

# Why energy efficiency is so important

**H**ave you ever heard the fable about the ant and the grasshopper? On a sunny summer day, a grasshopper was flitting about and came across an ant toiling under the weight of a kernel of corn.

“Why all the hard work?” The grasshopper asked.

“I’m collecting this corn for winter and recommend you do the same,” the ant replied.

“Why bother storing corn now? There’s plenty to go around!” the grasshopper scoffed, hopping off into the sun.

Well, we all know how that winter went for the grasshopper, who never got around to storing any corn.

That valuable lesson also applies to the electricity we use every day. Pickwick Electric Cooperative and electric co-ops across the country stand at a crossroads. At the moment, we are able to power our homes with the mere flip of a switch as safe, reliable and affordable electricity remains readily available. The grasshoppers of the world are happy.

But in recent years, several factors — increasing demand for electricity, rising fuel and construction costs and decisions limiting what types of power plants we can build — place our energy future in limbo. The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that our need for electricity will climb by 30 percent between now and 2030. Unfortunately, the power available may not be able to keep up with this growth as construction of new generation capacity is being put on hold while Congress reworks national energy policy.

However, we do have a powerful resource to tap in the meantime: energy efficiency. With widespread energy-efficiency measures in place, including



**Karl Dudley**  
President  
Pickwick Electric Cooperative  
[kdudley@pickwick-electric.com](mailto:kdudley@pickwick-electric.com)

those we’ve implemented on our distribution lines as well as those you can take at home, annual growth in electricity demand could drop by a significant amount, according to the Arlington, Va.-based Cooperative Research Network.

In other words, saving electricity now will both reduce your current utility bills and soften the blow against future power supply shortcomings. And being energy-efficient doesn’t mean being flat-out stingy

with energy use. It means doing things in your home you normally would, but in a smarter way. Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are a great example. By simply changing an old incandescent bulb to a swirled CFL equivalent, you can get the same light while using 75 percent less electricity.

Pickwick Electric Cooperative is on your side in this effort, and we have a long history of helping members get the most out of the power coming down our lines. For 74 years, PEC has been a group of neighbors working together for affordable, reliable electricity.

Please contact us if you would like to learn more about making your home more energy-efficient. Or go online to [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov), a valuable Web site maintained by the U.S. Department of Energy. Like the ant, together we can save those “kernels of power” for an uncertain future and reduce our electric bills in the meantime.



## Pickwick Electric Cooperative

**Serving members in all of McNairy County and portions of Chester, Hardeman and Hardin counties in Tennessee and Alcorn and Tishomingo counties in Mississippi**



**530 Mulberry Ave.**

**P.O. Box 49**

**Selmer, TN 38375**

**Phone Numbers:**

**731-645-3411**

**731-632-3333**

**1-800-372-8258**

**Web site:**

**[www.pickwick-electric.com](http://www.pickwick-electric.com)**

**These five pages contain local**

**news and information**

**for members of Pickwick**

**Electric Cooperative.**



## Employees recognized for safe driving

Four Pickwick Electric Cooperative employees recently received awards for safe driving. Receiving the awards were Bart Barnes, Todd Pippenger and Tommy Price, 10 years each, and Bobby Barnes, 30 years. These employees have a combined total of 60 years of safe driving.

To be eligible for an award, employees must meet the requirements outlined by the National Safety Council. These rules are followed in determining the number of years of safe driving, while PEC policy determines the award.

### Who is covered by Tennessee's seat belt law?

All drivers and passengers, regardless of age, are covered by the seat belt law and must have a seat belt properly fastened about their bodies at all times when the vehicle is on a street or highway. Children younger than 18 are covered under the Tennessee Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Law. All occupants in ALL seating positions should ride buckled-up to help protect all occupants. Unbuckled rear seat occupants can injure buckled-up front seat occupants as well as themselves if they are thrown around or out of a vehicle in a crash.



**Bart Barnes**



**Todd Pippenger**



**Tommy Price**



**Bobby Barnes**

## Energy efficiency: Up on the roof

Roofs are among the most important components of an energy-efficient building. Unfortunately, compared to items like doors, windows and lighting, roofs are generally much less durable and much less energy-efficient.

Over the lifetime of a building, a roof needs to be replaced an average of four times. More than 75 percent of the roofing work in the United States involves reroofing, and roofing materials are the second-largest contributor to solid waste in the United States.

Energy-efficient roof technologies are fairly straightforward. Manufacturers have developed lighter-colored shingles and tiles, usually containing a coating of titanium dioxide since they absorb less heat than a typical asphalt shingle and can last twice as long. Since lighter surfaces are easily



**Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Energy and National Renewable Energy Laboratory**

discolored by fungus, a fungicide coating is normally added. Many of the new roof coatings are even self-cleaning to retain reflectivity properties and reduce air-conditioning requirements.

Lighter-colored roofs are slightly more expensive. However, the small cost difference — \$25 for a 1,000-square-foot roof — will easily pay for itself in one summer.

Roof overhangs are another way to trim summer cooling bills. For many homes and businesses in warmer climates, overhangs reduce solar heat gain and interior temperatures. They can also be designed to let direct sunlight into a living space during winter but keep things shaded in summer.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov)*

# Severe weather tips

The warm spring air and moderating temperatures are a welcome relief from the cold winds of winter. But, as the thermometer begins to rise, it brings deadly thunderstorms and, when conditions are right, tornadoes.

When disasters such as tornadoes, flooding or damaging thunderstorms strike, McNairy County is set to implement its emergency response plan. Rudy Moore is McNairy County's emergency management director, and his job is to coordinate the plans and operations of the various components of the emergency management system. These components consist of the civil defense, emergency medical service, fire and police, electric and other utilities, volunteers and other groups that work in response to emergencies and disasters. Moore works with organizations in getting each prepared for a disaster and helps coordinate response and recovery.

Moore offers these precautions as protection against lightning and thunderstorms:

- Listen to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio, commercial radio or television for the latest weather forecasts.
- Check on the elderly, handicapped or those who may have trouble taking shelter.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning; seek shelter immediately.
- Move to a sturdy building or car. Do not take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees or in convertible automobiles.
- If lightning is occurring and a sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hard-top automobile and keep the windows closed.
- Power lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances. Avoid using the telephone or any electronics.
- Report downed power lines to your electric cooperative immediately. Do not go near downed power lines or attempt to remove anything in contact with them.
- Avoid taking a bath or shower during a storm.



**Rudy Moore**  
McNairy County Emergency  
Management Director

- Turn off the air conditioner or heat pump. Power surges from lightning can damage compressors.

Moore says if you should be caught out in a storm and no shelter is nearby, use the following tips:


- Go to a low-lying spot away from trees, poles and metal objects. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.
- If you are in the woods, take shelter under shorter trees.
- If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them.
- Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground.
- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately.

Moore suggests that every family be prepared for all hazards that could affect their area. They can do this by developing a family disaster plan that includes a disaster supply kit. This kit should include a three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and nonperishable foods; one change of clothing and footwear per person; one blanket or sleeping bag per person; a first-aid kit, including prescription medicines; emergency tools, including a battery-powered weather radio and a portable radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries; an extra set of car keys and a credit card or cash; sanitation items, including disinfectant, toilet paper, plastic garbage bags and a plastic bucket with a tight lid; and special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members. You should also keep any important documents in a waterproof container.

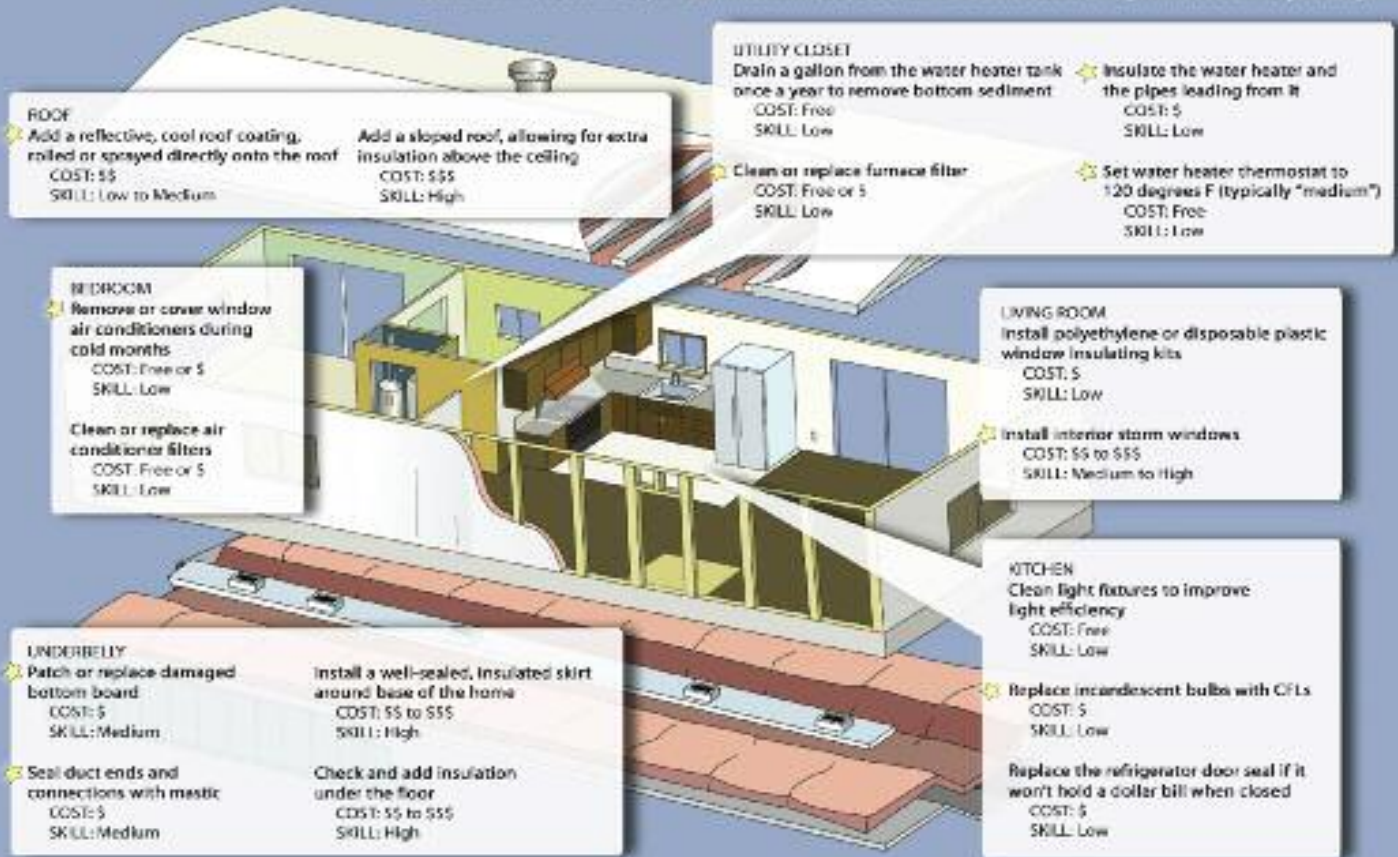
If a member of your family requires life-support equipment such as a respirator, make sure your utility knows about these needs, and have a backup source of power ready if the power does go out. Keep your backup generator in good condition and test it periodically.

Remember, the best defense against storms is to learn all you can about them, stay abreast of the latest weather bulletins and be prepared to move to safety should one develop.

## The Energy Efficient Manufactured Home

The tips listed offer simple ways to make your manufactured home more energy efficient. Items marked with  provide great energy savings relative to cost.

- COST: Free (no cost); \$ (less than \$100); \$\$ (between \$100 and \$500); \$\$\$ (more than \$500)
- SKILL: Low (no skill required); Medium (able to handle basic tools); High (must be very handy)



These tips and related how-to information can be found in *Manufactured Homes: Saving Money by Saving Energy*, a guide by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research, available at [www.huduser.org](http://www.huduser.org).

## Pickwick Electric Cooperative offers residential electric water heater incentives



A \$50 incentive will be paid toward the purchase of a new electric water heater when an existing electric water heater is replaced.

A \$200 incentive will be paid when a new electric water heater is installed in an all-electric new home.

A \$50 incentive will be paid when a new electric water heater is installed in a new home with gas heat.

A \$200 incentive will be paid when a gas water heater is replaced with a new electric water heater.

For more details, call 646-3825, 646-3786 or 646-3764.

### Guidelines

1. Notify Pickwick Electric Cooperative that your water heater has been replaced and that you are requesting incentive money.
2. The Member Services Department will set up a date to verify installation. The homeowner, tenant or contractor must provide PEC with a copy of the invoice showing the date, place of purchase and the cost of the electric water heater (new homes excluded).
4. PEC must have a signed document stating whether the incentive is to be paid to the homeowner, tenant, business or contractor.
5. All incentives will be processed after the member services representative has verified that the new electric water heater has been installed.



## When to turn off personal computers

If you're wondering when to turn off personal computers for energy savings, here are some general guidelines.

While a small surge in energy consumption occurs when a computer starts up, this hardly compares to the amount used when a computer runs for a long time. For energy savings and convenience, consider turning off the monitor if you aren't going to use your PC for more than 20 minutes, and switch off both the CPU and monitor if you're not going to use your PC for more than two hours.

Make sure monitors, printers and other accessories are plugged into a power strip/surge protector. When not using equipment for extended periods, turn off the switch on the power strip to prevent any power drain. If you don't use a power strip, unplug extra equipment when it's not in use.

Most PCs today reach the end of their useful life due to advances in technology long before any negative effects of being switched on and off multiple times can be seen. But as a general rule

of thumb, the less time a PC is on, the longer it will "last." PCs also produce heat, so turning them off reduces the need for air conditioning.

### Power-down or sleep mode features

Many PCs come with a power-down or sleep mode feature for the CPU and monitor. Energy Star-rated computers consume 15 watts or less in this mode — around 70 percent less electricity than a computer without power management features. Energy Star-qualified monitors also have the capability to power down into two successive sleep modes, first to 15 watts and then to 8 watts — less than 10 percent of its operating power consumption.

Keep in mind that screen savers are not energy-savers. Using a screen saver may in fact require more energy than not using one, and your power-down feature may not work if you have a screen saver activated. Modern LCD color monitors do not need screen savers.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*



# DANGER

### DON'T PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE

Stay away from downed power lines. They can be dangerous. Touching a fallen or sagging wire can cause a strong shock that may seriously injure or even kill you. So never attempt to move downed power lines. Call us. That's our job.

