

SHELBY News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

A Shelby Electric Cooperative publication • www.shelbyelectric.coop

Season's Greetings

*From the Directors and Employees of Shelby Electric Cooperative,
Shelby Energy Company and PWR-net Wireless Broadband Internet*

Be energy smart in the kitchen

For many of us, the best holidays involve home-cooked meals and wonderful aromas of turkey, stuffing and baked goods wafting throughout the house. It means a busy kitchen and a bustling house full of family and friends.

In addition to being the "heart of your home," your kitchen could pump savings back into your wallet. According to the Department of Energy, cooking accounts for 4.5 percent of total energy use in U.S. homes. This number, combined with the energy use associated with refrigeration,



dishwashing and hot water heating means that as much as 15 percent of the energy in the average American home is used in the kitchen. So, saving energy here can have a

significant impact on your household budget.

For example, when preparing side dishes, baked goods, soups and such, consider using small appliances like a crock pot, toaster oven, microwave or warming plate instead of your conventional oven or stovetop. These small appliances are a smart, energy-saving alternative, typically using about half the energy of a stove.

Practice using these tips this holiday season and carry them over into the new year for kitchen energy savings year round.

Shelby Energy Company

1-217-774-2311

24-hours-a-day

PWR-net Broadband Internet

1-877-994-2323

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Please leave a message after hours

Shelby Electric Cooperative

1-800-677-2612

1-217-774-3986

24-hours-a-day

Pay-By-Phone reminder

To comply with credit card industry Security Management Standards, earlier this year your cooperative implemented a new, secure and automated Pay-By-Phone system. Anyone who normally pays his or her electric or PWR-net bill by phone should be using this new phone payment system. Call toll free 1-855-385-9981 and follow the prompts to pay your bill, hear your current balance or update a phone number.

Payments made through the Pay-By-Phone system can be done 24/7 and there are no fees associated with this service. This system ensures our members' payment card data is kept safe throughout every transaction.

Members can still pay their bills by using the SmartHub app, paying online, stopping by the office or mailing it in. If you have questions or want to learn more about the different ways you can pay your electric or PWR-net bill, call the office at 1-800-677-2612.



SmartHub lets you know when you are out of power

Did you know you can now have your cooperative send an email or text message when you are part of an outage and when your power has been restored? All you need to do is sign up through SmartHub Web, which can be found on the cooperative's website www.shelbyelectric.coop. Just sign in, click on **notifications** and select **manage contacts**. After determining whether to receive notifications via email, text or both, go to **manage notifications** and choose to receive outage alerts as well as other messages. If you haven't set

up an account yet, you can do this at the same SmartHub Web link. You can find SmartHub how-to-videos on the cooperative's website

and Facebook page. Download the SmartHub App for your smart devices from your favorite app store.



Android Users
Scan this QR code to access SmartHub in the Android Market.



iOS Users
Scan this QR code to access SmartHub in the Apple iTunes App Store.

P.O. BOX 560
Shelbyville, IL 62565
Phone: 217-774-3986
or 1-800-677-2612
www.shelbyelectric.coop
twitter.com/YourCoop
facebook.com/YourCoop

Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Remember to close your fireplace damper (unless a fire is burning). Keeping the damper open is like leaving a window wide open during the winter, allowing warm air to escape through the chimney.

Source: energy.gov

It's the most wonderful time of the year, if you are safe and energy efficient.

Not only can buying Christmas gifts put a strain on your bank account, so can all the extra energy used during the holidays. Do not let the bills in January make you wish you had been Ebenezer Scrooge in December! Here are some tips for an energy efficient and safe holiday season.

Guests: If you are having overnight guests, provide them with extra blankets instead of a space heater. **ANY** 1500-watt space heater costs approximately 18 cents/hour to operate (\$1.44 per eight hours).

If space heater use is unavoidable, try to use one that is thermostatically controlled so that it only heats when necessary. Also, check for the following safety aspects:

- The Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label
- A tip-over safety switch
- Do not use with extension cords
- Keep out of reach of children and pets.

Extra guests often mean extra hot water use. Remind college students returning home that a shower can end **before** the hot water runs out. Water heating is right behind heating and air conditioning in home energy use. After guests leave, make sure unneeded items are turned off, unplugged and windows are closed.

Lighting: A Clark Griswold-worthy Christmas light display does not have to spin your electric meter

off the charts. Use LED lights for significant savings. Here is one comparison: A string of 25, incandescent C9 bulbs that use 175 watts of electricity will cost about \$4.50 for a month of seven hours/day of use. A string of 50, LED C9 bulbs will cost approximately 30 cents for the same amount of use!

Do not forget to multiply those savings by the number of light strings used.

Before you string up any lights, thoroughly check the cords for any damage that may have occurred while in storage. Rodents may have

chewed on them or they may have become brittle with age. Check the tags for the UL label, indoor or outdoor use rating and how many strings may be joined safely.

Look up and live! Locate your power lines before using a ladder or decorating outside trees. Carry your ladder parallel to the ground and look up before placing it upright. The same tree you always string lights on may have grown around power lines in the past year. Thoroughly check for power lines before you hang up the first string of lights.

Entertaining: When hosting several guests, turn the thermostat down prior to guests arriving. The temperature in the house will warm up significantly by having extra people in your home especially when coupled with heat from cooking. When baking, if the recipe calls for baking more than



one hour, preheating the oven will not be necessary. **Don't peek!** Opening the oven door can lower the temperature by 25 degrees, making your oven work harder to return to the correct cooking temperature.

Make good use of that dishwasher. Energy Star dishwashers boost the water temperature to a sanitizing 140 degrees plus use less water than washing by hand. Select the air-dry setting over heat-dry.

Shelby Electric Cooperative wants you and your loved ones to have the safest and most energy efficient holiday season possible. Visit www.togetherwesave.com for more great information.



REMINDER: December 31, 2015 is the deadline for the seven Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarships. Visit www.shelbyelectric.coop and click on the "Our Community" tab for more information or call us toll-free at 1-800-677-2612.

Your cooperative offices will be closed on December 24th and 25th to celebrate Christmas. Offices will also be closed on January 1st to celebrate New Year's Day.



Your Power – Your Plan – Your Choice

UPay - a Prepaid Electric Service from Your Cooperative

Real power solutions to fit your way of life.

Have you ever wished you could take control of your energy consumption? Now you can with **UPay**, a prepaid energy solution from Shelby Electric Cooperative.

UPay works best for members wanting to take control of their electric use and monitor consumption. Research has found using the prepaid method of buying electricity can actually save you money by reducing your consumption.

UPay allows you to:

- Control your energy use and budget
- Pay for energy as you use it
- Purchase electricity on your schedule
- Monitor and reduce energy use
- Pay as you go, no monthly bills
- Have greater flexibility with seasonal homes
- Pay and manage a family member's bill
- Control your budget if you are on a fixed income
- Control and manage electric consumption on rental property
- Enjoy savings with reduced consumption



Optional In-Home Display

UPay prepay from Shelby Electric Cooperative gives members the control to monitor their electric consumption on a regular basis which allows the member to notice patterns in their day-to-day use. The beauty of the **UPay** program is that it fits YOUR budget. You can buy enough electricity to last until payday or you can buy enough to last several months. The choice is yours!

Contact Shelby Electric Cooperative to learn more about this prepaid option by calling 1-800-677-2612.

The SEC phone payment and e-bill options for checking or savings accounts will not be made available to members who have had NSF or returned funds with SEC within the past 12 months.



Just in time for Christmas, PWR-net is offering free basic installation (a \$99 value) during the month of December only. Use PROMO CODE 4610 when ordering. Phone 1.877.994.2323 or email subscriberinterest@pwr-net.coop.

A service of
 **Shelby Electric Cooperative**
 Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**GET
UNLIMITED
DATA**

