

More Ways to Save

Computers: When not being actively used, turning off the computer is most economical, however; if the computer must be left on, turning off the monitor will cut the electricity consumption in half.

Aquariums: Keep aquariums covered to reduce the amount of moisture escaping. Elevated humidity levels in the home increase human discomfort.

Fireplace/Wood burning stove: Check to make sure the damper is closed when the fireplace is not in use and keep wood stove doors closed.

In the kitchen: Do not use the oven or stove for heating the house.

When cooking, using a microwave oven will be less expensive.

A dishwasher uses the same amount of electricity whether it is fully loaded or only contains a few items. Therefore, run full loads to save energy.

Clean off freezer and refrigerator coils every six months. The dust that accumulates on the coils reduces efficiency. Also, a full freezer runs less, even if that means filling up water jugs and freezing them. Place these containers beneath food so that they're not in the way.

Hot Water: Turn off the water heater if you will be away from home for two or more days. The thermostat should be set between 120 and 140 degrees. The lower the setting, the more energy it will save.



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Peace River Electric Cooperative (PRECO)

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Energy Efficiency: Your Guide To Winter Savings



When the weather turns cold in Florida, the demand for energy rises, and even though our winter months are mild, increased energy demand may lead to higher costs in your monthly electric bill. By following the tips in this brochure, you can reduce your energy consumption and maintain comfortable temperatures in your home throughout the winter.

Prepared especially for Seminole Electric Cooperatives

Winter in Florida

Welcome to Winter in Florida!

While winter here is not as bad as other parts of the country, it still gets cold. And your home energy consumption is likely on the rise, mostly from heating expenses. There are some small steps you can consider to trim back energy use.

Around the house...

Lighting: CFL (Compact Fluorescent Lights) and LED (Light Emitting Diodes) are ideal for use in place of incandescent lights that are used frequently (more than about 3 hours a day). But, whatever light you choose, remember to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.



Windows: Keep windows closed while heating the house. Also keep curtains closed during hours of extreme cold temperatures. If using venetian blinds, adjust them so that they reflect sun rays inward. Also, awning and jalousie windows should be closed as tight as possible to reduce air leaks. Open windows for natural ventilation only during mild weather.



Keep Energy Usage in Check

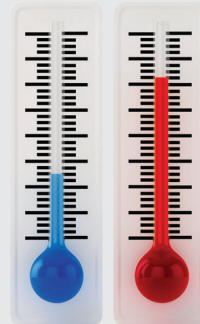
Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC):

THE LARGEST ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS IN THE HOUSE

Basic maintenance will go a long way to enhance the system's efficiency and prolong the life of the HVAC unit. Heating units should be serviced annually. Clean filters monthly and replace when needed. A dirty filter restricts airflow and causes the unit to lose efficiency.



Throughout the house, it's important to keep all air supply registers to all rooms open and the return air pathways free from obstructions (furniture). Also, doors should be kept open to any room that has a supply air register but no return air vent within the room.



Outside, it is wise to keep plants and other obstructions at least three feet away from the outside unit to prevent interference with air circulation.

Temperature settings play a significant role in a home's energy consumption. For each degree you set the heating thermostat below 68 degrees, you will see up to a 4% savings per degree. With this thought in mind, consider lowering the thermostat a few degrees and using blankets during sleeping hours. Also, lowering the thermostat by five degrees when away from your home can generate savings.

While you can adjust the settings manually, you

might also consider installing an electronic programmable thermostat or wifi enabled smart thermostat to manage your temperature setting throughout the day and night. Many of these are suitable for a do-it-yourself easy install.

You will find it is less expensive to use a small heater to warm the temperature in one room of the house than it is to heat the whole house to the warmer temperature using the central system.

Fanning up more savings...

Ceiling fans: Change the switch on your fan to reverse the direction of the blades to bring the warm air that is rising to the top of your 8' – 10' high ceilings right back down to you.

Bathroom exhaust fans play an important role in increasing the comfort of your home and should run for approximately 20 minutes to effectively remove the excess humidity from the area. To operate most efficiently, if there is an operational window in the bathroom, open the window slightly while the fan is running so that less heated air is pulled from the rest of the house. Do not run the fan longer than about 20 minutes and remember to close the window when you turn off the fan.



When cooking, **kitchen exhaust fans** should likewise be run for about 20 minutes to effectively remove extra humidity added to the room.