

## Conserve While Maintaining Home Comfort

### Pair Up with Cycled Air Conditioning and a Tight Home Thermal Envelope

**B**ecause summer is the peak energy demand season for our region, we are vitally interested in any changes that will help us take an electric timeout weekdays between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. for this summer's Together We Save campaign. Perhaps you could use some innovative, cost-effective ideas to make your home more energy efficient. Adopting these strategies can help you lower energy bills no matter the time of the year or budget and price range. Some tips are free or low cost and can be used daily to reduce or shift your energy use, while others require a larger investment. Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative invites you to try one or more of these tips for improving your home's energy efficiency and to contribute to our shared goal of helping the cooperative avoid expensive peak demand rates this summer.

Are you familiar with the phrase "tighten your home's thermal envelope?" This can include activities such as:

- closing shades against the heat of summer sun
- sealing air leaks around your foundation, doors, windows, and outlets
- ensuring that your home is adequately insulated
- replacing older windows with a more efficient type

Be sure to use sunlight to your advantage in your home. The sun's rays can contribute heating in the winter but force air conditioners and fans to work harder—and use more energy—in the summer. During winter months, you can take advantage of sunlight by opening your curtains during the day to allow the sun to naturally heat your home. During warmer months, use light-colored window shades or blinds to reflect the heat back outside, keeping your home cooler and more efficient.

To multiply the positive impact of your newly updated thermal envelope, consider the savings possibilities and ease of cycled air conditioning. Central air conditioning has a special control strategy that cycles only the compressor, rather than shutting down the entire system for extended periods. When we need to control central air conditioning systems, the compressor is cycled

in 15-minute increments during the control period. The blower is not interrupted, as there is generally enough residual cold in the ductwork for the control to go unnoticed. Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative offers a credit of \$6 for the months of June, July, and August to members who participate in this program. If you would like to participate in our Central Air Conditioning Load Management Program please contact our office for a sign-up form, or you may download the form from our website at [www.cvecoop.com/forms/ACAgreement.pdf](http://www.cvecoop.com/forms/ACAgreement.pdf)

With your home's thermal envelope as tight as possible, the total temperature may rise a few degrees during the day, but will stay comfortable at a higher temperature because you are keeping the humidity out with cycled air conditioning. Your family will remain comfortable at temperatures from 72 to 74 degrees because of the lower humidity, plus, this method is easier on your air conditioning system. Note that your air conditioning system will cycle even less when it is sized properly for the size of space it is cooling.

Another idea to consider is to automate the home ▶



### TAKE AN ELECTRIC TIMEOUT 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

It's so simple. Taking an electric timeout together helps keep electric rates affordable for everyone.

- ◆ Delay the dishwasher.
- ◆ Turn up the thermostat.
- ◆ Shift the start of laundry

### TOGETHER **WE** SAVE

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative  
800.300.6800 [www.cvecoop.com](http://www.cvecoop.com)

comfort process by installing and setting a programmable thermostat. You could save an estimated 10 percent per year on heating and cooling costs by using a programmable thermostat, and by resetting your thermostat when you are asleep or away from home, you won't have to sacrifice comfort.

As a final consideration in a broader category, when you are replacing appliances or purchasing electronics for your household, look for ENERGY STAR® appliances, fans, and electronics. Your home's appliances and electronics account for close to 20 percent of your energy bills. Using ENERGY STAR® certified products—which incorporate advanced technologies that use 10 to 15 percent less energy and water than standard models—throughout your home you could save nearly \$900 over the lifetime of the products. To quantify the impact of these products, ENERGY STAR® clothes washers use about 40 percent less energy than conventional clothes washers while reducing water bills. ENERGY STAR® washers require less detergent and are gentler on clothes, saving you money on clothing expenses.

Remember to shift your flexible electricity use outside of the costly peak hours of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays for the summer. As our motto states, "Together We Save"; we're all in this peak summer energy reduction initiative together for the benefit of our shared electric cooperative and our members. The energy experts at your co-op are ready to support you with ideas that you can implement at your home. Please call Chippewa Valley Electric at 715-239-6800 with any questions or visit our website ([www.cvecoop.com](http://www.cvecoop.com)).—Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy: [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov) ■

## No Anticipated Rate Increase for 2013

Finally some good news... At the May board meeting the board reviewed the year-to-date financials. Good year-to-date sales coupled with just a small wholesale increase should allow us to get by for 2013 without a rate increase. This is great news as we have had annual increases over the past years.

Another event that has helped is our power supplier, Dairyland Power, was awarded a settlement from the federal government for the government's failure to have a permanent depository for spent nuclear fuel. Dairyland gave one-half of the settlement back in a check as a wholesale rate credit. The remaining half will be given over the next couple years as a credit on our wholesale power bill.

### A Slow Start for Our Summer Construction Season

As of this writing, we continue to get our daily shower. This is really slowing down completing the underground work we planned to do this year. We do have the underground contractor on site, but they are mostly just pushing mud. We have a couple jobs in the ground now, but we are way behind where we need to be to get the seven miles of underground cable we wanted to install this summer. Fortunately new service requests have been slow this year as most of them would be installed underground and put us even further behind. We will continue to push forward with our projects and maybe, just maybe, one of these days it will quit raining!—Todd Howard, President & CEO ■



25th Annual  
Member  
Appreciation  
Picnic

**Wednesday, July 3, 2013**  
**10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Brats, hot dogs, and all the trimmings, including our famous baked beans, with ice cream for dessert! **No carryouts.**

Enjoy lunch under the big tent at  
317 South 8th Street  
(corner of Hwy. 27/64 and  
South 8th Street)  
Cornell, WI  
715-239-6800

Games  
and face painting  
for the kids  
throughout  
the day!

## CVEC's Right-of-Way and Planting Guide

A clear right-of-way reduces power outages and improves safety for everyone.

### What is the right-of-way program?

Chippewa Valley Electric's right-of-way (ROW) program requires removing vegetation, typically from a 20-foot corridor on both sides of power lines to ensure safe conditions and reliable power.

After the initial clearing is done, CVEC continues its commitment to the rights-of-way with regular maintenance. We appreciate the cooperation of our members.



*Trees are a major cause of power outages. When trees interfere with power lines, members experience outages.*

### Why is a clear right-of-way important?

We all enjoy trees, but when they interfere with power lines, reliability and safety are compromised. That's why it's important to remove trees, branches and brush from the right-of-way. Trees and vegetation in the right-of-way:

- Cause power outages
- Cause lights to blink
- Obstruct visual inspections, making repairs difficult and costly
- Block access for maintenance and repairs, causing delays
- Waste electricity by drawing it into the ground
- Become a fire hazard

*Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative works with the DNR to help prevent forest fires by removing trees near high-voltage power lines.*

- Become a safety hazard for utility workers and members  
*Children and adults should never climb, trim, or touch trees that contact power lines.*



*Clear rights-of-way give the line crews the ability to respond to storm damage with minimal disruption of electricity.*

### How is the right-of-way cleared?

Chippewa Valley Electric treats all members equally when removing vegetation.

In most cases, all shrubs, brush, and trees are removed under primary (main), high-voltage overhead power lines. They are also removed, as necessary, underneath and around secondary, low-voltage power lines that bring power from the transformer to your meter.



*The right-of-way is cleared by cutting, trimming, mowing and where permissible, applying herbicides.*

Cutting and trimming is done by trained, professional utility tree trimmers using specific and proven standards typical to the industry.

The electric system is regularly inspected for dead, dying, and leaning danger trees. When found, they are marked and then trimmed or removed to eliminate threat to power lines.

### What happens to the cut wood and chips?

Logs are the property of the landowner. Branches and small debris are left to decompose where they are cut. In maintained yard areas, branches and small debris are chipped and removed unless otherwise requested by the member. If you would like your name added to a waiting list for wood chips, we *may* be able to bring a load to your property on a first-come, first-serve basis when we're cutting in your area. Chips are mixed wood, leaves, and pine needles. For chips or wood information, call 715-239-6800.

### What happens if I plant in the right-of-way?

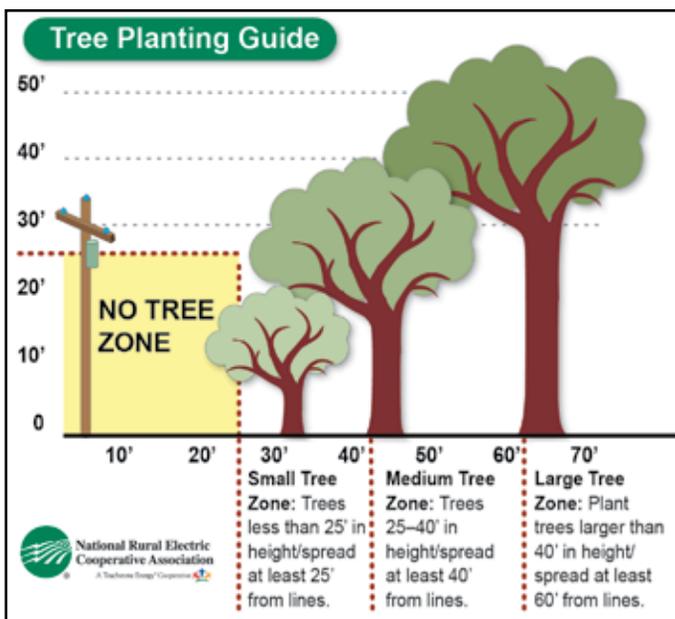
In the best interest of all members, new plantings are not allowed in the right-of-way. Upon notification, plants need to be transplanted or removed. ▶

## Can power lines be buried?

In certain situations, upon landowner request, overhead power lines may be reconstructed underground. Contact CVEC about necessary costs, easements, and other requirements.

## Yard planting guide

All vegetation must be planted away from power lines, so that mature branches cannot grow into the right-of-way. Vegetation that is planted or grows into the right-of-way needs to be cut or trimmed. Vegetation within 20 feet on either side of the power line is at risk for removal due to power line maintenance, repair, and replacement. For safe, reliable electric service, follow the guidelines:

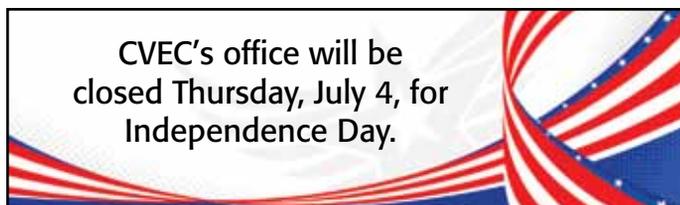


Also, keep areas around electric meters and green transformer boxes clear of vegetation and obstructions that could limit access for repairs.

## Call before you dig!

Dial 811 or 800-242-8511 to have underground lines and cables located before you start digging.

For more information, call CVEC at 715-239-6800 or 800-300-6800, or visit [www.cvecoop.com](http://www.cvecoop.com).



## Med-A-Lert: In Case of Emergency

### Personal Independence with Peace of Mind

Living alone can be an uneasy situation, especially for elderly individuals or those with medical difficulties. Med-A-Lert Service provided by Chippewa Valley



Electric Cooperative allows individuals the satisfaction of independent living and the peace of mind that comes with knowing there is always someone to help.

We have been providing Med-A-Lert Service to individuals since 1992, with installations in the home, senior care facility, or apartment. Med-A-Lert is a 24 hour, 365 days/year monitoring service. With the touch of a button, the individual is connected with our Response Center. At the Response Center a live person will receive the call and dispatch according to individual account preferences. If medical help is needed, the family contacts and proper authorities, if necessary, are notified.

Chippewa Valley Electric staff provides in-home installation and will demonstrate the use of the unit at the installation appointment. To hook up the unit the individual will need a landline phone jack with service. The wireless button that is worn is waterproof and is recommended to be worn at all times.

The cost for installation is \$35 plus sales tax, with the monthly lease and monitoring charge at \$23.70 plus tax. We pride ourselves in being able to provide a quality, local service. **Our service is available to anyone who needs it; individuals do not need to be members of the cooperative.**

Please contact Nicole or Russ at 715-239-6800 or toll-free 1-800-300-6800. ■

**Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative**

Todd Howard, President/CEO  
Nicole Whipp Sime, Editor

317 S. 8th St. • P.O. Box 575 • Cornell, WI 54732  
(715) 239-6800 • 1-800-300-6800  
<http://www.cvecoop.com>