



Singing River Electric Power Association
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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All-time electric usage peak set in January will reflect in February electric bills



Lee Hedegaard, General Manager and CEO Singing River Electric

South Mississippi Electric, Singing River Electric's generation and transmission cooperative, set all-time peaks in need for generation.

Singing River Electric was able to handle the increased demand due in part to system and substation improvements that were completed throughout the year in 2009. In addition, on real cold mornings, crews were out at 5 a.m. to monitor substation demand.

The extreme and extended cold weather will directly affect electric bills due to members' increased usage.

Heating systems have been working hard and many pool pumps and other electric items have been working as well. All this adds up to increased usage and increased electricity bills.

We have definitely had a cold December and January. The Mississippi Gulf Coast set record lows the first two weeks in January, and we experienced extreme cold for 13 days straight which also was very unusual. Local TV weathermen reported that the extended cold streak was the longest since 1940. It was certainly the longest cold streak I can remember.

You can't control the weather, but there are things you can do to manage your energy use. Installing programmable thermostats, sealing windows and doors and adding insulation are good starting points.

Please visit our Web site at www.singingriver.com and click on the interactive features and calculators for demonstrations on how to save.

Singing River Electric member services representatives are also available to work with members to identify improvements to the home and possible changes in daily routines that will help manage electricity use.

Energy Tip for members



Member Services Rep., Stan Mills
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During this unusually cold weather our heat is running more than in past years. As temperatures fall in the thirties, twenties, and even the teens, you can expect your energy usage to increase. An electric furnace using electric strip heat uses about three times as much energy as your air conditioning unit. If you have an electric heat pump you may notice that the auxiliary heat is on with the heat pump during these low temperatures.

It is important to understand that the lower the temperatures get, the more the heat runs which results in higher energy use. If you increase the thermostat temperature as the outside temperature falls, your heat will run continuously.

One way to manage the energy use during this time is to set your thermostat at 68 degrees and leave it at this temperature no matter how cold it gets outside. Bundle up with sweaters and blankets to keep warm. Program your thermostat to run at 65° while no one is home.

However, remember that all homes are different. If your home is older or does not have proper insulation, you may need to keep your heat at a higher temperature to stay warm and safe.

For more energy savings tips visit our Web site at www.singingriver.com.

Remember, appliances have two price tags

When looking for a new appliance don't just consider the price you pay for the appliance, but also the price you pay for the energy and water it uses. Energy Star appliances use 10 to 50% less energy and water than standard models. Those energy savings can help make up the extra cost of buying a product with an Energy Star rating.

The Energy Star program was launched in 1992 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. Today, the program rates more than 60 product categories from computers to dishwashers and DVD players.

Switching to an Energy Star dishwasher instead of washing dishes by hand can save you 31% in energy costs and 33% in cost of water.

"It is important to look for the Energy Star label for instance when you shop for a new refrigerator," says Singing River Electric member services representative Jeff Gray. "Qualified refrigerators must be at least 15 percent more efficient to receive the Energy Star rating."

Energy Star-rated televisions consume three watts or less when switched off, compared to a standard TV, which consumes almost six watts on average.

Switching to an Energy Star dishwasher instead of washing dishes by hand can save you 31% in energy costs and 33% in cost of water. And an Energy Star clothes washer can cut energy costs by a third and water costs by more than half.

"Take time to identify ways to change your daily habits, like turning off your set-top box and your TV, and ways to make investments in your home to increase your energy savings," said Gray. "A few dollars here and changes there and you can see lower energy bills."

Energy Star Buyer's Guide

When choosing any appliance...

- Look for the Energy Star Label
- Check the Energy Guide Label



Refrigerator

- Buy a refrigerator with top-mounted freezer to save energy
- Purchase appropriately sized refrigerator
- Consider skipping ice maker and dispenser to save energy

Dishwasher

- Choose the right size dishwasher for your home
- Choose dishwasher with multiple wash cycles options

Clothes Washers

- Think carefully about size of washer you need
- Choose model with high Modified Energy Factor (MEF) and low Water Factor (WF)
- Look for several water level options
- Choose a dryer with a moisture sensor to save energy

www.energystar.gov

* Visit <http://ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/home/rea14.pdf> to learn how to use the EnergyGuide Label.

TV, DVD, Blu-ray and cordless phones

Using less energy preserves energy resources while saving money on energy bills. Home electronic products use energy when they're off to power features like clock displays and remote controls. U.S. households spend \$100 per year to power devices while they are in this "standby" power mode. Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR use less energy to perform these functions, while providing the same performance and features as conventional models.



We're gone most of the day, so it didn't make sense to keep an empty house comfortable. But now when we get home, it's ready.

I'm saving money on my electricity bill just by programming a thermostat.

What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at www.singingriver.com/energyguide.html.

Feels better since I set our thermostat to cheap.



BUY ENERGY STAR.

ENERGY STAR® products are designed to use less energy.

Save energy



Save money

