



# Power Pointz

news from  
**Garland Light & Power Co.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## Ready, Set, Winterize!

Since home heating makes up a significant portion of a utility bill, it is a sensible area of focus for energy efficiency improvements and savings. In fact, many of the actions you can take to be more energy efficient can pay for themselves over time. The Energy Education Council has tips to help you make energy efficient choices now in order to help you decrease your monthly utility bill this winter.

Make a habit of cleaning your furnace annually in the fall months. Removing a season of built-up debris (especially if you have pets) can reduce the risk of fire and make your furnace run more efficiently.

Also, remember to replace your furnace filter during the winter. Replacing a dirty filter will increase the air flow and make you home more energy efficient (with the added benefit of cleaner air in your home).

If it is time to replace the furnace itself, look for energy-efficient models. Furnaces with an Energy Star rating usually exceed federal standards for energy efficiency and can make choosing the right model that much easier. Installing an energy-efficient furnace can reduce your energy consumption and the cost of heating in your house.

Check your home for air leaks. You can use the following method to check for them. On a windy day, hold a lit incense stick or smoke pen next to anywhere you think a leak may be (usually windows, doors, attic hatches, or any other opening to the outside). If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have found an air leak.

There are a variety of actions you can take to plug the leak, depending on its location. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends the following steps:

- Caulk and add weather stripping to door and windows that leak air.
- Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards, and other places where air may leak out.
- Replace door bottoms and thresholds with ones that have pliable sealing gaskets.
- Keep the fireplace flue damper tightly closed with not in use.

When you are away from home or sleeping, turning the thermostat down a few degrees in cold weather months can also help reduce your monthly utility bill. For an even more hassle-free option, install a programmable thermostat that can automatically make the adjustments for you.

For more information on energy efficiency as well as electrical safety, visit [EnergyEdCouncil.org](http://EnergyEdCouncil.org)



## 10 Ways To Lower Home Energy Bills When It's Cold Out

Want to save money on your energy bills this winter, without spending a lot to make it happen? Here are 10 low or no-cost changes you can make.

- Use your home's ceiling fans to make the rooms feel warmer. Most people think that fans are just for summer, but ceiling fans running slowly in reverse will circulate the heat that rises toward the ceiling.
- Add weather-stripping or caulk around windows and doors. Light a match or a stick of incense and hold it near the window frame. If the smoke sways, that means the window is leaking air. Caulking can significantly reduce heat loss.
- Rearrange your furniture. Move sofas and rugs that are blocking vents, which can cause uneven heating. Locate your most frequently used furniture near interior walls; it's colder to sit near exterior walls, especially those with windows.
- Install a "smart" thermostat that lets you program it or adjust the heat even after you've left the house. There's no need to heat your home at the same level when it's empty as when your family is home. Turning back your thermostat by 10-15 degrees for eight hours a day can save up to 15 percent on your heating bill.
- Keep the shades wide open during daylight hours. The sun heats your home for free all day. Close the curtains at night to keep heat in.
- Check the seams and joints of your ductwork for leaks. Repair any leaks with a duct-sealing compound for even and efficient heating.
- Pull on a sweater and keep the thermostat at a lower temperature. You could save at least 1 percent per degree on your electric bill.
- Run your clothes dryer and dishwasher after dark. They produce heat that can keep your home warm at the coldest time of the day.
- Install compact fluorescent bulbs or LED lights in the fixtures you use the most. These bulbs use far less energy than incandescent bulbs.
- Limit your hot water use. Running the hot water when it's not needed sends the energy used to heat it down the drain. Wash clothes in cold water and take shorter showers.

## How Much Electricity Does A Penny Buy?

What does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny for a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 to produce one.

About the only thing of value you can still get for a penny is electricity. You might call it "penny electricity."

Using Wyoming's average rate of a little over 12 cents per kilowatt hour, you get 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for 12 cents. That means a single penny of electricity equates to 83 watts. That is enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb, the equivalent of a 60 watt incandescent bulb for 9 hours, all for only a penny.

A penny's worth of electricity allows you to fully charge your iPhone more than 15 times or once every day for a year for just over 24 cents. Or you could charge you average laptop, with its far larger screen for only \$9 a year.

Not impressed? For only a penny, you can power a 1,000 watt microwave oven on high for 5 minutes; run a 200 watt desktop computer for 15 minutes, or watch an hour of your favorite show on a 79 watt, 42 inch LED TV.

Unfortunately, we don't always appreciate electricity. When our monthly electric bill comes, we open it and may complain about the cost. We don't stop to think of the value we received for the money.

## Heating Up Your Water, Not Your Utility Bill

Water heaters around the nation are heating water every day so that we can clean clothes, dishes, and our bodies. We usually only stop to think about water heaters when there is a leak and a new one has to be purchased. However, paying a bit more attention to them now can help you save on your utility bill.

The Energy Education Council and Energy.gov have some suggestion of things you can do to help lower your utility bill:

- Turn down your water heater's thermostat. Set it to 120 degrees F.
- Wash your clothes in cold water.
- Fix leaks. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.
- Install low-flow faucets and showerheads. These cost from \$10 to \$20 apiece and will help you save 25 to 60 percent in water usage.
- Insulate your water heater tank (if you have one) and pipes.
- When it is time to buy a new clothes washer or dishwasher, buy an Energy Star appliance.

For more information on how to save money on your utility bill, visit [EnergyEdCouncil.org](http://EnergyEdCouncil.org)



## Safety Tips For Hunting Season

Wyoming will soon be alive with blaze orange hunting gear. Garland Light & Power wants to remind hunters to remember some important safety rules before setting out to hunt.

- Your hunting license must be carried with you at all times while hunting.
- Be sure to wear your hunter orange (hat, cap, vests, jacket, or rain gear)
- It is illegal to drink alcohol or use intoxicating drugs before hunting.
- Familiarize yourself with the area where you will be hunting.
- Never assume you are alone.
- Never assume other hunters are acting responsibly.
- Be 100% sure of your target before shooting.



Garland Light & Power maintains a list of members who rely on electrically-powered life support systems (e.g. respirators, oxygen, special monitors, etc.) In the event of a scheduled outage that may last more than a few hours, we will make every effort to notify affected customers in advance should they need to make special arrangements. We will attempt to contact you as soon as possible when an unplanned outage occurs in your area.

If you or a family member is dependent upon electricity for life support, please complete the information below and return it to the office. To help us update our records, return the following form even if you are presently on our list or need to discontinue this service.

_____	_____
Member Name	Phone Number
_____	_____
E-mail address	Type of support needed
_____	_____
Account Number	911 Address at Account Location

## LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

This program provides assistance for winter heating bills. It is available for the months of November through May. The State of Wyoming accepts applications from October 1st through February 28th each year. Benefits are based on household size, income and type of fuel used as the primary heating source.

Crisis Assistance-This is a one time per program year benefit available to persons who are facing an energy emergency. The benefit amount is based on the amount needed to resolve this crisis, up to a maximum of \$400. Crisis funds can be used for deposits on new accounts, LP tank sets, and back bills. Crisis assistance is available from October through the middle of April. Back bills prior to October 1st are the clients responsibility.

For a LIEAP application, call 1-800-246-4221.

