

Your energy provider yesterday, today and tomorrow.

NEWSLETTER

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

December 2014

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 and select Load Control Information (at the top right side of the webpage) 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.

Pay, View & Manage your Account Online with Bill4U

Visit Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's website, 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!



Bundle Up for Winter Storms

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 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.

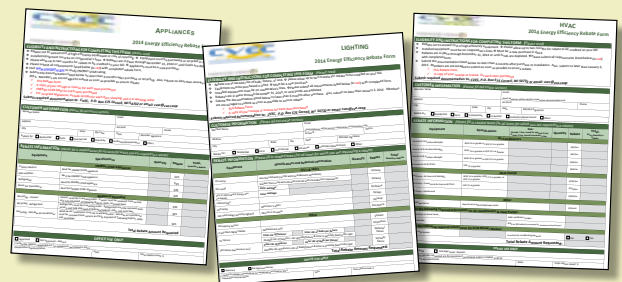
Follow these tips, and your family will stay warm in the event of a power outage.

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.

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 or contact our office at 715-239-6800 or 1-800-300-6800.



Peace and joy from Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative!

Our office will be closed December 24 & 25 and January 1 for the holidays.

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

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