



**Clark Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Tim Stewart,  
CEO/Manager

## PLANNING PROCESS GETS UNDERWAY

**During the fourth quarter of each year, the cooperative's management and staff begin to prepare a series of planning documents that will provide the tools for financial**

**planning for the cooperative in the upcoming year. The board of directors meets with cooperative staff to review various department activities and the upcoming business plan.**

Besides providing short-term goals and objectives, the business plan must also be consistent with the cooperative's long-range planning studies, goals, and objectives. It is vital that short-term goals and objectives are established to reach long-term objectives such as equity management plans, cash flow requirements, Rural Utilities Service requirements, maintenance funding, construction activities, and the member needs and service requirements. The board of directors and management are aware of the need to maximize the value of expenditures and contain costs where appropriate and feasible. Our mission today is as it was years ago: to provide reliable, competitively priced energy and related services to our members while maximizing

value for our members consistent with the wise use of resources and technology. Simply stated: provide the best possible service for the best possible price. We continuously strive to work with our members to improve the social and economic well-being of our local communities. I will be providing more precise budgetary and work plan information in the upcoming months.

In closing, as the holidays are upon us I would like to offer a few holiday safety tips. Many of us have treasured holiday

mementos that we bring out of storage and proudly display every year.

These items are often handed down through generations and might lack modern safety features. Take



a few moments to carefully inspect all of your holiday items to ensure everything is in safe, working order. A few things to look out for include:

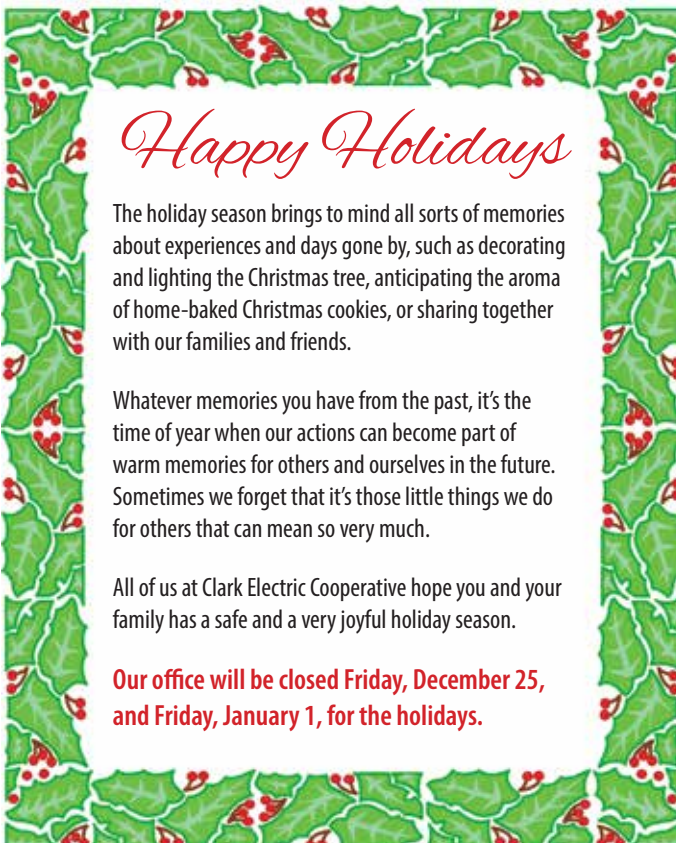
- Brittle insulation on wires
- Rodent damage to wires
- Chafed or frayed wires, especially at stress points
- Worn switches with the potential to short circuit
- Corroded metal parts
- Broken legs, unstable bases, and other tip-over hazards

**Extension cords are temporary** – Extension cords are designed for temporary use and should never be used as a permanent or long-term solution. Don't place them in walk ways or underneath rugs.

**Never defeat safety devices** – There are reasons why some devices have fuses, some plugs have three prongs instead of two, and one prong is wider than the other on two-prong outlets. When those safety features get in the way of your grand holiday décor plans, you might be tempted to tamper with or defeat those features. If your plugs won't fit together, that means they're not designed to work together.

**Look up and live** – When working outside with a ladder, be mindful of the location of overhead power lines. Always carry your ladder so that it is parallel to the ground. Before placing your ladder in an upright position, look around to ensure you are a safe distance from any power lines. This includes your service extension. The overhead wire brings power from the utility pole to your house. You should treat this line the same way you'd treat any other power line on our system. Maintain a safe distance.

Wishing you all a merry and safe holiday season.



*Happy Holidays*

The holiday season brings to mind all sorts of memories about experiences and days gone by, such as decorating and lighting the Christmas tree, anticipating the aroma of home-baked Christmas cookies, or sharing together with our families and friends.

Whatever memories you have from the past, it's the time of year when our actions can become part of warm memories for others and ourselves in the future. Sometimes we forget that it's those little things we do for others that can mean so very much.

All of us at Clark Electric Cooperative hope you and your family has a safe and a very joyful holiday season.

**Our office will be closed Friday, December 25, and Friday, January 1, for the holidays.**



## COOKING UP HOLIDAY ENERGY SAVINGS

**For many of us, the best holidays involve home-cooked meals and the aromas of turkey, stuffing, and baked goods wafting throughout the house.**

It means a busy kitchen and a bustling house full of family and friends. If this rings true for you, despite the increased kitchen activity, you still have an opportunity to save energy during the holidays.

**Cut carbs (carbon) painlessly** – In addition to being the “heart of your home,” your kitchen could pump savings back into your wallet. According to the Department of Energy, cooking accounts for 4.5 percent of total energy use in U.S. homes. This number, combined with the energy use associated with refrigeration, dishwashing, and hot water heating, means that as much as 15 percent of the energy in the average American home is used in the kitchen. So, saving energy here can have a significant impact on your household budget.

For example, when preparing side dishes, baked goods, soups and such, consider using small appliances like a crock pot, toaster oven, microwave, or warming plate instead of your conventional oven or stovetop. These small appliances typically use about half the energy of a stove.

**Seal in efficiency** – When using your oven, don’t peek! Opening the oven door can lower the temperature by as much as 25 degrees and causes your stove to work harder (consuming more energy) to return to the desired temperature. If your

recipe calls for baking the dish more than an hour, it is not necessary to preheat the oven. If your oven is electric, you can likely turn the oven off for the last five to ten minutes of cooking and allow the residual heat to complete the job. Clean burners and reflectors increase efficiency and offer better heating, so don’t neglect this small but important task.

Just as keeping the oven door closed seals in efficiency and enables the stove to operate more economically, the same rules apply to the refrigerator and freezer. Keep the doors closed as much as possible so cold air doesn’t escape. However, leaving the door open while you load groceries or remove items you need is more efficient than opening and closing it several times.

If you are entertaining a large group, you may be able to give your furnace a brief holiday. When your oven is working hard and you have a house full of guests, the heat from the stove and the guests will keep your house comfortable, enabling you to turn down the thermostat.

**Clean up with energy savings** – When it’s time to clean up, extend fellowship to the kitchen, and wash and dry dirty dishes by hand. This uses less energy than a dishwasher. However, don’t leave the water running continuously, or you will waste energy. If you do use the dishwasher and rinse dishes before loading them, use cold water. Run the dishwasher with full loads only, and if possible, use the energy-saving cycle. Note that dishwashers that have overnight or air power dry settings can save up to 10 percent of your dishwashing energy costs.—*Anne Prince, NRECA*

Come join us at our new location,  
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Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite

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**DECEMBER  
7-11**



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- Sign up for Exede Satellite Internet!
- Check out our First Call Medical Alert Monitoring System
- Enjoy coffee, apple cider, and cookies

Our way of saying  
**Thank you for your business!**  
*It is our pleasure to be of service to you.*

**Clark Electric Cooperative  
Gift Certificates Available**

*Need ideas about what to get that special someone for the holidays?*

We all have someone on our shopping list who seems to have everything. How about giving them the gift of energy with a gift certificate from Clark Electric Cooperative? If they receive electric service from Clark Electric Cooperative, contact our Billing Department at 715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188 to learn how to obtain a gift certificate.





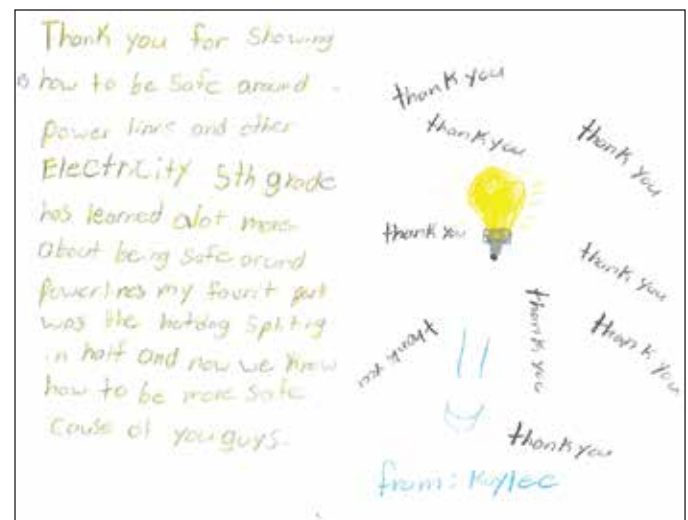
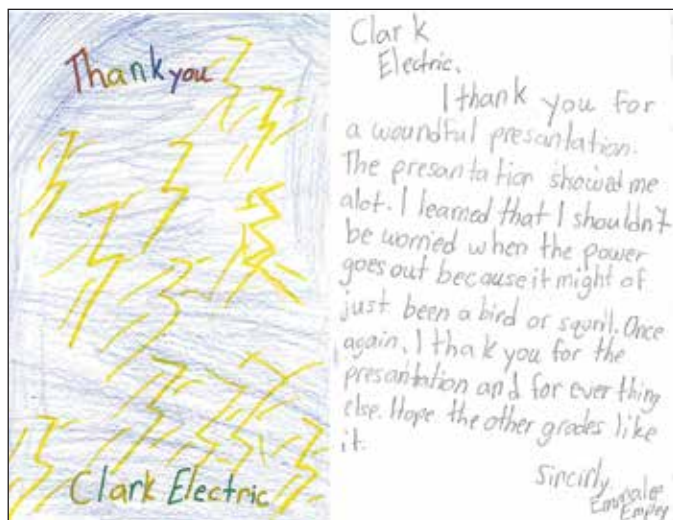
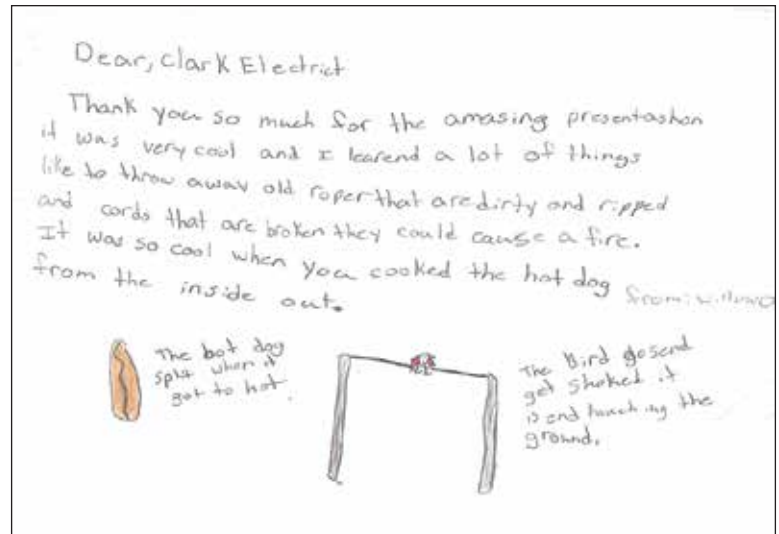


# Colby Middle School Attends Safety Demonstration

**On Wednesday, October 7, Clark Electric Cooperative hosted an electrical safety demonstration for approximately 80 students from the Colby Middle School.**

Linemen Scott Bailen and Kent Weigel conducted the safety demonstration at the cooperative's new headquarters in Greenwood and talked about safety around power lines with the kids. There were a lot of questions asked, and as always, the kids jumped when fuses blew and the hot dog came into contact with the energized line.

Clark Electric conducts safety demonstrations for local schools and community clubs throughout the year. This is one of the ways Clark incorporates the 7th Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community, into the surrounding communities. If you would like a demonstration for your group, just call and ask for Amber in our office.





# HELP US...

## During Peak Alert Winter Days

Extreme cold winter months can cause stress to the electric system, and your cooperatives want your help. During the next few months, local radio stations will broadcast peak alert messages from local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including Clark Electric Cooperative. When you hear a peak alert message it means that your energy cooperatives are controlling their peak electrical demand and ask for your assistance in shifting your electric usage to other hours. Controlling energy usage helps your cooperative keep your costs down. Messages will be brought to you on high-demand days only. Beginning at 3 p.m. on these days, any voluntary controlling will be greatly appreciated. We thank you for your help.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Remember to close your fireplace damper (unless a fire is burning). Keeping the damper open is like leaving a window wide open during the winter, allowing warm air to escape through the chimney.

Source: energy.gov

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES AVAILABLE

Turn in forms by January 31, 2016

Are you wrapping up some home-improvement plans before the new year sets in? If so, be sure to check out our website, [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com), to see if your project qualifies for an energy rebate. We offer rebates on qualified Energy Star appliances, lighting, water heaters, and electric heat systems, among others. Items must be purchased, installed, and/or recycled in 2015.

Rebate forms must be returned to our office by January 31, 2016.



## THE HEATING SEASON IS HERE!



## GEO THERMAL

When COMFORT Matters

Looking for an efficient, cost effective and environmentally friendly heating and cooling system? A geothermal heat pump is the greenest system available. Geothermal systems don't emit carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide or other greenhouse gasses that can be harmful to the environment or, more importantly, your family. Save money and rest easy knowing your family will be comfortable and safe.



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