

Owned by the
Members We Serve

BROWN-ATCHISON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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Contact Us

P.O. Box 230, 1712 Central
Horton, KS 66439

Phone: 785-486-2117

After hours: 785-486-3341

www.baelectric.com

FROM THE MANAGER

Beat the Peak!

“Better do what you can —
Just Beat It! Beat It! Beat It!”

Wow, the day has come when I'm quoting Michael Jackson in a *Kansas Country Living* article. Sad day! Well, maybe not. If borrowing a ditty from the King of Pop can help me spread the news — then I guess it's not so bad.

What am I talking about? I am referring to a new group-participation idea for all of us in the Brown-Atchison Electric Cooperative family. This idea is simple and surprisingly effective. It depends on all of us to work. And it can save us all a bunch of money. It's called: “Beat the Peak.”

Beat the peak will help Brown-Atchison Electric beat down the cost of wholesale power. How's that, you ask? Well, about half of the cost of

wholesale power is tied to peak demand. Most of our peak demand charges are determined by how much energy our members consume in **ONLY** one hour — our summer peak hour. Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), our wholesale supplier, limits when that summer peak hour can occur to weekdays in July or August, and between 3-6 p.m.

Simply put, if we as a cooperative family, lower the amount of energy we consume from 3-6 p.m. on the hottest weekdays in July and August, we save on our power bills all year round.



Michael Volker

Continued on page 12B ►

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity. **SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**



Chainsaw Safety

- STATISTICS -

36,000 people each year are treated in hospital ERs for chainsaw-related injuries.

36% of chainsaw accidents result in injuries to the legs and knees.



The average chainsaw injury requires **110 stitches**.



The two most common places for injuries are the **front left thigh** and the **back of the left hand**.



One in five chainsaw injuries is from kickback.



Kickback is the single greatest cause of injury to **chainsaw users**.



Medical costs for chainsaw injuries amount to around **\$350 million** per year.

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- INJURIES -



Head Injuries
3,418



Upper Body Area
2,141



Arm and Hand Area
17,994



Leg Area
16,348

SOURCE: U.S. PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Beat the Peak! *Continued from page 12A*

How much can we save? For every kilowatt we cut back during the summer peak hour, Brown-Atchison Electric members save \$125. One kilowatt is the equivalent of the juice needed to power a small hair dryer. Now imagine if 3,000 of us cut back just one kilowatt during our peak hour. That's \$375,000 — and that's real money. So, what are some ways to cut back usage during the peak hours?

- ▶ **SUMMER COOKOUTS** — Cook on your grill and leave your stove turned off during the peak hours (July and August, Monday-Friday from 3-6 p.m.). A stove and oven turned on during the summer peak hour would consume about 4 kW for that hour. Each member that cooks on the grill instead of the stove during the summer peak hour could save up to \$500 on the wholesale power bill. Imagine if 1,000 members did that.
- ▶ **TURN UP YOUR THERMOSTAT** — Turn it up 3 degrees during the peak

hours and it could save about \$275 per member.

- ▶ **SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE SUMMER PEAK HOUR** savings suggestions.

Cooperative members in many other places have proven to be extremely responsive when asked to help the cooperative. Its part of that cooperative difference that I love to preach about! The key with beat the peak is keeping members informed so they know **WHEN** to cut back usage.

Sign me up? That part is easy. We just need a cell number to send you a notification that it is a peak alert day. That's your signal to lower your electricity consumption from 3-6 p.m. that day. We will only use this information in July or August during those days when the summer peak hour may happen. The program is completely voluntary.

What I love about this program is that it is just so easy you can't beat It!

SAFETY TIP

Do not trim trees/branches within 20 feet of a power line or pole. Only certified line-clearance tree trimmers are authorized to trim near power lines.



HAPPY
St. Patrick's
DAY

Apps to Help You Save Energy

There are a number of reasons why people are interested in cutting back on energy consumption — some are primarily motivated to save on their monthly energy bills while others may be more concerned about reducing their personal carbon footprint.

Actively practicing energy efficiency and conservation provides multiple benefits. For parents, being more conscious about energy use can be used as a tool to teach children about sustainable habits for the future; conserving energy also means fewer carbon emissions, which results in better air quality and a healthier environment; and we can all agree that saving money on our monthly utility bills is a great reason to monitor home energy use.

Regardless of why you're interested in using less energy, there are several smart phone apps that can help you do just that.

Here are a few apps that can help you achieve meaningful energy savings:

Smart Thermostat Apps

Heating and cooling make up a large portion of the average home's energy consumption (and cost!), so saving on heating and cooling can make a big impact on bills. Smart thermostats and their accompanying apps are handy and promote energy-efficient behavior — and these devices have become much more affordable over the years. You can purchase an Energy Star®-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, about \$50 per year. The device will quickly pay for itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home. Plus, the ability to control the thermostat from anywhere can equate to real savings. We recommend trusted brands and devices, like Google's Nest Learning Thermostat and Ecobee's Smart Thermostat.



GOOGLE NEST

Energy Cost Calculators

If you're wanting to reduce energy use at home, it's important to know where your consumption is going. Energy cost calculators can help pinpoint your energy use with a few simple steps and identify areas to save. The concept is pretty simple; just plug in the wattage of your various appliances and how often you use them to see which are using the most energy. Most energy cost calculator apps are free and can be downloaded to any Apple or Android device. In the app store, you'll find multiple energy cost calculator apps, but most are similar in functionality. Be sure to read the app's reviews and download the one that best aligns with your energy efficiency goals.

Joulebug App

If you're competitive and enjoy gamifying — the JouleBug app is right up your alley. JouleBug makes energy conservation simple and fun through personal tasks and badges earned within the app, group challenges you can tackle with friends, and communities you can join to learn about local sustainability efforts. The JouleBug app is free and can be downloaded to Apple or Android devices, and it's an easy tool to make saving energy fun.

These are just a few apps that can help you find new ways to save energy. Smart lightbulbs are typically paired with apps for convenient control of home lighting; smart plugs also come with apps to help you control how you power everyday devices and electronics.

Whether you use an app or not, saving energy is always a smart idea that can help you save money on your monthly bills and reduce your carbon footprint.



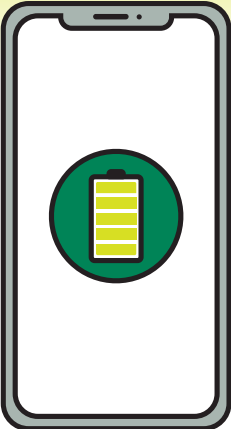
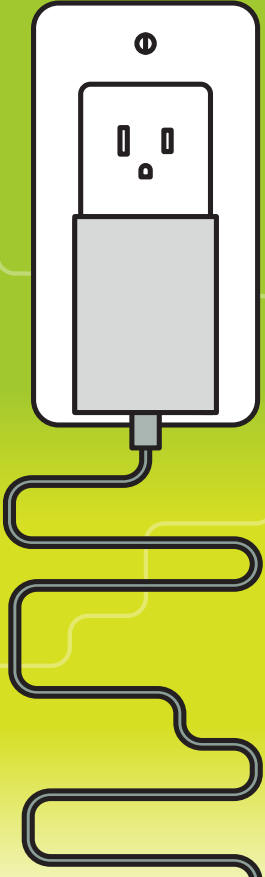
ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

Did you know there are ways you can reduce your electronics energy use?

Read the energy-saving tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.



B	J	C	M	G	S	N	A	M	O	R	S	W	U	L
R	A	F	O	D	V	T	L	L	P	D	I	O	S	W
E	B	T	E	M	V	C	E	U	X	S	Y	W	D	G
C	B	P	T	D	P	O	W	E	R	S	T	R	I	P
H	Y	G	M	E	T	U	A	U	Y	H	Z	P	U	Z
A	R	P	Q	E	R	U	T	L	R	N	Z	N	U	Y
R	F	I	H	L	V	I	C	E	Q	V	P	C	E	S
G	T	D	F	F	W	K	E	M	R	L	B	N	H	O
E	B	H	W	C	F	Q	W	S	U	K	Y	N	Z	M
A	Q	I	L	I	F	K	N	G	L	O	I	K	B	A
B	S	R	E	G	R	A	H	C	E	N	O	H	P	C
L	N	O	Y	O	V	I	M	A	I	V	I	R	X	T
E	V	S	U	A	I	L	K	O	L	U	Y	N	F	C
Y	H	V	K	S	L	F	G	T	R	I	P	B	T	G
P	O	W	E	R	M	A	N	A	G	E	M	E	N	T



- ▶ Use a **power strip** with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.
- ▶ For devices that require **batteries**, use **rechargeable** ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
- ▶ **Unplug** electronic products that consume energy even when they're not in use, like **phone chargers**.
- ▶ Use the sleep or **power management** mode on your **computer** to save on energy costs.

