THE HIGHLINE BY LINE
A NEWSLETTER FROM ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE

ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT, MANAGING ENERGY RIGHT

How holiday activities affect electricity use and simple ways to keep demand in check.



The holidays often mean a little more of everything at home — more cooking, more dishes, more guests and more time spent together. All that activity can also mean using more electricity, often without giving it much thought.

There's no need to change the traditions that make the season special. But understanding where that extra energy use comes from, and spreading it out when you can, can help manage demand on the electric system.

WHERE DOES THE EXTRA ENERGY GO?

- **Cooking:** Holiday meals can put ovens, stovetops, slow cookers and other kitchen appliances to work at the same time. That combination can create a temporary increase in electricity demand.
- **Dishwashing:** More people around the table usually means more dishes — and potentially a few extra dishwasher cycles.
- **Heating:** Colder temperatures, doors opening and closing as guests arrive, and heating additional spaces can all make your heating system work a little harder.
- **Overnight Guests:** Extra showers, laundry, device charging and everyday household activity can add to your home's electricity use. Even small activities can add up when your household is busier than usual.
- **Holiday Lighting:** Indoor and outdoor decorations add to the festive atmosphere, but keeping lights on for extended periods can increase electricity use. LED lights and timers can help keep that extra energy use in check.

SPREAD OUT YOUR ENERGY USE

Energy demand isn't only about how much electricity we use, it's also about when we use it.

When many homes and businesses are using large amounts of electricity at the same time, it creates periods of peak demand. Reducing those peaks helps Arrowhead Cooperative manage the cost of providing reliable electricity to our members.

The good news? Managing demand doesn't have to mean using less electricity overall. Sometimes, it's simply a matter of adjusting when certain tasks get done.

A few small shifts can help:

- Run the dishwasher after meal preparation is finished instead of while several kitchen appliances are running.
- Prepare side dishes or desserts ahead of time when possible.
- Save extra loads of laundry for later in the day.
- Use a programmable or smart thermostat to keep temperatures comfortable and consistent.
- Turn off lights and electronics in rooms that aren't being used.

The holidays are meant to be enjoyed. Simply being mindful of when you use larger appliances and spreading some of that energy use throughout the day can make a difference for your home and your cooperative. When members make small adjustments together, those efforts can add up across our entire electric system.

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NOMINATE A COOPERATIVE HERO!

Every community has people who go above and beyond to make a difference. The Cooperative Heroes Award celebrates individuals who demonstrate cooperative values through service, leadership and a commitment to helping others.

Arrowhead Cooperative encourages members to nominate someone making a positive impact in their community. Whether it's a dedicated volunteer, helpful neighbor or local leader, this is your chance to recognize someone who makes our communities stronger.

Three Cooperative Heroes will be selected, with donations made to a nonprofit or cause of their choice. The first-place winner will receive $1,000 to donate, while second- and third-place winners will each receive $500 to donate.

Nominations are open through November 15, 2026.

Learn more and submit a nomination at www.mrea.org/programs/touchstone-energy.

SHARE THE WARMTH THIS WINTER

Help us fill Arrowhead Cooperative's Mitten Tree and support neighbors in our community this holiday season.

We're collecting new or homemade mittens, gloves, hats and scarves, along with gift cards to local grocery stores, for Operation Family Christmas. These simple gifts can make a meaningful difference for local families during the coldest months of the year.

Donations can be dropped off at the Arrowhead Cooperative office through 4 p.m. on December 11. Operation Family Christmas coordinators will make sure your contributions reach individuals and families in our community who can use a little extra support this season.

Add something warm to our Mitten Tree and help us share comfort, care and Christmas cheer.



NEW REBATES FOR BATTERY-POWERED YARD TOOLS!

Thinking about upgrading your outdoor equipment? Arrowhead Cooperative is offering new rebates on qualifying battery-powered yard tools purchased in 2026.

MEMBERS CAN RECEIVE:

- $50 Rebate: Riding Lawn Mowers, Walk-Behind Lawn Mowers and Snow Blowers
- $25 Rebate: Ice Augers, Chainsaws and Trimmers

Battery-powered equipment offers convenient, cordless operation without the hassle of gasoline or exhaust fumes.

READY TO SAVE? Complete the rebate form and submit it with your original sales receipt to Arrowhead Cooperative. Learn more or download the form at www.arrowheadcoop.com/rebates.

CO-OP NEWS

OFFICE CLOSED

Arrowhead Cooperative will be closed on Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, 2026, in observance of Thanksgiving.

In the event of an outage or emergency please call (800) 864-3744.

COLD WEATHER RULE

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule protects eligible residential members from electric disconnection October 1 through April 30. Members must continue paying their bills and establish a payment plan with Arrowhead Cooperative to qualify.

For details or payment arrangements, call (800) 864-3744.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

LOOKING FOR A TAX BREAK?

With the start of another heating season, we would like to remind members who have electric heat as a primary heat source that their heat is exempt from Minnesota sales tax November through April.

The exemption only applies to electricity used as your primary fuel for residential heating. If you have two heat meters, only one heat meter is tax-exempt. Electricity from lights, appliances, etc. is not tax-exempt. Arrowhead Cooperative must charge sales tax unless we have a Sales Tax Exemption Certificate on file. If you sent in the form in the past you do NOT need to send it in again. We renew it automatically. If you find you qualify and are not sure if you have already submitted this certificate look under your rate on your bill. If it says "Winter Exempt" in your rate description then you are tax exempt.

ELECTRIC HEAT SALES TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the main source of heat for my home (over 50%) is furnished by permanently installed electric heating equipment and I, therefore, am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption, as provided by Minnesota state law. This is for the billing months of November through April only.

ACCOUNT #: _____

DATE: _____

MEMBER NAME: *(please print)*

_____

MEMBER SIGNATURE:

_____

SERVICE ADDRESS:

_____

SMART GIFTS FOR A SMARTER HOME

Looking for a gift that's both fun and functional? Smart technology offers plenty of options for everyone on your shopping list. From entertainment and convenience to energy-saving features, these connected gifts can make everyday life a little easier.

SMART SPEAKERS: ENTERTAINMENT AT YOUR COMMAND

Smart speakers do more than play music. They can answer questions, set reminders, share weather forecasts and control compatible smart home devices using voice commands. They're a great gift for music lovers, busy families and tech enthusiasts.

DIGITAL PHOTO FRAMES: MEMORIES ON DISPLAY

Give grandparents, parents or loved ones a digital photo frame that connects to Wi-Fi. Many models allow family members to upload new pictures remotely, keeping the memories fresh throughout the year.

SMART LED LIGHT STRIPS: LIGHT UP ANY SPACE

Perfect for bedrooms, gaming setups or entertainment areas, smart LED light strips let users customize colors, brightness and lighting effects through an app. LED technology also offers an energy-efficient way to add personality to a room.

VIDEO DOORBELLS: CONVENIENCE AT THE FRONT DOOR

A Wi-Fi-enabled video doorbell lets homeowners see who's at the door, receive motion alerts and communicate with visitors through their smartphones. It's a practical gift that adds convenience and peace of mind.

SMART COFFEE MAKERS: A BETTER MORNING ROUTINE

For the coffee lover on your list, a smart coffee maker can make mornings easier. Select models allow users to schedule brewing or start a fresh pot from their smartphones, so coffee is ready when they are.

SMART YARD TOOLS: CORDLESS CONVENIENCE

Give the gift of easier yard work with battery-powered leaf blowers, string trimmers, chainsaws or lawn mowers. Many newer models feature smart technology, including app connectivity, battery monitoring and adjustable power settings to optimize performance. These rechargeable tools offer a quieter, cleaner alternative to gas-powered equipment, combining convenience, efficiency and innovation for homeowners.

BEFORE YOU WRAP IT UP...

When shopping for smart gifts, check Wi-Fi compatibility, app requirements and potential subscription fees.

The best smart gifts start with a strong connection. Arrowhead Cooperative's broadband service helps keep households connected, making it easier to enjoy the technology that brings convenience, entertainment and efficiency into everyday life.





NOVEMBER CALENDAR WINNER
Submitted by: Michael Plumb



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may work harder to meet household needs. Save energy by checking its temperature setting. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends 120°F for most households. This simple adjustment can reduce energy use and help prevent scalding. Always consult your owner's manual before making changes.

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