

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2022



MAILING ADDRESS

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STREET ADDRESS

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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.

We will be closed **December 26** for Christmas, and **January 2** for New Year's.

MAY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON BE MERRY AND BRIGHT

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations and lots of festivities. We cherish carrying on old family traditions and creating new ones. For me personally, I look forward to more time spent with family and friends.

However, given the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. For all of us at Y-W Electric Association, we are grateful for you, the consumer-members of the co-op.

You see, one of our founding principles as a co-op is "Concern for Community." While our main focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we want to give back. We want to help our community thrive. [Stacy Imhoff 720300305]

Reflection

In looking back at this past year, I'm grateful that we made a positive impact in the community. For example, we donated \$3,842 to Energy Outreach Colorado. As a result, we helped many families in the community pay their energy bills.

We are also grateful for the opportunity to partner with local schools to raise awareness of the importance of electrical safety. This year, we visited with over 300 students from nine schools.

In addition, we continue to work closely with our local high schools to award college scholarships. In 2021, we awarded 24 scholarships to local scholars.

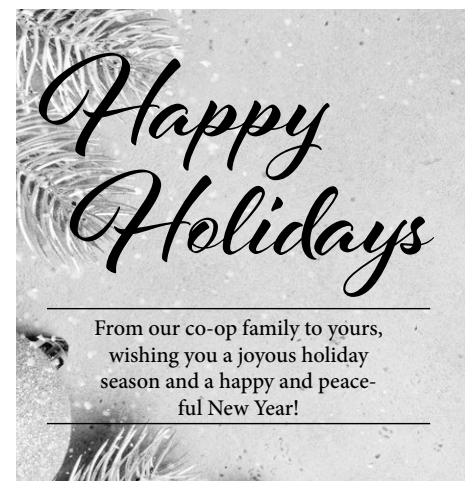
There are other ways we can help the community, whether we're providing information about our energy efficiency rebates and electric usage audit programs for homes,

farmsteads and irrigation systems, or helping you find ways to save energy at home, we want you to know we're here to help. [Kristy K McNulty 340901602]

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead to 2023, we hope you will share your opinions with us. We recognize that our consumer-members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you. We are led by you — the consumer-members of the co-op — and we depend on your feedback.

As we prepare for next year, we look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the greater community. On behalf of the Y-W Electric family, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright.



BILLING CORNER

2022 YEAR END INFORMATION

The year 2022 will soon be ending and many of our consumers are reviewing their power consumption and costs for the past year. Because of the billing cycle, the December 2022 usage is not billed until the second week of January 2023.

Since the usage for the calendar year is not billed in the calendar year (December billed in January), what you have paid at a certain location during the calendar year is not necessarily the 2022 usage. We can help you with any questions concerning your usage or energy charges. When requesting yearly information, please specify whether you need the yearly usage or the total amount paid during the year, or both.

If you have any questions or need information about your accounts, please contact our Billing Department at 1-800-660-2291 or come into the Akron office. We can easily give you the kilowatt-hour and energy charge figures for 2022. If you require more information than this, please allow us a few days to get it collected. Please keep this in mind when requesting yearly information. [Patsy S. Odell 5522005002]

All of us at Y-W Electric Association sincerely wish you a prosperous 2023.



Congratulations to the winners claiming \$20 from the October 2022 Issue:

Francis M. and Kathy S. O'Donnell
Robert D. and Cassey A. Rahm
Laird Community Center

Proper Generator Use

It's helpful to have a back-up generator when the power goes out, but make sure you know how to operate it safely.

Unsafe operation can threaten you, your family, neighbors and even the lineworkers who are restoring power. Improper installation or operation may also result in a lawsuit, and your insurance may not cover your liability.



Appliances That Use the Most Energy

BY TOLU OMOTOSO

Have you ever received your energy bill and thought, “I wonder which appliances in my home are using the most energy?” Don't worry — you're not alone. A few years ago, after being away for a somewhat lengthy trip, I arrived home to a typical energy bill. I was surprised. I had expected a lower bill since I wasn't using my appliances or other energy hogs. This led me to an enlightening journey in search for answers. [Jerry Martinez and Kimberly Seybels 2316006214]

My first set of answers came from browsing the Energy Information Administration's website, specifically the Residential Energy Consumption Survey. According to the EIA, a typical U.S. home spends more than \$2,000 annually on energy bills and, on average, more than half of household energy consumption is for just two energy end uses: space heating and air conditioning. Seeing this, I understood the importance of adjusting my thermostat while I'm away because it truly makes a difference on electric bills.

I also learned that water heaters tend to be the third largest energy user at 13%, followed by lighting, which usually accounts for about 12.5% of the average energy bill.

Once I understood the factors driving my energy consumption, I learned to control them and save money by using helpful devices like a smart thermostat, a water heater controller and a smart power strip.

Several factors affect the amount of energy a household uses, including geographic location and climate, the number of people in the home, the type of home and its physical characteristics. The efficiency of energy-consuming devices and the amount of time they are used also impact home energy consumption.

The following tips can help save energy and reduce your monthly electric bill:

1. Use EnergyStar-rated appliances and devices.
2. Replace old, inefficient equipment. For example, if your air conditioner, furnace or water heater is more than 10 years old, it is likely using a lot more energy than necessary. A newer model will save you money in the long run and help you avoid an inconvenient breakdown.
3. Use appliances with efficiency in mind. Wash full loads of clothes or dishes. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the oven.
4. Set your thermostat accordingly to scale back heating or cooling when you are asleep or away. When you're in the home and active, the Department of Energy recommends setting it to 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter. Aim for settings as close to those as possible to save energy.
5. Use energy-efficient LED bulbs. They use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last 25 times longer.
6. Plug electronics into a smart power strip that allows you to designate “always on” for devices that need to maintain network connection, while cutting power from devices such as speakers when they are not in use. [Gabriela M. Bocanegra 2045009005]

In addition to the steps noted above, consider using real-time energy monitors to help identify faulty appliances that run unnoticed for extended periods of time, leading to high energy bills.

With a little extra attention to how you use energy in your home, you'll be well on your way to a path of energy savings — and lower energy bills.

Tolu Omotoso is the Director of Energy Solutions at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

DON'T MISS OUT ON FREE MONEY FROM Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE TO COMPETE FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOLARSHIPS:

Y-W Electric Association* \$1,000/year scholarships
(renewable up to \$4,000)

Y-W Electric* \$1,000 scholarships

Basin Electric \$1,000 scholarships

Y-W Electric* \$500 scholarships

Y-W Electric* \$500 continuing education scholarship

Tri-State G&T \$500 scholarships

Y-W Electric* \$1,000 line technician training scholarship

** Y-W Electric scholarships are funded by unclaimed capital credits.*

For more information, please see your high school guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric 970-345-2291. He will be happy to answer any questions.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH Y-W ELECTRIC

TO QUALIFY FOR THESE SCHOLARSHIPS:

- ✓ Your parents or guardians must receive electric service from Y-W Electric.
- ✓ You must be a graduating student from a local high school or approved home-schooling program or be a continuing college student.
- ✓ You must maintain full-time resident student status.
- ✓ Semesters must be continuous, excluding summer.
- ✓ You must provide a copy of your grade transcript to Y-W Electric at the end of each semester to receive renewable funding for specific scholarships.
- ✓ You must maintain minimum GPA requirements.
- ✓ Applications are available on our website, ywelectric.coop, beginning October 2022.
- ✓ Applications must become emailed or delivered to Y-W prior to 5 p.m., January 31, 2023.
- ✓ Applications received after January 31, 2023, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED, regardless of postmark.



APPLY TODAY!



2022 SERVICE AWARDS



Andy Hase - 25 Years



Brandee Bullard - 10 Years



Shannon Greene - 20 Years



Matt Hillman - 15 Years



James Lucero - 10 Years



Nathan Quick - 5 Years



Nate Williams - 20 Years



Each month, Y-W Electric Association offers consumer-members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you find 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. You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)

APPLY NOW FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP 2023

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO



**ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

CONTACT YW ELECTRIC at 970-345-2291
APPLICATION DEADLINE: 12/16/2022

VISIT YWELECTRIC.COOP for more information.

On July 15–20, 2023, about 100 students, chosen and sponsored by rural electric cooperatives from all over Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma, will attend Youth Leadership Camp. The camp is designed to provide a better understanding of cooperatives, legislative processes, energy prices, power generation and the rural electric cooperative program. It also focuses on developing leadership skills to handle the challenges of the future. The camp, run by the students, is a lot of fun and also provides an excellent learning experience. Field trips are planned to tour solar farms and other electric co-op operations. There is also time for fun and sightseeing. Free time is spent with volleyball, swimming, whitewater rafting, dancing, a banquet and meeting many new friends.

All expenses for the camp are covered by Y-W Electric. The parent or guardian of an applicant must be a consumer-member of Y-W Electric Association and/or directly receive electric power from Y-W Electric Association. The selection process is conducted similarly to a job interview so applicants will gain experience in that area.

- Applications available on ywelectric.coop.
- For more information, please see your guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric 970-345-2291. He will answer any questions.