

# How Weather Affects Your Electric Bill

**Weather can have a big impact on your energy usage and your electric bill. Here's how:**

The greater the difference between the temperature outside and the thermostat setting inside, the harder your heating system will work and the more energy it will use, even if you don't turn the thermostat higher.

This is especially true for homes that don't have enough insulation, homes with single pane or aluminum-framed windows, and homes with a lot of air leaks around windows, doors, and plumbing & electrical boxes.

**Hot Summer Months:** Air conditioners work overtime to keep your home cool, which can cause a noticeable spike in electricity use. Using fans, closing blinds during peak sun hours, and setting your thermostat a few degrees higher can help reduce the load.

**Cold Winter Months:** Electric heating systems, space heaters, and heat pumps run longer in cold weather, increasing consumption. Sealing windows and doors, adding insulation, and using programmable thermostats can help control costs.

- **Turn your thermostat down a few degrees.** Each degree you lower it can save up to 2% on your heating bill. Set it even lower when you are away or asleep but be sure to keep your house at least 55 degrees at all times to prevent pipes from freezing and to avoid moisture problems.
- **Small space heaters** are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. If you are using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows, and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home.

**Humidity and Storms:** High humidity can make cooling systems work harder, while storms can cause temporary power interruptions or fluctuations. Regular HVAC maintenance ensures your system is running efficiently no matter the weather.

## Tips to Manage Weather-Related Costs:

- Use a programmable thermostat to optimize heating and cooling.
- Maintain your HVAC system and check filters regularly.
- Seal leaks around windows and doors to prevent energy loss.
- Use fans in summer and layered clothing in winter to reduce reliance on electric systems.

## Monitor and Manage Your Usage Online

Did you know you can track and manage your electric usage anytime? Members can visit our website and enroll in SmartHub, an online tool that allows you to:

- Pay your electric bill conveniently online
- View detailed energy usage data
- Monitor trends and identify ways to save

Enrolling in SmartHub is easy and gives you greater control over your energy use, especially during extreme weather months. Click the SmartHub button on the Home page to get started today!

By understanding how weather affects your electricity use, you can take simple steps to stay comfortable while keeping your bill under control.