

## Winter is on the Way: Be Alert for Peak Alerts

Winter is coming upon us, and with that comes the time for peak alerts for cooperative members. A peak alert is likely to occur on colder days during the winter months. On these days, the demand for electricity is highest, which also brings the need to conserve energy use whenever possible. The level of demand determines a large portion of the cooperative's energy costs during this time. Reducing or delaying your electrical usage during a peak alert helps lower this cost.

The key is to reduce your consumption between the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. on these coldest winter days. This helps Chippewa Valley Electric save on our wholesale power bill, and this savings is passed along to the members. By turning off unneeded lighting and appliances, you can help us save a substantial amount.

On these days, the peak-alert messages will be broadcasted on the following stations:

- WAXX 104.5 FM
- WAYY 790 AM
- WECL 92.9 FM
- WIAL **94.1** FM

In addition you may visit [www.cvecoop.com](http://www.cvecoop.com) under the Load Management page to find the up-to-date information regarding the status of the load control.

Whether you hear the peak-alert message or not, please help us control our costs by reducing the amount of electricity you use during these winter evenings between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. ■

## Go GREEN with LED Holiday Lights

### Go Green—and Stay Out of the Red—with LED Holiday Lights

Christmas lights bring holiday cheer to your home and neighborhood. Since saving money makes spirits even brighter, try out Light Emitting Diode (LED) holiday lights this year. LEDs use up to 90 percent less energy and last seven times longer than conventional holiday lighting. It's hard to decide which is the better perk... more green in your pocket or not having to switch out dead bulbs all the time.

LED lights are available in short and long strings with red, green, blue, white, yellow, and multicolored bulbs. There are many varieties available, including mini-ice, ball, and candle-shaped bulbs.

Plus, LED holiday lights aren't just for the tree. Remember that outdoor "icicle" lights use more energy because they have more bulbs per foot than regular light strands.

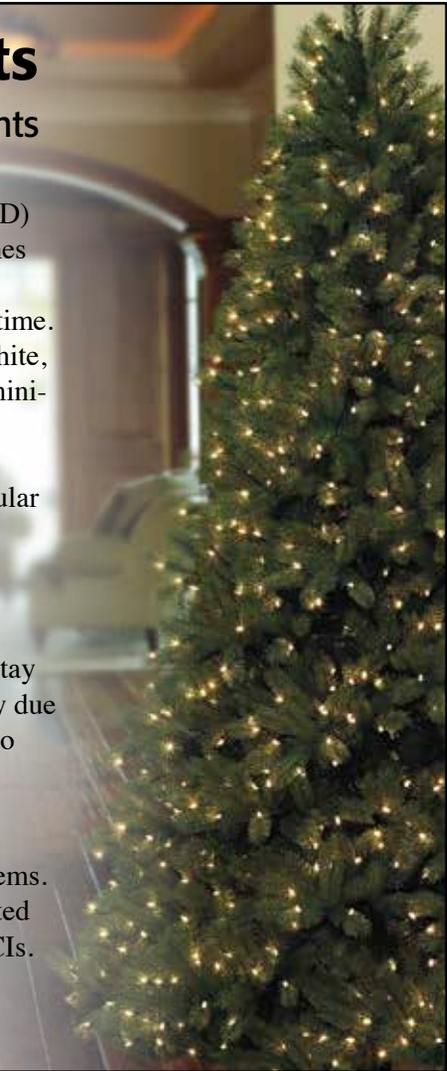
### Little Twinkling Lights Have a Big Impact

Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier, carries a 5 percent increase in energy during the holiday season. Although people tend to stay home and cook more during the holidays, this energy increase is almost entirely due to holiday lighting. Lessening your "holiday footprint" is another good reason to use LED lighting!

### Safety & the Holiday Season

Please take a few minutes to assess the electrical safety of your holiday items.

- For your home's exterior, use only lights, cords, and other decorations rated for outdoor use. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with GFCIs.
- Don't overload outlets or extension cords.
- If you have a live Christmas tree, make sure it is well-watered. ■



# Bundle Up for Winter Storms

By Abby Berry

Are you ready for winter's cold grasp? Snow and ice are inevitable when dealing with winter storms, but being prepared can make a world of difference. Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) recommends the following tips to help you prepare for wintery blasts.

## Winterize Your Home

Winter storms wreak havoc on your home. By winterizing your living space, you'll be prepared for extreme cold and hazardous conditions.

- Remember to maintain and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year to ensure they're working safely and properly.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to make the most of your heating system.
- Freezing temperatures often cause water pipes to burst. Remember to insulate pipes with insulation



## THE FACTS:

### Portable Electric Space Heaters

- All electric space heaters produce one unit of heat for every one unit of electricity consumed. **They are all 100 percent energy efficient.**
- To give you an approximate cost of how much an electric space heater will cost you to operate, use the following formula:

$$\frac{1,500\text{-watts}}{1,000} \times \$0.1010/\text{kwh} \times 8 \text{ hours of operation} = \text{cost}$$

For example, use a 1,500-watt space heater eight hours a day for 30 days = \$36.36 per month.

- Most of us don't plan on turning off the furnace heat in our house, so the space heater is an additional expense.
- If you want to save money heating your home, the dual fuel program is a more economical choice than using a portable space heater.

or newspapers and plastic. Allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to avoid frozen pipes.

- Consider installing storm windows for better insulation. You can also cover windows with plastic (from the inside) to keep the cold out.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows where the home's fire extinguisher is located and how to use it properly. House fires occur more frequently during winter months, as people tend to use alternative heating methods that may not be safe.

## Prepare a Winter Survival Kit

Severe winter storms often bring heavy accumulation of ice and snow, which can lead to downed power lines and extended outages. CVEC crews will work hard to restore power, but having a winter survival kit on hand is a smart idea.

- **Food:** Store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats, and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. Ready.gov recommends five gallons per person.
- **Medication:** Be sure to refill all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.
- **Identification:** Keep all forms of identification handy, such as driver's licenses, photo IDs, and Social Security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.
- **Other items:** Keep a first aid kit, blankets, flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries handy.

## Stay Warm and Safe

If an outage occurs, plan for an alternate heating source. A fireplace, propane space heater, or wood-burning stove would be sufficient. Fuel and wood-burning heating sources should always be vented; make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. Be extremely cautious when using alternate heating sources.

If you use a portable generator during an outage, make sure it is placed outside the home for proper ventilation. Be careful not to overload the generator. Use appropriate extension cords that can handle the electric load.

Follow these tips, and your family will stay warm in the event of a power outage. ■

*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization for the nation's 900-plus electric cooperatives.*



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## Pay, View & Manage your Account Online with Bill4U

Visit Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's website, [www.cvecoop.com](http://www.cvecoop.com), to conveniently and securely pay your electric bill online. Go paperless! It's convenient, free, and simple to use. Plus, it helps conserve our natural resources.



First-time users will need to have their full account number (example: 1234.000) handy. You will need your account number to create your Bill4U account.

Pay by credit/debit card or set up your account to be billed automatically each month on the billing due date.

To stop receiving a paper bill, select the Paperless option within the Paperless Statements menu tab. You will receive an email informing you that your statement is ready to be viewed.

### Smart Phone App is Now Available!

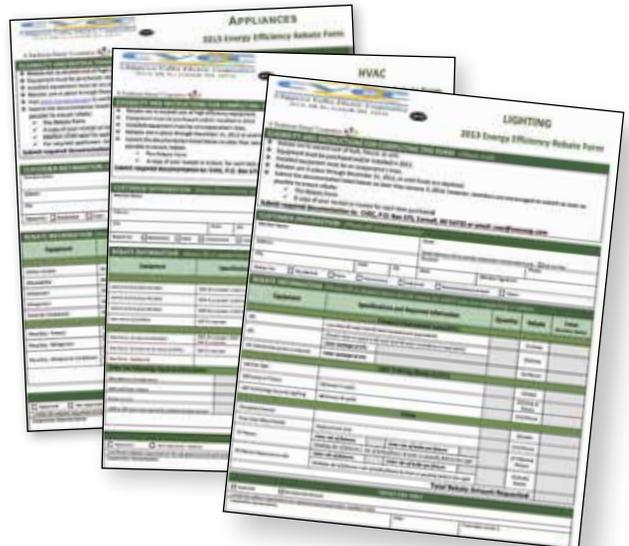
Enjoy the convenience of accessing your account whenever you choose. You can view past billing statements, review usage graphs and manage your account with your smart phone. Visit the iTunes store to download the iPhone app or the Google Play Store to download the Android app. Search for Bill4U and then select the Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative Bill4U Payment App to download to your smart phone. Now you can access your CVEC electric account wherever you go! ■



## CVEC Rebate Reminder

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative wants to remind its members that there are a variety of rebates available with the purchase of qualifying energy efficient products. Rebates are in place through December 31, 2014, **or until funds, by incentive or in total, are depleted.** Please submit rebate requirements as soon as possible to ensure that you can take advantage of our rebate program.

*Rebate forms and information are available online at [cvecoop.com/services/rebates.php](http://cvecoop.com/services/rebates.php) or contact our office at 715-239-6800 or 1-800-300-6800.*



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