

# News Release

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**Woodruff Electric  
Cooperative Corporation**

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## **Tips To Lower Heating Costs And Keep You Warm This Coming Winter**

While cold temperatures mean higher heating bills, Woodruff Electric Cooperative Corporation (WECC) wants to remind you of a few easy steps to make your home more energy and cost effective this coming winter.

Energy dollars can pour out of your living space through drafty doors and windows as well as unused portions of the home. WECC encourages people to make a small investment of time for big dividends in keeping your residence warm and cost efficient this coming winter.

“Most winterizing steps can pay for themselves relatively quickly with heating bill savings,” says Anna Howton, WECC spokesperson. “And don’t overlook simple energy-saving steps such as letting the sun warm rooms on sunny days or closing the damper when the fireplace is not in use. These are effective energy-saving tips that cost you nothing.”

Costs associated with heating and cooling account for the majority, about 44 percent of utility bills. Lowering the thermostat is the easiest way to save energy. Energy use is reduced for every degree dialed down. Turn it down when you are away from home or sleeping, and keep it to the lowest comfortable level when you are at home. Consider installing a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature day and night.

Use these tips to help cut costs and improve heating efficiency and safety:

- Replace your furnace filter every month to save energy and improve heat circulation. And if you haven’t already, it’s not too late to have a professional check and service your furnace system to ensure peak efficiency and safety.
- Use sunlight’s natural heat to your best advantage. Open curtains and blinds on sunny days to let the sunlight warm your home, and close them on gloomy days and at night to keep the heat inside.
- Close your fireplace damper when you’re not using the fireplace to prevent heat from escaping and cold from entering through your chimney.
- As long as there’s a cold air return, you can close the vent and door for rooms you don’t use. Experts say without a cold air return, closing off a room can build up pressures that cause the furnace to work harder.
- If you have older or leaky windows, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.
- Weather stripping is relatively easy and available at your local home improvement store. Stop drafts from coming in, and heat from leaking out

of your home through drafty doors and windows. You could save up to 10% of your heating costs by eliminating those leaks.

- Use caulk to seal gaps in the walls of your home or apartment. Wherever different building materials meet, or wiring comes out of a wall, there are gaps that may contribute to the loss of heat in your home.
- Invest in a water heater insulation blanket. If the top of the electric water heater is warm to the touch, you are wasting energy; this means that the heater has to work even harder to heat the water in your home and therefore, uses more energy.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with more efficient, compact, florescent ones that use one-fourth of the energy and last substantially longer.

“Most people will be pleasantly surprised to realize double digit percentage savings on their heating bills by following these simple tips,” Horton said.

Woodruff Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Forrest City, is a member-owned electric utility. Woodruff Electric serves electric power to more than 19,000 homes, farms, and businesses in parts of Woodruff, Prairie, Monroe, Cross, St. Francis, Lee, and Phillips counties in eastern Arkansas. The District offices are located in Augusta, Moro and Barton.

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