



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Got a suggestion for a story in a future issue of Kilowatt?

Call Lisa at 1-888-832-3362

Kiwash Electric Cooperative's office will close at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 22 and will be closed Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1 for the holidays.

KILOWATT

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Home Energy Efficiency and Safety

As the temperatures fall, Kiwash Electric encourages people to take steps now to improve both home energy efficiency and safety during the home heating season.

Energy dollars can pour out of homes through drafty doors, windows, un-insulated attics, walls, floors, and basements while safety risks go unnoticed. A small investment of time now can pay big dividends in keeping your home safe and warm this winter.



Most winterizing steps can pay for themselves relatively quickly with heating bill savings. Weather stripping and caulking are inexpensive and among the simplest, most effective ways to boost efficiency and cut energy costs year round.

As you take steps to winterize your home, you can also inspect for electrical hazards and eliminate electrical fire and shock risks. For example, as you check around outlets and other places where air can leak, also check for overloaded outlets and cover plates that are warm to the touch.

Approximately one-third of all house fires nationwide occur during the cold, home-heating season. Many of these winter fires can be attributed to faulty and improper use and maintenance of heating equipment.

Before firing up your heating system, make sure furnace and heaters are in good working order, and check ducts, flues and chimneys. Have a professional inspect and service your furnace each fall for safety and efficiency. Regularly clean or replace furnace filters during high winter use. An efficient heating system means greater comfort at lower cost. Keeping heating equipment clean and in good repair will ensure peak efficiency and safety.



If an electric space heater is used, make sure the wiring is adequate, and check for cord fraying splitting wires, or overheating. Don't place a portable heater in high-traffic areas and keep it clear of flammables such as curtains, bedding, clothes and furniture. Never use extension cords with electric heaters.

Use these tips to help cut costs and improve home safety:

- Make sure attics and flooring above unheated spaces, such as crawl space and garage, are appropriately insulated.
- Find air leaks in homes by moistening fingertips and running them around doors or window frames to feel a draft, or hold up a tissue and see if it waves.
- Check around fixtures that penetrate walls, such as exhaust fans and electrical outlets, and look for gaps near dryer vents, chimneys and faucet pipes. Seal them all with caulking or weather-stripping.

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Manager's Monologue
Dennis Krueger



Cups of Coffee

I attended a business gathering not long ago at a friend's house and we all gathered around the coffee pot. The host had set out an array of different style of coffee cups from glass, porcelain, plastic, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive and some exquisite.

After the coffee was dispensed and the group had moved into the living room for conversation, I looked at the remaining cups on the counter. Those that were not used included the plain and cheap looking cups; while all the expensive and good-looking cups were

taken by the group.

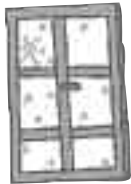
I asked each individual to look around the room and examine the cups everyone had chosen for their coffee. Coffee is all you really wanted, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups. While it is normal for to want the best for yourself; isn't wanting the best in everything the source of your own problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee, just more expense and in some cases even hides what we drink.

Now consider this concept: Life is the coffee, and the jobs, money and social position are the cups. Cups are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define, or change the quality of life we live.

So this Holiday season, enjoy the flavor of the coffee within your own life and quit focusing on the expensive, unique and elaborate cup. The cup only brings on symptoms of stress. Enjoy your family and the people in your life and offer help to those that are struggling in life. Concentrate on the good things in life and your life will become less complicated.

We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Kiwash Electric Cooperative.

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- Replace screens with storm windows and doors. Double-paned glass plays an important role in reducing heat loss. Double-pane windows with low-e coating can reduce heating bills by 34 percent in cold climates compared to uncoated, single-pane windows. If you have older or leaky windows that you cannot replace, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.
- If you are shopping for new windows, glass doors, or skylights, look for the ENERGY STAR. Today's high-efficiency windows are 40 percent more energy efficient than standard, windows and can cut heating and cooling costs by 15 percent.
- Consider replacing your furnace if it is more than 30 years old. Furnaces that old are usually less than 50 percent energy efficient.
- Install an automatic thermostat. An easy-to-install clock thermostat can automatically raise and lower home temperatures for energy savings day and night.
- Don't overlook simple energy-saving steps such as opening curtains to let sunshine warm your home, and closing them at night to keep warmth in and make sure fireplace dampers are closed when not in use. While you winterize, use this electrical safety checklist:
- Check outlets and make sure they are not overloaded. Have a professional replace worn and outdated circuitry, and add enough outlets for appliances and electronics. Switch plates and outlets that are warm to the touch; frequent circuit breaker trips or blown fuses; dimming lights and shrinking monitors are electrical danger signs that should be inspected immediately by a licensed professional.
- Examine electrical cords for cracks, frays and damaged plugs, and don't run under rugs, furniture or behind baseboards.
- Check that light bulbs are proper wattage and securely screwed in light fixtures, so bulbs don't overheat and burn shades, drapes or nearby furniture.
- Make sure outlets in wet locations such as bathrooms, kitchen laundry and outdoors have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), and test and reset them monthly. If these outlets do not have GFCIs, have them professionally installed.
- Test your smoke detector batteries. Replace them if they are more than six months old.





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Mozelle's Gift Gallery	20% off any \$20 or more purchase Excluding sale items.
Oklahoma Route 66 Museums * Clinton	2 for 1 admission
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The Small Gift Shop * Clinton	10% discount
Standifer House * Elk City	15% off stay & dinner or SPA goody basket in room
Starvin Marvin * Cordell and Hinton	\$3 off any order of \$15 or more Or \$5 off any order of \$25 or more
Tautfest * Weatherford	20% off regular priced furniture accessories
Total Expressions * Cordell	\$5 off membership

Visit www.kiwash.coop and click on the co-op connection's card in the lower right hand corner to view all local, state wide and national participating businesses.

Christmas Breakfast Casserole

7 slices white bread, crusts removed and cubed
2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
6 eggs
3 cups milk
1 teaspoon ground mustard
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
6 bacon strips cooked and crumbled



In a greased 11-in. x 7-in. x 2-in. baking dish, combine the bread cubes and cheese. In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, milk, mustard, salt and pepper; pour over bread and cheese. Top with bacon. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Remove from the refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 50-55 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. **Yield:** 6-8 servings.

As the holiday season approaches, Kiwash Electric Cooperative would like to take a moment to thank our member-owners for the opportunity to serve you this past year.

Kiwash Electric will continue to strive to provide the best service possible for you – our members— because the co-op belongs to you. From all of us at Kiwash Electric, Our thoughts go out to you during this holiday season.

BULLETIN BOARD

What's Happening In Your Community

December 9 – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Breakfast with Santa in Weatherford

December 14 – Weatherford Community Coffee @ 1st National Bank

December 14 – Weatherford Christmas Promotion Sleigh Race

December 17 – Christmas Cash Give Away – Downtown Hobart 10-12 am Contact: Chamber office 580/726-2553

December 19 – Clinton Chamber Morning Mixer at the Cheyenne-Arapaho Substance Abuse Program, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

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To report the events in your community, or for more information, call Kiwash Electric Cooperative.
1-888-832-3362