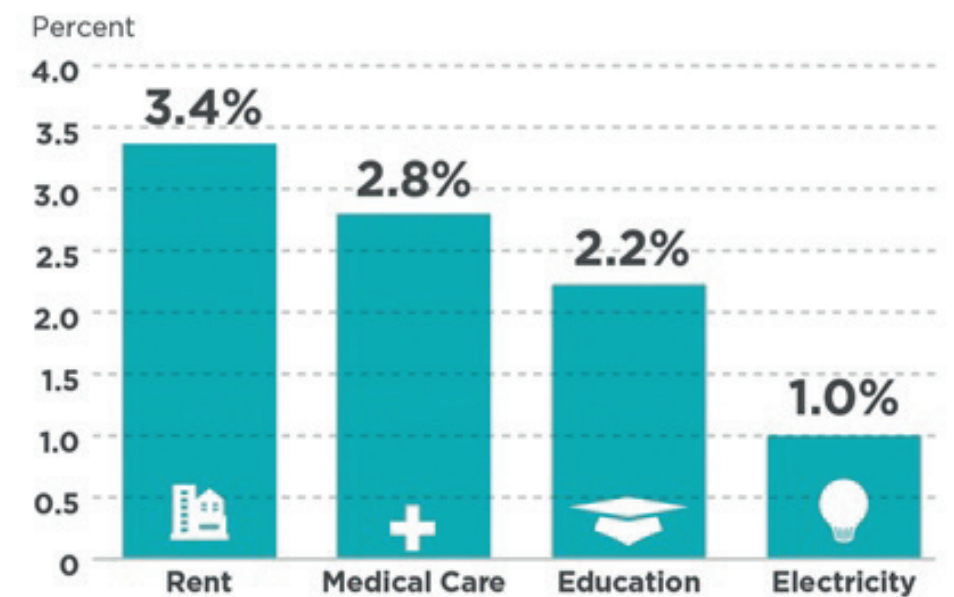
According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

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ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2015-2020



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index



VEC Customers Shares is a grant program funded through the rounding up of members' bills to the nearest dollar. The most an individual member would pay within a year is \$11.88. Our members' yearly average is usually about \$5.50 each.

In return for the rounded up change from our members, we contribute to organizations across our 17 county service area. Each month the VEC Customers Share Board meets and distributes the funds collected in the previous month. A board member represents every service area. In September, VEC Customers Share Grants totaled \$25,100.

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VEC Customers Shares Roane County Board member Rodney Fowler (left) presented a check to Denise VanNorman of Luminary UMC Food Pantry.

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Luminary United Methodist Church Food Pantry is a nonprofit organization in Kingston, Tennessee. The grant money they received (\$1,000) will help them provide food for those in need. "Our food pantry was hit hard in this pandemic. We relied on the Kingston post office food drive to provide the majority of food for our pantry," explained Denise VanNorman, committee member of Luminary UMC Food Pantry. VanNorman continued, "Since the post office has discontinued this food drive, we have relied mostly on individual donations. We are so grateful to VEC to allow us to keep our food pantry open and serving our community."

Since the inception of the program in October 2001, VEC Customers Share members have awarded over \$7.3 million in grants. The deadline for grant applications is the last working day of each month. For additional information, contact the Office of Marketing and Economic Development at (423) 334-7051. Applications are also available online at vec.org.

Organizations receiving grants in September

Project Lifesaver	\$1,300	Midway High School - School Wide Positive Behavior	\$500
Friends of Pickett County Library Christmas Market	\$1,200	Homestead Elementary School - School Wide Positive Behavior	\$500
TAD Center	\$1,200	Monterey First Baptist Church Trunk or Treat	\$500
Pickett County High School Golf	\$1,200	Monterey High School Jr High Girls Volleyball	\$500
New Life Community Kitchen	\$1,000	Maple Grove Community Seniors	\$500
Crossville Rotary Foundation	\$1,000	BASIC of TN Inc	\$500
Spring City Lions Club	\$1,000	Shenandoah Boys Ranch	\$400
Monterey Lions Club Disaster Response Team	\$1,000	American Red Cross of Southeast Tennessee - Polk County	\$400
Ooltewah Harrison Education Foundation	\$800	American Red Cross of Southeast Tennessee - Hamilton County	\$400
Benton Fall Festival Booster Club	\$800	Midway Quarterback Club	\$350
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Ocoee Region - Meigs Unit	\$800	Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization	\$350
Chilhowee Middle School Girls Basketball	\$800	American Red Cross of Southeast Tennessee - Meigs County	\$300
Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency	\$760	Bradley Knights	\$250
York Institute Golf Program	\$750	Bradley Central Football Booster Club	\$250
Hale's Chapel Community Center	\$700	Women of Hope	\$250
Calhoun Elementary Cheerleaders	\$600	Prospect Elementary School PTO	\$250
Luminary Frostbite Volunteer Fire Dept. Inc.	\$500	Fentress County Bulldogs Football	\$245
STARTS (Support The ARTS)	\$500	Fentress County Bulldogs Cheerleaders	\$245
Boots N Roses Dance Club	\$500	Meigs Quest for Success	\$200
Rogers Creek PTO	\$500	Meigs Decatur Public Library	\$200
Meigs County Rodeo	\$500	American Cancer Society - Cumberland County	\$100
American Red Cross of Southeast Tennessee - McMinn County	\$500		

Tennessee Valley Authority

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment Effective

October 1, 2021

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For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org
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Electricity powers quality of life

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

Typically when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%; medical care increased 2.8%; and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.

