



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

We are committed to the well-being of our members and employees to provide safe, reliable power and maintaining the company's financial strength.

How to reach us

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Insulating for Comfort and Savings

Understanding insulation to help you prepare your home for winter

Winter is just around the corner and if your home feels cold and your heating bills keep mounting, there's a good chance you could benefit by adding more insulation. There are many types of insulation, but the three most common types in residential buildings are batt, loose-fill, and rigid.

All insulation is measured by its R-value (a higher R-value is more effective). The amount of R-value you need depends on your climate and where the insulation is being added in your home.

If your attic is unfinished, solutions will be simpler and more cost effective. Inspect your unfinished attic, but be cautious. Loose-fill insulation in older homes may have harmful asbestos that you absolutely do not want to disturb. It's probably best to just poke your head in enough to look around, since it's easy to damage wiring or ducts, or step through the ceiling.

The attic will likely have loose-fill insulation or batts on the floor. Look carefully to see if the insulation is spread evenly with no gaps or voids. To determine whether there is enough insulation, you can start by researching the recommended amount for your climate. After measuring the depth of the insulation, you can calculate the R-value. Different types of insulation have different R-values per inch. If your attic insulation is far short of the recommended levels, have a professional add enough to reach that suggested level.

Many homes built before 1980 have little or no wall insulation and even newer homes may lack proper insulation. You might be able to see if the walls are insulated by carefully removing an outlet cover.

The most common technique for adding insulation to walls is to have it blown in through holes drilled from inside or outside the home. These holes can easily be patched. An alternative, if the house is being re-sided, is to add rigid insulation to the exterior, underneath the new siding.

Finally, if your floor gets cold in winter and you have a crawl space, you can install batt insulation between the floor joists. If your home is built on a concrete slab, rigid foam can be installed around the perimeter.



Winter is around the corner-are you ready?

HOW TO GET THROUGH UNTIL POWER GETS RESTORED

Severe storms are devastating to homes, properties and lives. These storms can also take down power lines and create a dangerous situation for all of us, including the linemen who are working hard to get your power back on.

How long it takes to get your power restored depends on the extent of the destruction, the number of outages, and when it becomes safe for utility personnel to get to the damaged areas. There are many steps in the assessment and restoration process such as, clearing downed power lines, ensuring public health and safety facilities are operational, checking power stations and transformers, repairing transmission lines, substations, distribution lines, and getting power restored to customers within the various damaged areas.

Be sure to contact Garland Light & Power immediately to report the outage.

Safe Electricity and its members want you to know how to stay safe and get through until power can be restored to you. They recommend taking the following safety precautions.

- Just because power lines are damaged does not mean they are dead. Every downed power line is potentially energized and dangerous until utility crews arrive on the scene to ensure power has been cut off. Downed power lines, stray wires, and debris in contact with them all have the potential to deliver a fatal shock. Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines.
- Never enter a flooded basement if electrical outlets are submerged. The water could be energized.
- Do not turn power off if you must stand in water to do so. Call GLP and have us turn off power at the meter.
- Before entering storm damaged buildings make sure the electricity and gas are turned off.
- Do not use water-damaged electronics before properly restoring them. Electric motors in appliances should be cleaned and reconditioned before use. It may be necessary to replace some of your appliances and electronics. Have your water-damaged items inspected and approved by a professional before using them.
- If you clean up outdoors after a storm, do not use electronic equipment in wet conditions.
- If you are driving and come along a downed power line, stay away and keep others away. Contact emergency personnel or GLP to address the downed power line.
- If you do come in contact with a downed power line, do not leave the car. Wait for the utilities and emergency professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.

Safe Electricity recommends during an outage to turn off electrical appliances and unplugging major electronics, including computers and televisions. Power sometimes comes back in surges, which can damage electronics. Your circuits could overload when power returns if all your electronics are still plugged in and on. Leave on lights to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes and then turn on other appliances and equipment, one at a time.

If you use a standby generator, it is critical that proper safety precautions be taken. Always read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions. There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances. Operate generators in well-ventilated, outdoor and dry area. Never attach a temporary generator to a circuit breaker, fuse, or outlet. Permanent generators should be wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch in order to prevent back feeding electricity back into overhead lines, which can be deadly for linemen.

To help you get through, have a storm kit prepared. Keep the kit in a cool, dry place, and make sure all members of the family know where it is.

Leave Utility Poles Alone

Drive down the road and you'll see utility poles covered with a wide range of signs. You'll see everything from no parking to directions to a graduation party, balloons or a local yard sale. You think to yourself, "What's the harm?" because you plan to take the sign down after the event is over. While we all have good intentions, it's obvious that many signs have been left attached to poles not just for a few days, but months, perhaps years! Staples or nails can snag climbing equipment, causing linemen to fall or tear their high voltage gloves, leaving them useless. In addition to signs, poles have been found to have bird houses, satellite receivers and even deer stands attached to them. Anything attached to a pole can hold water, increasing rotting

time on the pole. Bird houses can house bees, resulting in a possible sting area. Help keep our linemen safe by not attaching anything to our poles.



Wyoming State Fair



Each year Wyoming co-ops participate in the Wyoming State Fair. Booths are set up to provide information, give away bottled water and this year we also gave away glow in the dark frisbees!



Another highlight this year were the free carnival day passes that were given out to kids!



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.

