Taylor Report

smart hub

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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When the weather is extreme, use energy wisely

We hear a lot about peak energy demand, but what is it and how does it impact electricity use? As the name implies, peak energy demand occurs when energy consumption is at its highest. In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to the need to heat and cool indoor spaces.

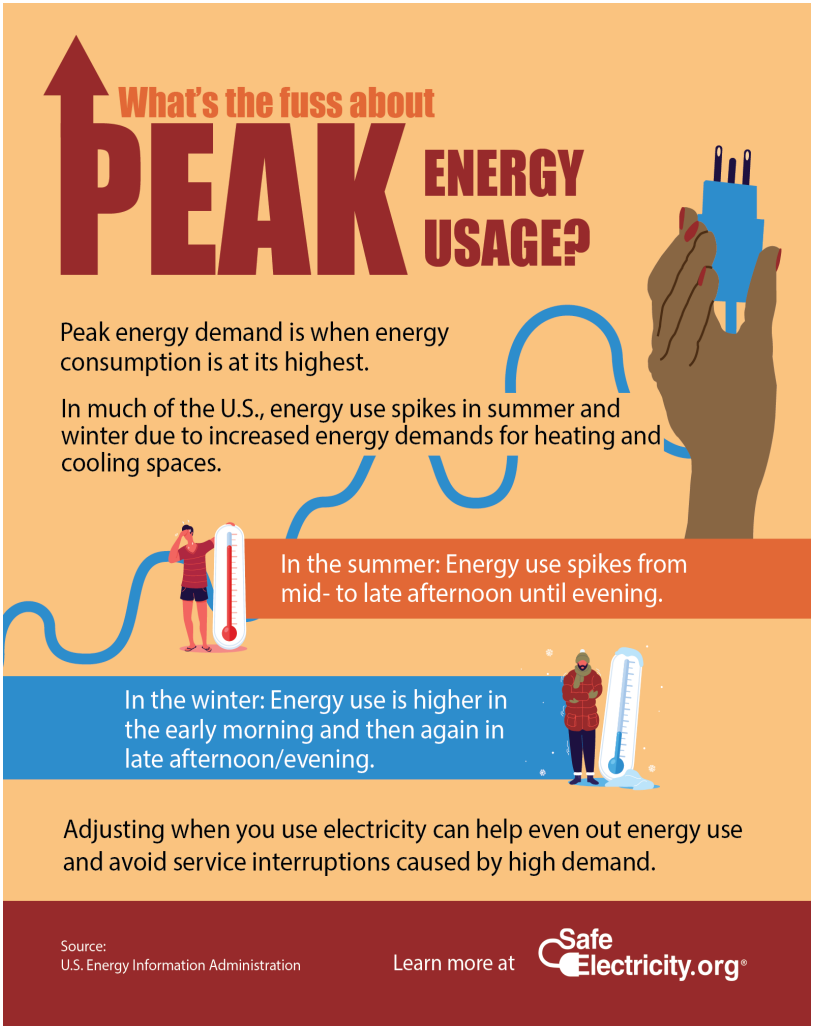
Although it depends on where you live, summertime energy demand increases between mid-to-late afternoon (when outdoor temperatures soar) and evening. In the winter, there are two high-use times of day: early morning and late afternoon/evening. Weekends and holidays are typically considered off peak.

Changing the time of day you use energy can help lower your energy bills by contributing to a lower demand. To do this, consider running major appliances during off-peak times; smart devices or appliances that have delay starts can help achieve this goal. If you participate in Taylor Electric's load management program, in the event of full load control, your electric heat may be controlled from 7:00 AM—11:00 AM during the winter season, (December-February), up to 7 times per season. The evening control for this event is from 5:00 PM—8:00 PM and includes peak alert notification devices (mostly commercial accounts), dairy water heaters and grain drying. In addition to the full load control periods mentioned above, an economic load control can happen at any time. In this instance, interruptible heat is controlled from 5:00 PM—9:00 PM as well as residential and dairy water heaters. Electric heat should never be controlled in both the morning and evening on the same day.

Do your part to use energy wisely when temperatures are extremely low. For example:

- Turn your thermostat down by two degrees or more.
- Program your thermostat to a lower temperature when no one is home.
- If you do not have one, consider purchasing a smart thermostat.
- Make sure your heating system is in good working order.
- Use your countertop toaster/convection oven instead of your oven or have a fun dinner out.
- Use major appliances in the early morning or late evening.
- Program smart devices to run appliances at off-peak times.
- Open window coverings during the sunniest part of the day.
- Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.

Making small changes to conserve energy can help even out energy use, save money on your utility bill and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand. To learn more about energy efficiency and electrical safety, visit safeelectricity.org.



Home Improvement Projects to Tackle at Home this Winter

Don't let the cold, gray weather get you down. If you're stuck inside, now is the perfect time to take on some of the indoor home improvement projects you've been putting off. These simple projects will help make your home more comfortable and efficient and save you money on your energy bills.

Install low-flow showerheads

Standard showerheads use 2.5 gallons per minute or more. WaterSense-labeled models can save water and energy while still providing a comfortable flow.

- Turn off water sources for both hot and cold at the faucet.
- Unscrew your existing showerhead by turning counterclockwise.
- Clean off the shower arm threads and make sure they are dry.
- Apply Teflon thread-sealing tape, wrapping the tape two or three times around the threads.
- Hand tighten the new showerhead onto the shower arm. Be careful not to overtighten.

Run the shower and check for leaks. If it leaks, gently tighten it with a wrench using a cloth to protect the finish.

Air seal your basement

Air leaking into your basement can make the space feel colder and increase your winter energy bills.

- Check for gaps in the rim joists where the wall meets the ceiling, as well as plumbing and wiring holes on outside walls.
- Caulk is best for sealing gaps or cracks that are one-quarter inch or smaller.
- Use spray foam insulation to fill gaps up to three inches.

Fill larger gaps by cutting and stuffing pieces of insulation.

Insulate hot water pipes

Heat loss through unprotected hot water pipes can cost you. Pipe insulation is readily available at your local DIY retailer.

- Starting at the water heater, measure the length of insulation needed to cover accessible pipes.
- Cut the insulation to the lengths needed.
- Place the insulation on the pipe with the seam or opening facing down.

Tape the insulation every foot or so to secure it to the pipe

Air seal your attic

Leaks in unfinished attics can waste energy, even when adequate insulation is installed.

- Locate all ceiling fans, recessed lighting fixtures and electrical outlets in the ceiling below your attic. Each of these is a potential source of air leakage.
- From the attic, pull back the insulation to find the cutouts and seal them with caulk or expandable foam.
- Check for and seal gaps around plumbing vents, furnace flues and ductwork.

Seal the attic access with weatherstripping.

Switch to smart outlets

Replace older electric outlets with smart models. Smart outlets automatically shut off power to unused plugged-in devices. And you can control them from your smartphone or voice assistant.

- Turn off the power to the outlet you're working on.
- Remove the outlet trim and disconnect the old outlet.
- Connect the new outlet wires — white to white and black to black. Attach the green wire to the bare ground wire.
- Attach the wired outlet to the box and install the new trim.
- Download the outlet control app and add the outlet to your system.

Contact a qualified electrician if you don't feel comfortable doing the work yourself. These projects will keep you occupied during the dreary days of winter, and the lower energy bills will give you a warm feeling inside.

—Source: touchstoneenergy.com

BOARD REPORT— DEC 2024

- Approved November disbursements totaling $430,571. 7 new member applications, and November 2024 construction in the amount of $185,287.
- Reviewed financial results for November with $563,886 Operating Margins and $672,224 Total Margins year to date.
- There was 1 outage in November, with an average YTD outage time per meter of 1.3962 hours.
- Six applications for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estates were approved with total capital credits of $10,614 to be paid out at the net present value of $4,152.
- 23 delinquent accounts were processed for collection following the December 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is $10,372.
- Other topics covered included updates from DPC, policy updates, donation requests, and national meeting discussion.