



Connection

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2025



Safe Space Heater Practices

When temperatures drop, space heaters can be a convenient and cost-efficient way to stay warm and cozy. By lowering your thermostat and heating only the room you're in, you can reduce your overall energy consumption while staying comfortable.

However, while energy savings are important, safety must always come first when using a space heater. Follow these simple guidelines so you can enjoy the warmth of your space heater this winter without worry.

Placement Is Key

Where you put your space heater makes all the difference with keeping your home safe and cozy:

- Place your space heater on a flat, stable surface, away from anything that could tip it over.
- As a good rule of thumb, keep at least three feet of clearance between your heater and curtains, furniture or any other flammable materials.
- Plug your heater directly into a wall outlet. Avoid using extension cords or power strips, as they can overheat.
- Keep the heater out of reach of children and pets to prevent accidental tipping or burns.
- Only use your space heater in well-ventilated areas.

Be Smart About Space Heater Usage

Remember these helpful tips to give you peace of mind when using your space heater:

- Turn the heater off when you leave the room and never keep it running when you're asleep.

- Dust and clean your space heater regularly to prevent debris from catching fire.
- Inspect the cord and plug before each use. If you notice any damage, do not use the heater.

Choose the Right Space Heater for Your Home

Picking the right space heater can make it easier to keep your home warm, safe and energy-efficient:

- Opt for a heater with an automatic shut-off feature in case it tips over or overheats.
- Choose a space heater with adjustable thermostat settings to avoid overheating the space.
- Select a heater suitable for the size of the space to avoid overheating or inefficiency.

If you are using multiple space heaters or using your space heater for prolonged periods of time, then it is probably more efficient to run your central heating system. Space heaters are only meant to heat small spaces for a short period of time.

By practicing these guidelines, you can stay warm all winter long without worrying about safety or high energy bills.

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 14

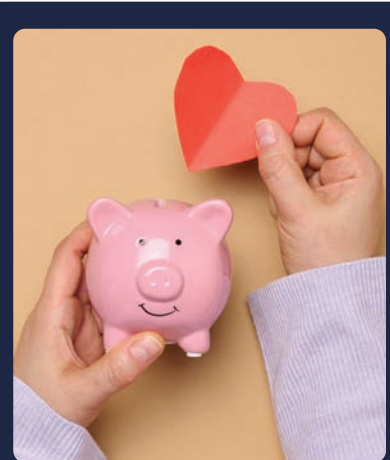
Valentine's Day

March 31

Basketball Camp, College Scholarship Applications Due

Final day to submit your basketball camp and college scholarship applications. Learn more at pemc.coop/community.

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Turn the page to learn about how our time-of-day rate can lead to sweet savings!



WHAT IS SWEETER THAN 50% OFF THE ENERGY YOU USE?

This Valentine's Day, why not treat yourself to something special? Instead of flowers or chocolates, give yourself the gift of energy savings! By signing up for our time-of-day program, you'll pay a lower rate for the energy you use during off-peak times like holidays, weekends and 19-20 hours of weekdays.

In the winter, simply shift your energy use away from 6-10 a.m. to an earlier or later time to maximize your savings. For example, instead of cooking a Valentine's Day breakfast, you can make a romantic dinner during off-peak hours for the most savings.

When you sign up for our time-of-day rate, the benefits extend well beyond Valentine's Day. By making small adjustments to when you use energy, you'll notice savings month after month on your bill. The average member saves more than \$20 per month just by making the switch to this rate, so why not try it for yourself?

When you're ready to fall in love with this simple way to save, call 800.222.3107 to speak with a friendly member services representative or visit pemc.coop/special-rates to learn more and sign up.

*INSTEAD OF COOKING A VALENTINE'S DAY
BREAKFAST, YOU CAN MAKE A ROMANTIC DINNER
DURING OFF-PEAK HOURS FOR THE MOST SAVINGS*

POWERFUL PAIRINGS

When you're looking for ways to save money on your bill, your first thought might be how to cut back on usage. That's a good strategy, but what if we told you that focusing on what you can add instead of what you can reduce is a great way to lower your bill?

Signing up for one of our free energy- and money-saving programs is great, but pairing that with another program makes for even more savings! Here are two of our favorite pairings that can help you maximize your savings each month.

Time-of-Day Rate + Load Management

When you sign up for our time-of-day rate, you'll pay a lower rate when you use energy around your home during off-peak hours all year long. To add to that savings, join our load management program, which helps you control major energy users like your air conditioner or water heater.

So, when you take a hot shower during off-peak hours, you'll pay a lower rate for the energy used during that time, and your water heater will automatically cycle off during peak times to help increase your savings. Load management also includes bill credits to put more money back in your pocket.



Smart Thermostat Program + Time-of-Day Rate

Summer is still a few months away, but you can prepare now to help prevent higher bills when the temperatures rise. During the summer, air conditioning costs can make up a significant portion of what you pay, and combining our smart thermostat savings program with a time-of-day rate is one of the best ways to combat it.

When you participate in our smart thermostat savings program, we'll adjust your Nest thermostat by a few degrees on very hot days. When combined with a time-of-day rate, you help maximize your savings.

These are just a few examples of ways to pair our programs together, but you can mix and match to find the combination that works best for you! Learn more about all of our programs and how to join them by visiting pemc.coop/smart-energy or call 800.222.3107 to speak with a helpful member service representative.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all the requested

information in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to the USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW,
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442
3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Medical Needs During Power Outages

If you have a medical condition or rely on medical equipment that is dependent on electricity, we understand that power outages lead to an extra sense of urgency in your household. When that happens, Piedmont Electric will do what we can to respond to your needs in a timely manner.

Despite our best efforts, unfortunately, we can't guarantee that we will always be able to restore electricity in a manner that will accommodate your medical condition or your dependence on electric-powered medical equipment. In that case, it's critical to have a backup plan in the case of an outage. For example, you might create a contingency plan to temporarily go to another location with electricity or purchase a standby generator to power your medical equipment during an outage.

We try to help members who have notified us of such a condition prepare as much as possible. Piedmont Electric will attempt to contact you prior to planned outages or disconnections for non-payment. Please verify your phone number and email address are up-to-date in your SmartHub account, or contact us at **800.222.3107** to update your info. This will allow us to inform you of these potential events so you have time to plan accordingly.



Piedmont Electric COOPERATIVE

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Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Cooperative. Piedmont Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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