



**Bayfield Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long.

TOGETHER WE SAVE

As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Bayfield Electric Cooperative participates in a national energy-efficiency campaign. The *Together We Save* campaign is designed to inspire consumers to take simple steps to reduce energy consumption—and thereby save money. Check out www.TogetherWeSave.com, a gateway through everyone can easily learn simple steps to save energy, and the estimated cost-savings impact of those actions.

Whether it's unplugging unused appliances or adding an extra layer of insulation in the attic, *Together We Save* shows how simple energy-saving techniques are, and encourages consumers to take a step beyond thinking about changing some of their habits to actually taking action.

HOW CAN I MAKE MY BILL SMALLER?

As always, the cooperative encourages members to make their homes as energy efficient as possible. We offer a lot of helpful information on our website under the "Together we Save" tab. We have many rebates available. There are also several programs available for members who are having difficulty paying their electric bill. Please contact your local district office or Bayfield Electric's billing department for more information.



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 for SmartHub. Just go to 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.

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.





STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE SPRING BREAK

If you plan to take a vacation this month, consider these tips from Safe Electricity before you leave. These small steps will help keep your electric bill low and 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 that 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 in the warmer months.
- » **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 keep your home safe while you are away using these "SafeElectricity.org" tips.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS SUNDAY, MARCH 9

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 www.bayfieldelectric.com and click on "Together we Save" for energy-saving tips.

—Charles Q. Choi- *Scientific American*,
a Division of Nature America Inc.



KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE NOW AVAILABLE!

The Keeping the Lights on license plate recognizes the work of Wisconsin utility workers. You may see a few of our vehicles driving around town with these. The specialty plate is available to any Wisconsin driver for an issuance fee of \$15. Go to wisconsin.gov for more information.



MONTH OF MARCH

Billing date:
March 7, 2025

February usage

Bills due upon receipt
March 27, 2025

Disconnect day:
March 12, 2025



Advertise your event with us!

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.

Christopher Kopel, CEO

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