



# HOW CAN I MAKE MY ENERGY BILL SMALLER?



**Bayfield Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**B**ayfield Electric Cooperative offers several resources to help you save energy and cut costs.

## Energy-Saving Tips

As always, the cooperative encourages members to make their homes as energy efficient as possible. As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Bayfield Electric Cooperative participates in a national energy-efficiency campaign called Together We Save. This campaign is designed to inspire consumers to take simple steps to reduce energy consumption—and thereby save money.

You can find lots of tips and information by clicking on Together We Save under Member Services in the menu of our website, bayfieldelectric.com. You can also go directly to touchstoneenergy.com.



Whether it's unplugging unused appliances or adding an extra layer of insulation in the attic, Together We Save shows how simple it can be to implement energy-saving practices and what the estimated cost savings of those actions are.

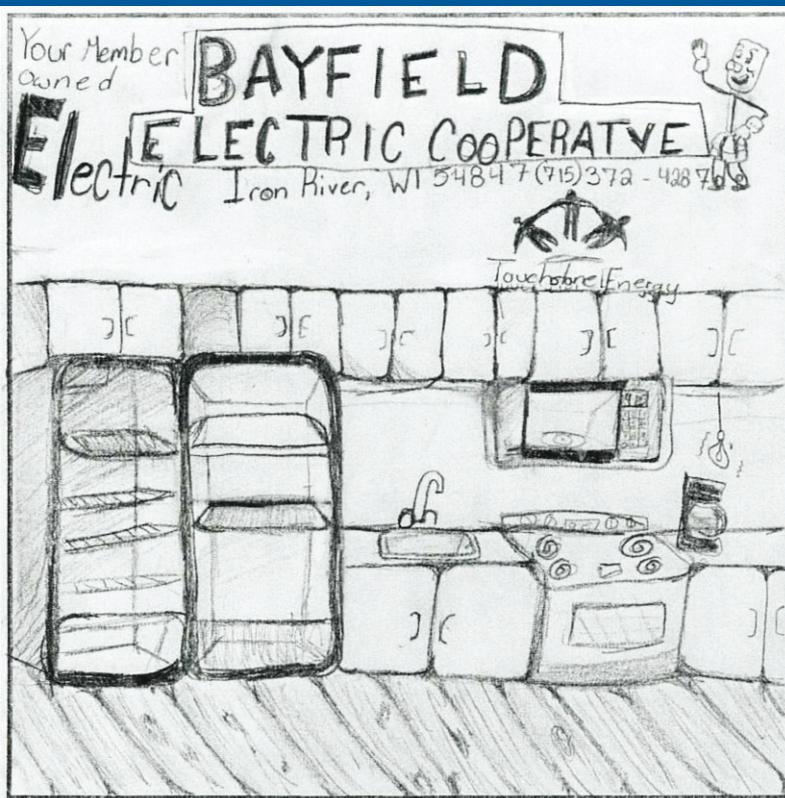
## Rebates

Planning to make energy efficiency improvements to your home, farm, or business? Bayfield Electric has rebates available to help you save on

the purchase of energy-saving products and services, such as Energy Star home appliances, LED bulbs, energy-efficient agriculture equipment, and electric vehicle charging stations. Rebates are time sensitive and available until funds run out. Find more information and incentive forms by clicking on Rebates under Member Services in the menu of our website.

## Energy Assistance

If you're having trouble paying your bills, please contact our office at 715-372-4287 to try to work out acceptable payment arrangements. We can also help direct you to agencies to see if you are available for energy assistance. Please contact your local district office or Bayfield Electric's billing department for more information about energy-assistance programs.



# NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION WEEK

Bayfield Electric Cooperative practiced the seventh cooperative principle, Concern for Community, by sponsoring a student-designed ad in the *Daily Globe's* student writing and advertising design contest. Students were invited to complete a writing assignment or design an ad about Touchstone Energy Cooperative. Teachers forwarded the entrants from their class and Bayfield Electric chose a winner from the finalists. Alexis Barkley, seventh grade, from Ironwood Area Schools, designed the winning ad for Bayfield Electric (pictured at left). Congratulations, Alexis!



# SmartHub:

## An easy way to manage your electric bill

SmartHub means you have options when it comes to managing your electric bill with Bayfield Electric Cooperative. Have you ever wondered when your lowest or highest electric usage took place? Have you wondered why your bill is what it is? SmartHub helps you determine those answers. If you have not signed up, you're missing out on a lot of smart benefits including:

- Pay your bill online
- Set up your bill for automatic payments
- View your billing history
- View and manage electric usage

It's easy to sign up. Just go to [www.bayfeldelectric.com](http://www.bayfeldelectric.com) and click on the SmartHub icon in the upper right-hand corner. All you need is your account number, last name, and an email address. Or, you can download the SmartHub app onto your smartphone or tablet.



## THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance. These principles are a key reason why America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of our members first.



### 1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.



### 2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership.



### 3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative.



### 4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members.



### 5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.



### 6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.



### 7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.



# TRAVELING FOR SPRING BREAK?

If you plan to vacation this month, Safe Electricity has tips to lower your electric bill and keep your home safe while you're away.

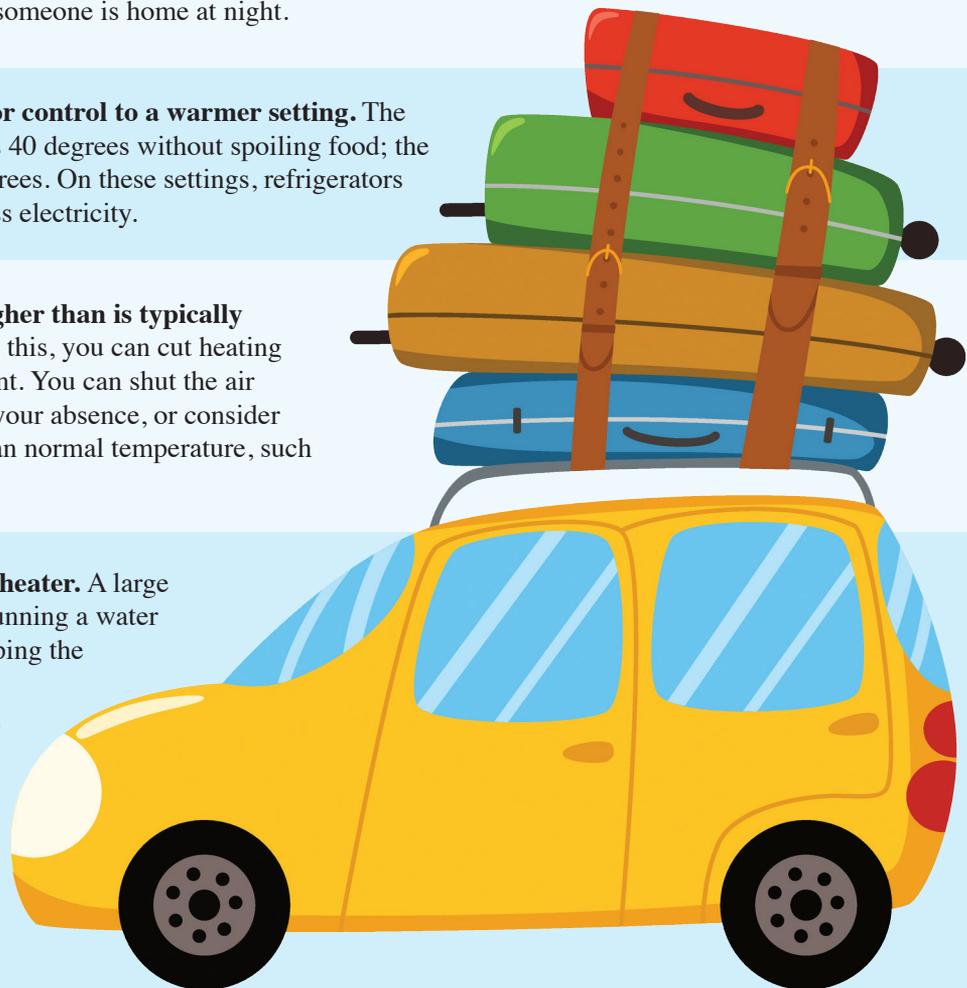
**Unplug some of your household appliances.** Your house has many items that use electricity while plugged in, even if they are turned off. Unplugging these items not only saves energy, but in some cases, can prevent fires in your absence. Some ideas to unplug are: TVs, cable boxes, microwave ovens, toasters, and unused extension cords.

**Use programmable timers.** If you choose to leave household lights on for security reasons, Safe Electricity suggests putting them on programmable timers so they do not run constantly. Not only does this save energy, but it also prevents lights from overheating while still giving the appearance someone is home at night.

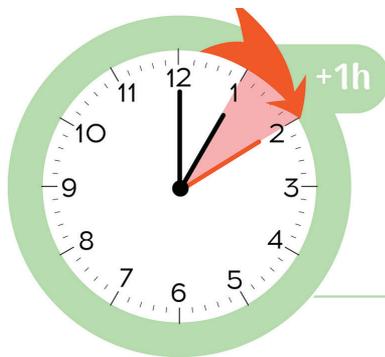
**Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting.** The fridge can be as high as 40 degrees without spoiling food; the freezer can reach 5 degrees. On these settings, refrigerators use up to 40 percent less electricity.

**Set the thermostat higher than is typically comfortable.** By doing this, you can cut heating costs by 10 to 30 percent. You can shut the air conditioner off during your absence, or consider setting it to a higher than normal temperature, such as 85 degrees.

**Turn down the water heater.** A large percent of the cost of running a water heater comes from keeping the water warm. If you are going on a lengthy trip, turn down the water heater's temperature to the coolest setting. This can save you up to \$10 a month.



Bayfield Electric hopes you enjoy your vacation, and that you keep your home safe while you are away. For more safety tips visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).



## SPRING FORWARD Daylight Saving Time March 12, 2023

### Did you know... Daylight Saving Time can save energy?

Experts studied the impact of Daylight Saving Time on overall energy consumption in the United States. They found that the extra four weeks of Daylight Saving Time saved about 0.5 percent in total electricity each day. If you were to study individual states, you may find different results, but overall, the four-week extension of daylight saved 1.3 billion kilowatt-hours. That amount of electricity could power 100,000 houses for a year. If you want to maximize your energy savings this season, visit our website at [www.bayfieldelectric.com](http://www.bayfieldelectric.com) and click on "Together we Save" for energy-saving tips.

(Source: Charles Q. Choi- Scientific American, a Division of Nature America Inc.)

## WATT'S UP, LOCALS?

Do you know of something fun going on in the area? Or are you planning an event that could use an extra push with free advertising? Let us know! We would be happy to share events happening in our area right here in the magazine. Contact Amanda at (715) 372-4287 if you would like us to advertise any fun events coming up in the future.



### Let's Work Together

If you're having difficulty paying your electric bill, please let us know. We'll work with you to make acceptable payment arrangements. Under certain circumstances, we may also direct you to agencies that may be able to provide assistance. If you receive a disconnection notice, please call us at 715-372-4287 or 800-278-0166 as soon as possible to make payment arrangements.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.



## MONTH OF MARCH

Billing date:  
**March 10, 2023**

February usage

Bills due upon receipt  
**March 30, 2023**

Disconnect Day  
**March 15, 2023**

### Christopher Kopel, CEO

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Payment by Phone: 855-385-9978  
After Hours Outage: 715-372-4047

### Amanda Kavajecz, Editor



## Bayfield Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday  
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