

Energy Myth or Fact?

Clearing up some common misconceptions regarding home energy use.

Leave the light on unless you will be gone from a room more than 10 minutes. New homes shouldn't have air leaks. These are just two of many energy myths. Finding out if these myths are true or false, then making the necessary changes in your home, can significantly cut your energy bills.

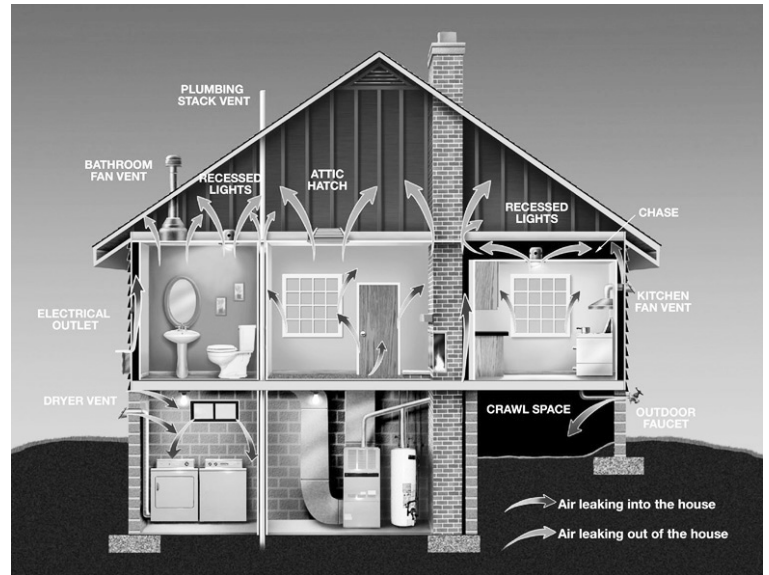
A book titled "Cut Your Energy Bills Now," by Bruce Harley, will help us debunk 12 energy myths that are costing you money.

Energy Myth #1
Older homes need more energy efficiency updating than new homes.

True, older homes were not as well insulated and are more likely to have older appliances. But even homes built more recently have opportunities for savings. New homes are less likely to need wall insulation and energy efficient appliances, but are equally likely to need air sealing and duct repairs.

Energy Myth #2
Turning a light off and back on uses more energy than leaving it on.

The initial power surge of turning on a light, computer or appliance uses the same energy as just a few seconds of its initial operation. When you aren't using it, turn it off.



There are many places where air can leak into or out of your home, no matter the home's age. Properly seal all of these leaks for significant savings on your energy bills and increased comfort in the summer and winter.

Energy Myth #3
An air conditioner that runs continuously uses more energy.

Not necessarily true. A smaller air conditioner, with a smaller compressor and fan, running for an hour uses less energy than a larger one running for 20 or 30 minutes at a time. Also, longer run time provides more effective dehumidification. (An air conditioner works harder to

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The Boone Electric Cooperative office will be closed Monday, January 19, for an all-employee training day.

Member Information

Community Support Programs You Can Add to Your Bill

Operation Round-Up
Helps fund the Boone Electric Community Trust, which provides financial assistance to charitable organizations in BEC's service territory.

C.A.S.H.
Provides utility assistance to low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Funds administered by City/County Health Department.

H.E.L.P.
Provides utility assistance to low-income families with children. Funds administered by City/County Health Department.



Published by:

Boone Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

1413 Rangeline Street
Columbia, Missouri 65201
(573) 449-4181
Outside the local calling area:
(800) 225-8143
www.booneelectric.coop
comments@booneelectric.com

G.M. & CEO • Todd Culley
Editor • Christi Miller
Editor • Jim Robertson
Editor • Jessica Spencer

Board of Directors:
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take the moisture out of your home than it does to actually cool the home.)

Energy Myth #4

If the outside of my water heater doesn't feel warm, it must be well insulated.

Even on a poorly insulated tank, the outside surface of the tank jacket will be pretty close to room temperature. That doesn't mean you are not losing a lot of heat. Unless the tank is already internally insulated with foam, it can still benefit from an extra blanket.

Energy Myth #5

Setting the thermostat back in the house causes the furnace to use more energy to bring the temperature back up.

Not true. In cold weather, when the house cools off, the smaller temperature difference means less heat flow to the outside. That means less electricity to buy, even while the house is recovering. (It works exactly the same for air conditioning, but the temperatures are reversed.)

Energy Myth #6

My furnace filter doesn't get dirty.

If your filter never gets dirty, and you are sure it's the only one, it's a good bet that your heating/cooling system has gotten caked with dirt. Have it cleaned, then find and repair the duct leak that's bypassing the filter.

Energy Myth #7

Duct tape is designed for sealing ducts.

Despite its name, the one place duct tape doesn't work is on ducts. It has been proven unreliable, as it will dry out and fall off. Instead, use duct-sealing mastic for ducts.

Energy Myth #8

Heat rises.

Actually, warm air rises. And houses tend to leak, especially at the attic. That's why attics are warmer in winter than they should be. The main reason people put more insulation in attics than they do in walls is that it is cheaper and easier, and the myth of heat ris-

ing reinforces that thinking. In the summer, cool air sinks, and the upper floor gets hot because the air leaking in is coming from the roof/attic area, where it's superheated. Sealing attic leaks before insulating prevents air exchange in both directions.

Energy Myth #9

New siding adds valuable insulation.

Technically, any layer adds to your wall insulation. But the thin, foam backer board that is touted as extra insulation is mostly to create a flat surface for the convenience of the siding installer. The visual impact of "adding insulation" is better for the customer's perception than it is for their energy bills.

Material Checklist for sealing attic and basement leaks

- * Silicone or acrylic latex caulk and caulk gun for sealing small holes (1/4-in. or less).
- * Expanding spray foam insulation for filling larger gaps (1/4-in. to 3 inches).
- * Mastic sealant to seal ducts.
- * Batt or roll of unfaced fiberglass insulation and large garbage bags (for stuffing open stud cavities behind kneewalls and in dropped soffits).
- * Roll of reflective foil insulation or other blocking material such as drywall or pieces of rigid foam insulation to cover soffits, open walls and larger holes.

Energy Myth #10

Windows and doors cause the most drafts.

The biggest air leaks in most homes are hidden in attics, basements, garages and crawl spaces -- not around windows. When you feel air moving near a window, often it is the "cold" or "hot" surface you feel. Even with the air conditioning on, you can feel the heat from the windshield on your hands. You can also feel a "ghost draft" in cold weather. Even with a perfectly airtight window, cool indoor air bouncing off the window sill can make you uncomfortable.

(That doesn't mean your windows and doors are not drafty. Check them, then add weatherstripping or caulk if necessary.)

Remember to use your Co-op Connections Card

Boone Electric Cooperative's Co-op Connections Card program is now more than a year old. Are you taking advantage of the savings possibilities with your card? Use the card at more than 120 businesses in our area and thousands more nationwide to save you money.

Locally, use the card on everything from food and furniture to tires and eyewear. Nationally, use the card as you travel, for discounts at hotels, car rentals and theme parks all across the country. Or log onto www.booneelectric.coop for a link to the national businesses to see how you can save on items like books, flowers and cookies.

The Co-op Connections Card is a free savings program to members of Boone Electric and other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives across the nation. Existing Boone Electric members received their cards in December 2007. New members to the cooperative receive their cards when they apply for service.

Several area businesses joined the Co-op Connections Card program over the last few months. Take advantage of the savings at these locations:

Abigails, Rocheport

-- On Thursdays, buy one dessert get one free

Blattner Home Furnishings, Columbia and Jefferson City
-- 10% off everyday sale price



Claire DuCharme Massage and Hypnosis, Ashland

-- \$5 off any massage therapy or hypnosis service

Eyedentity Eyewear/Williams & Hussey Eyecare, Columbia

-- 10% off frames and lenses;
10% off non-Rx sunglasses;
15% off frame and lense complete package with exam

Forrest Chevrolet-Olds, Centralia

-- Buy two oil changes, get the third one free. Vehicles must be from the same household.

Harrisburg Early Learning Center

-- 5% off weekly tuition (new enrollments only)

Smokin' Chicks BBQ, Columbia

-- 10% off order

Also Save at the Pharmacy

In addition to savings at area businesses and restaurants, the Co-op Connections Card also saves you money at the pharmacy.

The discounts save from 10 to 60 percent on prescriptions at more than 48,000 pharmacies nationwide. Call (800) 800-7616 or check www.locateproviders.com (type 22203 into the Group field) for the list of participating pharmacies in the Boone County area.

Present your Co-op Connections Card at a participating pharmacy at the time of purchase. You will pay the lower of a discounted price or the pharmacy's regular retail price. There are no forms to fill out and no limit to the number of times you can use the card.

Remember, however, this plan is not insurance and is not intended to replace insurance. There is a possibility that the cost of the prescription is cheaper through your insurance. The pharmacy should tell you which is the better deal.

If you know the name, strength and quantity of the medication, check the discounted price before heading to the pharmacy by logging onto www.rxpricequotes.com.

You can also use the Co-op Connections Card for mail-order maintenance medications. For more information, call (877) 839-8121 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. For price quotes, initial orders and re-orders, give the service representative the name, strength and quantity of the medicine.

If you experience any difficulties using the pharmacy program, please call or ask the pharmacist to call (800) 800-7616 Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. or Saturday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Use your Co-op Connections Card at these area pharmacies:

Columbia

Ellis Fishel Pharmacy
Fairview Pharmacy
Flow's Pharmacy
Gerbes Pharmacies
Hy Vee Pharmacy
Interlock Pharmacy of Columbia
Kilgores Pharmacies
Medicine Shoppe
Missouri Cancer Care Pharmacy
Option Care
Regional Medical Plaza Pharmacy
Sam's Pharmacy
Schnucks Pharmacy
UMC Green Meadows Pharmacy
University Pharmacy
University Physicians Building Pharmacy
Wal-Mart Pharmacies
Walgreen Drug Stores

Centralia

Kinkead Pharmacy

Playing the Cards We're Dealt



Todd Culley
General Manager/
CEO

First of all, let me say thank you on behalf of our employees for the opportunity to be of service to you. Though you do not have a choice of where you purchase your electricity today, it is our goal to treat you as if you do.

The recent big news with our economy is just that, our economy. I feel it would be irresponsible of me not to inform you of how your electric cooperative is responding to the economic downturn we are all dealing with.

As you know, Boone Electric Cooperative has a defined purpose of providing you with reliable and affordable service. As always, we commit to continue investing in projects and activities that directly and/or immediately improve our ability to more efficiently and reliably serve you.

We recently went through two difficult rounds of budgeting. Each time we eliminated or minimized projects, reduced planned vehicle purchases, and reduced other expenses not directly or immediately impacting affordability and reliability of service. Looking ahead, economic challenges may result in additional changes in an effort to stretch your dollar as reasonably far as possible.

Many companies and families have already been "tightening their belts." This is no different for your electric cooperative. For 2009, fiscal conservatism will be the motto (not that it was not important in the past).

We pride ourselves on customer service, both in the field and inside the headquarters office. That standard of service will not diminish.

I am proud of our staff and employees for accepting the reality of the consumer and credit markets. Though we are technically a monopoly, we are not, and will not be, immune to the marketplace and your needs. We will carefully protect our cash position, while evaluating borrowing needs, considering the probable higher future credit costs. With staff input, I will concentrate on decisions today which could benefit us tomorrow. Working together, we can navigate through economic downturns more successfully.

We thank you for doing business with us and look forward to the opportunity to continue to meet your electricity needs. Please continue to send us your suggestions and comments.



Touchstone Energy

Boone Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of local, member-owned electric cooperatives providing a high standard of service to customers large and small.

In order to qualify as a Touchstone Energy partner, electric cooperatives must be active members of their community and be dedicated to serving all customers with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to their community.

What Makes Us Different?

Members of Boone Electric enjoy the key differences between electric cooperatives and other electric utilities. Electric cooperatives center their business around three basic principles:

- 1. Locally owned and operated.** Electric cooperatives are owned by their members and focus on their member needs and local priorities. They are an integral part of the communities they serve.
- 2. Consumers first.** The cooperative business model guarantees every member has a voice in business decisions. Every year annual meeting attendees vote on their Board of Directors and bylaws
- 3. Responsive to local needs.** Electric cooperatives are located in the communities they serve, making them easily accessible and responsive to members' needs. Employees of Boone Electric are members of surrounding communities, which helps the Cooperative stay focused on creating a better quality of life for its member-owners.