

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

JULY 2022



MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box Y
Akron, CO 80720



STREET ADDRESS

26862 U.S. Hwy 34
Akron, CO 80720



ph 970-345-2291

tf 800-660-2291

fax 970-345-2154

web www.ywelectric.coop

Y-W Electric Association, Inc., is dedicated to providing high-quality, reliable electric service and related products to our members at competitive prices. Our members deserve and shall receive quality service unexcelled in our industry. We are committed to maintaining an environment where the Board of Directors and employees can perform at maximum potential to benefit our Y-W community.

KNOW THE SIGNS OF A SCAM

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

It's no secret that consumers with water, gas or electricity connections have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the COVID-19 pandemic. Consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce. Scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who "works for the power company," in today's more-connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device via email, phone or text.

Common types of scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in person or by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at 970-345-2291. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website: www.ywelectric.coop. If the scam is by email or text, do not respond and delete it immediately. If you're unsure, you can always contact us at 970-345-2291, or use our Smart Hub app to check the status of your account. Remember, Y-W Electric Association will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a

button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a Social Security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it and, if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, Y-W Electric will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

Defend yourself against scams

Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or have reported a problem. Y-W Electric employees wear clothing with our logo and drive trucks with our logo on the door. When we perform work on our members' property or come into their homes, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

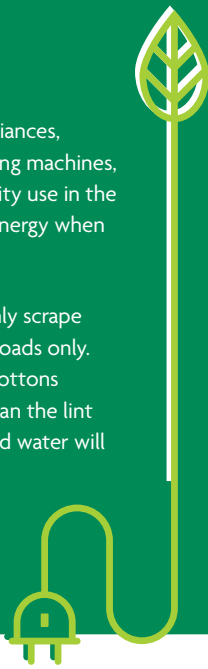
We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know the combined use of large appliances, such as dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines, account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances.

For maximum dishwasher efficiency, thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading and run full loads only. In the laundry room, dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Washing clothes in cold water will save energy used to heat water.

Source: EIA and DOE



BILLING CORNER

VACATIONS AND YOUR ELECTRIC USAGE

Summer is here and many of us are taking vacations. Electric consumers frequently ask why their bill is so high when they are away from home all day or have left for a week's vacation.

Lifestyle and the size of the family determine the amount of energy used rather than the quantity of time spent in the home. People who are gone all day use greater amounts of electricity in shorter periods of time; when an individual or family stays home all day, the electrical usage is spread over the entire day. For example, there is little difference in the amount of laundry or cooking required for a family that remains home compared to a family gone all or part of the day.

The same goes for vacation. Pre vacation activities may include house cleaning, extra clothes washing, etc. There is a repeat of this activity when the vacationer returns with clothes to be washed and countless other chores to be performed with the aid of electrical appliances.

Many people have the misconception they can turn their down their air conditioner, leave the house for a week or two and their electric bill will drop significantly. That isn't always the case.

A vacant house will not necessarily use less energy than an occupied house. Appliances such as water heaters, refrigerators, freezers, clocks and instant on televisions will continue to operate through automatic controls. They require little attention and are often forgotten by the consumer. In contrast, we pay attention to the lights because they are manually operated by switch.

If you plan to leave your house for an extended period of time this summer, we do recommend you turn off your air conditioner, remembering that this will not eliminate all electric usage. If you are leaving a pet home, you will want to turn your thermostat to a temperature where your pet will be comfortable. Prior to your vacation, disconnect or turn off, whenever possible, televisions, well pumps, water heaters, etc., remembering to drain all water lines when necessary. [Kirk Lions Club 5462002001]

Please remember to call the Billing Department at 1-800-660-2291 to let us know if you need your bill forwarded to a temporary address if you plan on being gone for any length of time.

Also, to help you determine your usage period, the reading dates for the billing cycle is printed on your bill. As always, we welcome your comments or questions. Have a great summer.

CLAIM YOUR CREDIT

Each month, Y-W Electric offers consumer-members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you recognize your name and account number in this magazine, call 800-660-2291 and ask for your credit. It couldn't be easier.

Get acquainted with your account number, read your *Colorado Country Life* magazine and pick up the phone. That's all the energy you'll need to claim your energy bucks.

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)



Winners claiming \$20 from the June 2022 issue:

- Chad Henderscheit
- Mark R. & Jennifer M. Roth

Don't Let Summer Heat Up Your Utility Bill

- Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air out.
- Change the air filter on your cooling unit.
- Wash your outdoor AC unit and have your HVAC unit inspected.
- Clear the air vents throughout your house.
- Install a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature when you are away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.
- Update your insulation to keep cool air in your home and warm air out.



▲ Bibiana Davisson



▲ Hailey Stivers



▲ Kayla Becker



▲ Jackson Filla



▲ Hunter Molt

FIVE Y-W AREA STUDENTS TO ATTEND COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is scheduled for the week of July 16–21, at the Glen Eden Resort.

Y-W Electric will sponsor five of the participants. [Richard Hellyer III 332203601]

On January 17, a panel of judges interviewed a group of applicants from area schools. Hailey Stivers of Otis High School, and Jackson Filla, Bibiana Davisson, Kayla Becker and Hunter Molt of Akron High School, were selected to be delegates to the camp this year.

Rural electric systems from Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma sponsor outstanding high school students for the camp. The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is designed to provide a better understanding of cooperatives, legislative processes, energy prices, power generation

and the rural electric program. The camp also develops leadership skills in young people. [Gabriela M. Bocanegra 2045009005]

The camp is run by the participants. At the first meeting, the students elect a board of directors to govern the cooperative. The board then selects the general manager, who is responsible for managing the camp activities. Each board member is the chairperson of a committee. Each participant of the camp has a responsibility to take an active role in the workings of the cooperative. He or she may seek an office and have a part in running the camp or volunteer to serve on the various committees.

The committees are responsible for activities such as setting up and enforcing the rules of the camp, planning games,

operating the camp canteen, planning sports activities and planning a dance and banquet. Besides being a lot of fun, the Leadership Camp also provides an excellent learning experience. Participants have the opportunity to meet over 100 students their own age from a variety of backgrounds. A strong cooperative spirit is developed through accomplishing the many goals set during the week. Adult counselors are present at all times to facilitate the learning experience.

The Glen Eden Resort at Clark, Colorado, beside the Elk River is a beautiful outdoor location in a secluded area. The camp setting is 18 miles north of Steamboat Springs. The students can have fun, make noise, hike, and wade in the river.



Always assume a downed power line is energized. Downed lines can energize the ground up to 35 feet away.



All of us at Y-W Electric wish you and your family a safe and happy 4th of July.

STAY FRESH

Four Tips for Better Indoor Air Quality

BY ABBY BERRY

We spend a lot of time indoors. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates the average person spends 90% of their life indoors. Additionally, our homes are becoming more energy efficient — they're better insulated and sealed with less ventilation — which is great for our energy bills but not so much for our indoor air quality. [Darrel G. Eyestone 821100601]

The thought of breathing in pollutants can be scary, but the truth is that indoor air pollution is common and simply unavoidable. The good news is that there are ways you can easily improve the air quality of your home.

Here are four tips to help you breathe a little easier:

1. **Change your air filter often.** Clogged, dirty filters reduce the amount of airflow and the HVAC system's efficiency. When a filter becomes too clogged, the excess dirt and dust are sent through your air ducts, adding unnecessary allergens and other unwanted particles into your living space. During the cooling season (summer months), the Department of Energy recommends replacing your air filter every month or two. This is one of the easiest ways to promote better indoor air quality and energy efficiency.
2. **Regularly vacuum carpet and rugs — especially if you have furry friends.** The cleaner the home, the healthier the home. Vacuuming carpet and area rugs once a week can greatly reduce the accumulation of pet dander and dust inside your home. Frequently clean other areas that collect dust, such as drapes, bedding and cluttered areas.
3. **Use vents to remove cooking fumes.** Those exhaust fans aren't just for when you burn the bacon. Fans help remove fumes emitted while cooking and eliminate unwanted moisture and odors. They may be a bit noisy, but these handy tools can help you improve indoor air quality while you're preparing that culinary masterpiece.
4. **Incorporate air-purifying plants into your living space.** There are several varieties of indoor plants that can help detoxify your home from dust and germs found in a variety of home products, furniture and other materials. A few low-maintenance, air-purifying plants to consider are snake plants, aloe vera plants and pothos plants, also known as Devil's Ivy. These vibrant, lush plants are eye-catching and beneficial for any home. Remember to review care conditions and think about placement for any new plants you add to your home. [Sarah J. Newton 732124801]

Taking simple steps to purify indoor air can improve health and overall quality of life. With a little effort, you can improve the indoor air quality of your home and breathe a bit easier.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



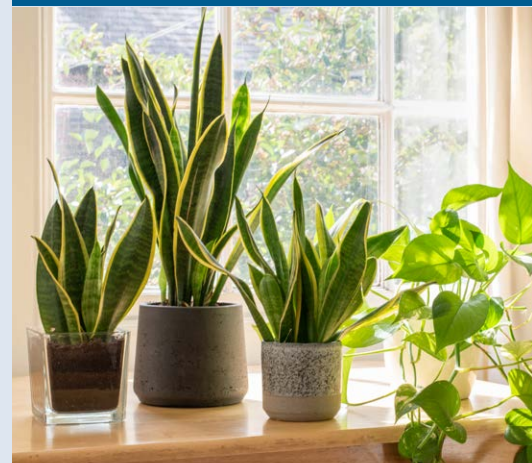
CHANGE YOUR AIR FILTER OFTEN



VACUUM CARPET AND RUGS WEEKLY



USE VENTS TO REMOVE COOKING FUMES



INCORPORATE PLANTS INTO YOUR HOME