



Emergency Electricity Conservation Tips for Winter

The recent record cold snap has driven up energy demand, taxing the grid. MEAG Power, which provides the wholesale power to our community, has alerted us that the electrical grid has reached a critical level. To prevent possible emergency power outages, we are asking our customers to please conserve energy to the extent possible.

If the grid is further taxed and reaches an emergency level, it may be necessary to institute temporary outages to protect the grid from more extensive damage. This could mean lengthier repairs and longer, more widespread power outages.

We are grateful to you for your patience and understanding during this uniquely difficult situation. Conserving energy use during this critical period can help keep the lights on for others.

ELECTRICITY CONSERVATION TIPS

Lower your thermostat

Set it as low as is comfortable when you're home and awake. (We recommend 65 degrees.) When you're asleep or out of the house, you can set it even lower. (We recommend 60 degrees.) If you have electric heat, setting a lower temperature reduces demand on the electric grid. If you heat with natural gas, turning down the heat can help reduce the demand for natural gas in the region and potentially free up more of that resource for the generation of electricity.

Turn off the lights

This is the easiest way to conserve electricity and keep your electric bill low—not just during an energy emergency, but also year-round. When you leave a room, make sure to turn off the lights. You should also turn off other appliances and electronics like TVs and fans when you're not using them.

Unplug electronics

Many devices continue to draw electricity even when they're not in use or turned off. To help save every last bit of energy, unplug TVs, computers, printers, video game consoles, and microwaves. Also, if the power goes out, having them unplugged will ensure there's no surge when power is restored.



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ELECTRICITY CONSERVATION TIPS, continued

Use smaller appliances

Electric stoves use a lot of energy. Use appliances that consume less, like the microwave or an electric kettle, to cook and boil water.

Limit clothes and dish washing

Your washer, dryer, and dishwasher all use a lot of electricity. To conserve, put off doing laundry or washing dishes as long as you can.

Take shorter showers

Electric water heaters use a lot of energy. Taking short showers and washing your hands with cold water will help conserve. You can also turn down the temperature setting on the water heater itself. The recommended temperature is 120 degrees.

Curtains can help

Keep curtains and shades, particularly those on southern-facing windows, open during the day to take advantage of heat from the sun. Keep curtains closed at night to keep out the chill.