

Butler Public Power District

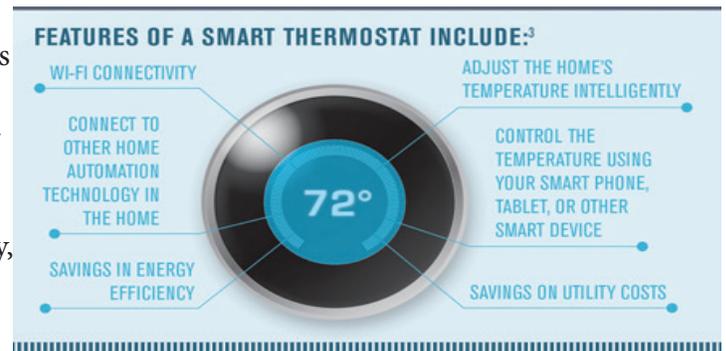
July 2020

Smart Home Devices Can Save You Money

Some smart devices for your home can help you save money. Others are designed for pure convenience – like phone apps you use remotely to close your garage door, unlock your door, or see who is on your front porch.

Using smart devices that can impact your energy bill won't make you rich, but they can help lower your bills each month, which adds up over time. A smart thermostat is one option.

A smart thermostat studies your heating and cooling trends over time and can help reduce your energy bill by optimizing energy-saving tactics. You can also adjust the temperature of your home remotely and know how much energy you are using to heat or cool your home in real time. So while a programmable thermostat can help you save money, a smart version earns its name by all the extra things it can do above and beyond programming.



In either case, adjusting your thermostat up (air conditioning) or down (furnace) just one degree can make a difference in your utility bill, according to EEC Board Member Sam Adair. Adair says households can save up to 3 percent on the heating and cooling portion of their bill by making that simple adjustment. “So if your smart thermostat can shed a few degrees for a couple of hours or more, it should do nothing but save you money with the added convenience of peace of mind,” Adair said.

Other smart devices include, smart light bulbs, smart window coverings and smart electrical plug. If you install a smart thermostat, call Butler PPD to see if it qualifies for a rebate. For more information about energy-related smart home devices, contact Butler Public Power District. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.



IN THIS ISSUE

- Smart Home Devices
- Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month
- Our Response to COVID 19
- Electricity is a Good Value
- Get the Most Cooling for your Dollar
- Cooling System Tune-up Incentive





From the desk of...
THE GENERAL MANAGER

Butler Public Power Districts Response to COVID 19

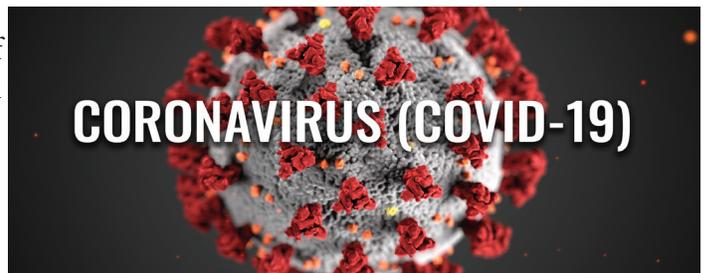
The last six months have been tough. Since the first of the year COVID 19 has changed all of us one way or another. The Butler Public Power District Board of Directors and employees have strived to continue to serve our customers through this pandemic.

We closed the front doors to all public on March 16th and unfortunately that included our customers. We then split up our workforce a week later, on March 23rd. The decision to close the office and split the workforce was done to protect the employees of the District. What is important to us is that we serve our customers and to do that we felt that splitting up the workforce protected our employees so they could continue to respond to our customer's needs. If we would have an employee test positive for COVID 19, while the entire workforce was here, we could end up with many employees having to quarantine. If that happened, we couldn't serve our customers like we could with a full staff. Whether it's responding to an outage or answering questions from our customers, we are here for you always.

Our lobby is still currently closed to all public. We will be making some changes to our customer counter area to provide a barrier between our customers and employees of the District. We are not sure when we will open our lobby back up but when we do, we will take every precaution to make sure everyone is safe. Our customers have been outstanding to work with during this pandemic. Customers have been utilizing our drop box that is located on the north side of the headquarters and we have had an uptick on the number of customers who are taking care of their electric statements online. Customers have also been utilizing our pay by phone option.

Even though there are many different things to worry about in our lives and the world, there is one thing that our customers never have to worry about, we will always be here when you need us!

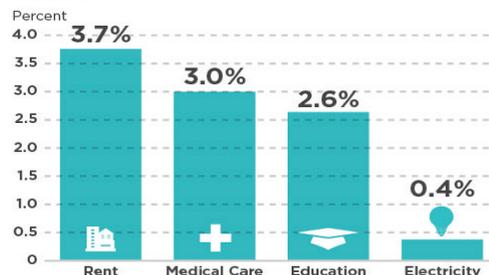
If you have any comments or concerns, please contact General Manager Mark Kirby



ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

When you look at price increases of common expenses over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2014-2019



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

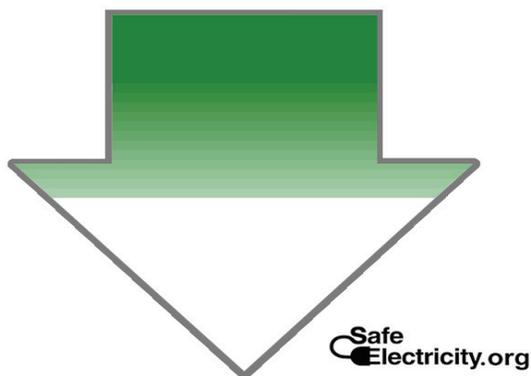
Get the Most Cooling for Your Dollar

Hot temperatures are hard on people, pocketbooks, and our electrical systems. Increased demand for electricity during summer months strains a home's electrical system, increasing the likelihood of an electric shock or fire. This high demand for electricity also makes it more expensive in summer months.

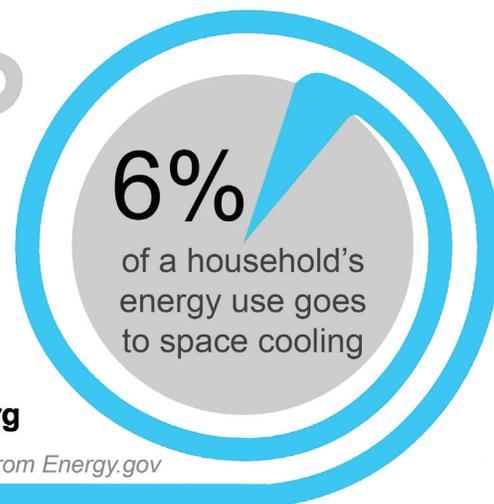
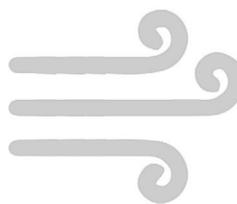
By preparing your home, you can save money, stay comfortable, and decrease demands on the electrical system. The Energy Education Council provides the following tips to save money on cooling costs:

- Use curtains and blinds to keep the sun out on hot days.
- Use ceiling fans. They circulate air and take heat from the body's surface to create a cooling effect.
- Keep cool air in and hot air out. Avoid unnecessary trips out the door, and do not leave the door open.
- A programmable thermostat allows you to change your home's temperature based on your daily patterns. The thermostat can allow temperatures to go higher while you are away and to then cool off when you are back in the home.
- Prepare your air conditioner for the hard work it will do over the summer months. Turn off power to the air conditioner before you work on it. Clean or replace filters. Outside, clear leaves and other debris away from the condensing unit. Hose off any accumulated dirt.
- Shade your home by installing awnings over windows in direct sunlight.
- Make sure your home has the insulation it needs. EnergySavers.gov has information about the best insulation to use in different geographic areas.
- Ventilation is one of the most efficient ways to keep a building cool. In breezy, dry climates ventilation can eliminate the need for an air conditioner all together. For the many who need air conditioning to cool their homes, attic vents and fans can help reduce energy costs.
- If you are building a new home or replacing your air conditioner, there are options to maximize efficiency. For starters, look for the Energy Star label for air conditioners that have met energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

a **high efficiency A/C unit** could **reduce** the **energy** used to cool your home by **20 to 50%**



Information collected from the U.S. Department of Energy



**Safe
Electricity.org**

research collected from Energy.gov

For more information on energy safety and efficiency, visit EnergyEdCouncil.org.

Now would be a great time for a cooling system tune-up. We have an incentive for that. Please see the application on the back side and mail it in for a \$30 rebate. If you need to put in a new system, we have incentives for those as well. Please visit our website <https://butlerppd.com/energy-incentives/energywise-incentives/>.

COOLING SYSTEM TUNE-UP INCENTIVE APPLICATION

INCENTIVE QUALIFICATIONS:

\$30 incentive is available to customers who have their cooling system inspected and tuned-up by an HVAC contractor. Contact Steve Walker at 308-535-5324, with any questions.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Installation Address: _____

Electric Utility Provider: _____ Account #: _____

I certify the tune-up, for which I am claiming an incentive for, was performed within the guidelines of the program. The utility reserves the right to inspect the work performed to ensure compliance.

Customer's Signature: _____ Date: _____

TUNE-UP CHECKLIST:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ____ Clean Condenser Coil | ____ Check Refrigerant Charge |
| ____ Check Indoor Coil | ____ Check Belt / Lube Motor, if Needed |
| ____ Blow Out Drain Line | ____ Perform Visual Inspection of System |
| ____ Discuss Proper Operation | ____ Discuss/Review Proper Temperature Set-Back |
| ____ Filter Service Schedule | Comments: _____ |

- EQUIPMENT INFORMATION:**
- 1) _____ years since last system tune-up
 - 2) _____ years since last receiving the EnergyWise incentive
 - 3) Air Conditioner, Air Source Heat Pump, or Water Source Heat Pump
 - 4) Est. Age of: Outdoor Unit (years) _____, and Indoor Unit (years) _____

CONTRACTOR (DEALER) INFORMATION:

Company Name: _____ Date of Tune-Up: _____

Technician Name (Print): _____ Signature: _____

Application Process: 1) complete application; 2) signed by both the homeowner and the technician; 3) submit application to the homeowner's electric utility provider. Program guidelines can be found at www.nppd.com

January 2020

Butler Public Power District

1331 N 4th St

David City, NE 68632

(800) 230-0569

402-367-3081 or 1-800-230-0569

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm

Butler PPD's mission is to safely provide low cost, reliable, excellent services to Butler and Saunders Counties customers.