



PIONEER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 888-551-4140. After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

Save the Date for a Boot Scootin' Time

Cheer on our local youth at the first ever Pioneer Electric Boot Scramble on July 14 and 15 at the Ulysses Bit and Spur Rodeo. What's a boot scramble? A boot scramble is a race to see who can run across the rodeo arena, find their boots or shoes, put them on and race back to the starting line.

The race will be separated into four age groups: ages 18-13, 12-9, 8-6 and 5 and under. Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in each age group. Ages 13-18 and 9-12 divisions will race for \$100 (first), \$50 (second) and \$25 (third). Younger divisions will race for \$40 (first), \$20 (second) and \$15 (third).

Boot Scramble participants can register for free on July 14 and 15. Registration tables will open at 7 p.m. outside of the Grant County Rodeo Arena. Please note that children under the age of 18 must be registered by an adult.

For more information, please follow on Pioneer Electric's Facebook page or look for updates on pioneerelectric.coop. We hope to see you there!



★ Pioneer Electric ★

BOOT SCRAMBLE

at the Grant County Rodeo, July 14-15, 2017

Please Move Over for Emergency and Utility Crews

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

*Together, we can
keep our crews safe.*



BEAT THE PEAK

FIVE SIMPLE TIPS TO CUT BACK ON SUMMER PEAK HOUR ENERGY USAGE

As temperatures start to soar we find ourselves sweating from more than just the heat. The heat of summer often sees the height of utility costs. This is partially due to the increase in electrical load, but also *when* energy is being used. Throughout the day demand for energy fluctuates with the needs of members. These moments of high demand are called “on-peak hours” and heavy energy use can cause electrical rates to increase in summer months. While on-peak hours tend to vary between utilities, the general rule of thumb is that the majority of energy demand is in mornings (when we wake up, through heading off to work) and late afternoon through early evenings (when we return home from work). While scaling down the peak seems intimidating, there are numerous ways that you can help lower summer costs. Here are five simple tips to help ensure that the heat of the summer doesn’t boil your wallet.

1. Reduce the Load

The easiest way to avoid peak hour charges is to reduce energy usage during on-peak hours. Each month, our members are charged for the energy they use. When you cut back the amount of energy used, you cut back on the amount you are billed. Think back to growing up. We’ve all heard it: turn off the light when you leave the room, don’t leave the refrigerator door open, don’t let water run when you aren’t using it, shut off the television when you’re done using it. It may have seemed like nagging at the time, but it is good advice. A few seconds each day can add up to extra cash back in your pocket.

Looking for a place to start? There are many creative solutions, online and on social media, to make saving fun! For example; hold a movie night by shutting off lights, closing blinds, unplugging those charging phones (we will get to those in a second) and limit energy consumption to a minimum.

2. Unplug

In the modern home, digital devices reign supreme. Tablets, smartphones, video game consoles, smart



Saving energy should be fun. Get creative and look for fun and new ways to get your family and friends out of the house this summer. Hold a barbecue, head to a community event or schedule a play date at a local park!

appliances and smartwatches rule the roost. However, these helpful pieces of technology have a drawback—an increase in power consumption.

Walk into any home or office and chances are you will find a multitude of chargers and cables nestled in



When you use energy often matters as much as how much energy you consume.

Quick Tip:

Check out our free SmartHub app for hourly usage reports and more! Available on iOS and Android!

outlets. While this may make recharging easier, it means that these chargers are constantly drawing power. The U.S. Department of Energy predicts that 5 to 10 percent of a home's electrical usage comes from these devices. So what's the fix? Unplug a charger or electronic device when it isn't in use. While this may not totally relieve this load, this will help ensure that you are getting the most out of the energy you choose to use. Another solution is to use a smart power strip. These look like typical power strips, but have features designed to help cut back on energy usage and are available at a variety of home improvement stores.

3. Turn It Up

Space heating and cooling is one of the biggest contributors to energy usage. It is estimated that over 30 percent of a household's energy usage goes toward staying comfortable.

That's why one of the best ways to save during the heat of the summer is to cut back on cooling your home. Raise your thermostat four degrees during cooler parts of the day or whenever you leave your home for an extended period of time. When the heat of the day does arrive, use ceiling or stationary fans to help circulate the air in a room and close blinds and curtains to cut out the heat of the sun. This will help keep you away from the thermostat and keep your air conditioning system from working harder than it needs to. However, be sure to turn off the fan when leaving the room.

4. Switch Up Your Schedule

When you use your energy is just as important as how much energy you use. Energy-heavy chores—like washing dishes, doing laundry and cooking meals—often occurs during peak energy usage times. Break up chores so that they fall outside of peak hours. Start a load of dishes during a lunch break, designate the weekend to getting caught up on laundry, and use smaller appliances or a slow cooker to prepare a few meals

during the week. Experiment and find a schedule that works for you and your household.

5. Take It Outside

Warm summer weather makes this the perfect time of year to bring some of your housework to the outdoors. For example, fire up the grill and hold a barbecue or let laundry air dry. Another great way to unplug is to take some time to go outside and get away from the house. Schedule a date night, take the dog to the park, go for a jog, run some errands or go out and stare at the stars. Encourage your friends and family to find active ways to get outside this summer.

Conserving energy is a benefit to our members, communities and cooperative. Coupling the above tips with the SmartHub mobile app or a free energy audit ensures that you are well on your way to taking the edge out of summer heat.

For additional energy conservation tips and for information on Pioneer Electric's free energy conservation services, be sure to give us a call at 620-356-1211 or follow Pioneer Electric on Facebook.

A Smarter Way To Manage Your Electric Bill



Account Management in the Palm of Your Hand:

SmartHub is your all-in-one hub for your Pioneer Electric membership. Manage all aspects of your electric account online or on the go. Creating a SmartHub account takes minutes to complete and will unlock the true potential of your Pioneer Electric membership.

How Do I Sign Up for SmartHub?

If you are already enrolled in e-billing, simply enter your current login information and password. If you are new to the system, click on the “Pay My Bill Online” link on our home page and then “Sign Up to Access Our Self-Service Site” to create a new account. If have any questions, give us a call during office hours at 620-356-1211!

How do I get SmartHub for my Phone or Tablet?

Search for “SmartHub” (not case sensitive but must be all one word) in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. If duplicates appear, the correct App is provided by our partner, National Information Solutions Center. Once installed, follow the in-app instructions to get to managing your account.

Check our website for additional information and tutorials:
www.pioneerelectric.coop