



Where customers have a choice



**Manager's Message**

16



**Geared Up for Safety**

17



## Fight the Winter Chill

**A**nother colder-than-normal winter is predicted for much of the country this year. Frigid temperatures can cause heating systems to work overtime, and since heating and cooling can make up nearly half of your electric bill, you may experience sticker shock when you open that bill. Instead of waiting until after a potentially high bill is in your mailbox, be proactive. There are things you can do now to help ensure you are managing your energy use and spending less.

These simple steps can help you manage your use:

- Wrap exposed pipes and water heaters that are in unconditioned spaces.
- Make sure to change your air filter once a month.
- Keep drapes closed at night and keep those that don't get direct sunlight closed during the day, too.
- Keep the fireplace damper closed when it is not in use. Keeping it open can bring cold air into the room.
- Caulk around the fireplace hearth, and caulk or weather strip around doors and windows.
- Dress for the weather, even if you are inside. Wearing proper clothing like long sleeves and pants, or wrapping up in a cozy blanket will help combat the temptation of bumping up the thermostat.

So, when temperatures fall this winter and you hear your weatherman talking about bringing in pets and plants, take the steps above to help manage your usage.

Using the tips above can certainly help you manage your energy usage, but your bill may still be higher than normal in winter months. Why?

- The weather makes a big impact on electric bills, accounting for nearly half of your bill.
- Even those with the most efficient HVAC systems will see more use in extreme weather.
- When extreme cold temperatures hit, our heaters work overtime. For example, even if you set your thermostat to our recommended 68 degrees in the winter, when it is 39 degrees outside, your system has to work hard to make up that 29-degree difference.
- Your heater works harder and cycles on and off more often, making your usage much higher. That means your bill will be much higher.

Remember, there is value in comfort. For us to be comfortable in our homes, our heaters are going to work harder, but it may be worth the additional cost to you.

### Update Your Info

Do you need to update your contact information? If you have a new telephone number or need to add a secondary contact to your account, please call Pitt and Greene EMC at 252-753-3128.



**Spring Forward**  
Daylight Savings Time  
Begins Sunday,  
March 13, 2022



## Teaching Youngsters the Important Lesson of Energy Efficiency

**E**lectronic and mobile devices, TVs, computers and gaming stations have become ubiquitous fixtures in our homes, particularly those with children. Consumer electronics coupled with the proliferation of smart home appliances, technology and electric vehicles have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles.

This ever-connected world is the modern environment in which children are growing up. And with lifestyles increasingly reliant on technology and in turn, energy consumption, teaching youngsters to save energy is an important life lesson.

### The Why

But before parents can teach their children how to save energy, they must first answer the question, “what’s in it for me?” As most parents can attest, convincing kids to care about energy efficiency is a hard sell. Parents need to explain why it’s important to save energy and how it benefits the child – otherwise they will not understand the need to change their habits and will be less motivated to do so. In the simplest terms, less money spent on an electric bill can mean more money used for fun activities (that’s something children can relate to!).

Less tangible, but just as important, using less energy means running your home more efficiently, conserving natural resources and helping the environment.

### Learning by Doing

Because “saving energy” is an abstract concept for children, be specific about energy efficiency actions and set an example. We know that children learn by observing what their parents do. Even if they don’t say anything, children are processing your actions. When you turn off the lights when leaving a room or unplug the phone charger once the device is fully charged, they will notice. Show them the electric bill so they can see the costs, energy use and how their actions impact the bill. Kids of all ages can learn a few simple energy-saving habits that can last a lifetime:

- Turn off lights, devices, computers and video consoles when not in use.
- Open blinds and curtains during winter days to let warm sunlight in and close them during summer days to keep your home cooler.
- Take them with you to buy LED lights and discuss ENERGY STAR-rated appliances.
- If your children are old enough to run the dishwasher or wash their own clothes, teach them to run these appliances only with a full load and during off-peak energy hours.

### Rewards

Offer rewards for agreed upon milestones. Rewards provide positive reinforcement on energy-saving actions. The idea is to create a habit of being energy efficient. And for parents, this could mean less nagging about turning off the lights!

Teaching your children about saving energy is not only a creative way to spend time with them; it helps your home to be more energy efficient and can instill good habits that will benefit your child long into adulthood.



# Geared up for safety

Can you imagine working a job that requires you to lift heavy equipment and perform detailed tasks near deadly high voltage? Now imagine doing this 40 feet in the air, and sometimes, in extreme weather. This is the life of a lineman.

These brave men answer when called, and they do so to ensure that you are provided with safe, reliable electric service. But how do they stay safe when working in these conditions? All linemen are required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at all times when on the job to keep them safe.

Let's take a look at a lineman's PPE.

**1 Fire resistant (FR) clothing.** While our linemen do everything possible to prevent them, unexpected fires can happen. Fires typically occur with an arc flash, this is an explosion that results from a low-impedance connection to a ground phase in an electrical system. FR clothing will self-extinguish, thus limiting injury due to burn.

**2 Insulated gloves.** Linemen must wear insulated rubber gloves when working on any type of electrical line. These gloves provide protection against electrical shock and burn, and are tested at 30,000 volts. Protective gloves, usually made of leather, are worn over the insulated gloves to protect the rubber from punctures and cuts.

**3 Hard hat.** Insulated hard hats are worn at all times to protect them from blows and falling objects.

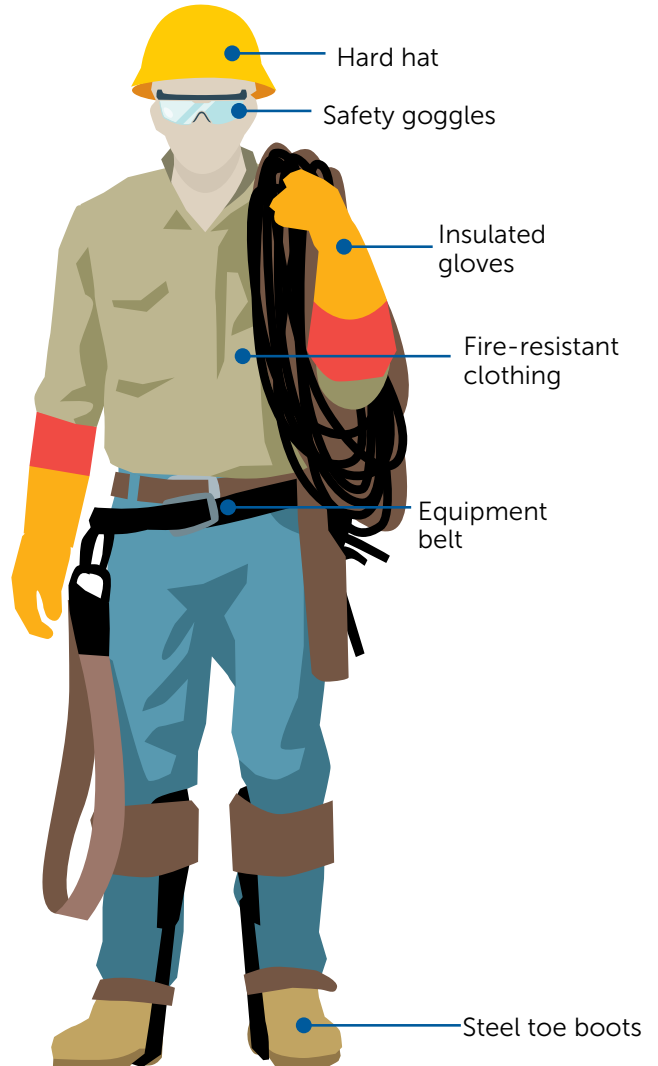
**4 Steel toe boots.** These heavy-duty boots are typically 16 inches tall and designed with extra support in mind. The height of the boot shields linemen from gouges, and serrated heels provide a better grip when climbing poles. The steel toe provides sturdier support and protects from objects that could potentially pierce the feet.

**5 Safety goggles.** Linemen must wear protective goggles or glasses, whether working on electrical lines or clearing rights-of-way. This protects them from loose debris and other hazards.

These items make up a lineman's basic PPE. While working on electrical lines, they also may be required to wear

equipment belts, tool pouches, safety straps and other types of equipment. A lineman's gear usually weighs about 50 pounds—that's a lot of extra weight when working in hazardous conditions.

So, the next time you see a lineman—be sure to thank him [or her] for keeping the lights on. But more importantly, thank them for the hard—and often times dangerous—work they do, day in and day out.



## Important Sales and Use Tax Notice

A purchaser (farmers, manufacturers and commercial laundries) that is eligible for a preferential tax rate on electricity should complete and furnish the seller/electricity supplier Form E-595E, Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement Certificate of Exemption, to take advantage of qualifying reductions.



Published monthly by Pitt and Greene EMC

### Co-op Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
252-753-3128 | 1-800-622-1362 |  
252-747-7600

### POWER OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES

During weekends, holidays and  
after office hours: 252-753-8778

De lunes a viernes de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m.  
252-753-3128 | 1-800-622-1362 |  
252-747-7600

### CORTES DE SUMINISTRO ELÉCTRICO Y EMERGENCIAS:

Durante fines de semana, días festivos  
y después del horario de oficina:  
252-753-8778