



A Message from our General Manager, Chet McWhorter

On the door to my office, hangs a simple quote that I printed out on plain white computer paper. It is attributed to Albert Einstein, and it serves as a reminder to me and anyone else that comes to visit with me to be open to conversation and to be willing and capable of changing directions, ideas, and/or philosophies when new, better information comes along. As a reader of this monthly missive, you will note that I have mentioned from time to time that Albert Einstein was a really smart guy and I find his advice to be impeccable. The quote is: "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

While Einstein's advice is useful in any circumstance, today I'm contemplating the problem of resolutions. It is common at the start of the New Year to resolve to change things in our lives that aren't as we think they optimally would be. This can be simple or extreme, depending on each individual and how big of a bite they wish to chew upon. New Year's resolutions are the butt of many jokes. For example, the late comedian Joey Adams once quipped, "May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions!" That one might be a little too close to home to be a belly buster! New Year's resolutions also are a source of hope for a better year to come and that is worth thinking about for all of us, I suspect.

James Cameron, who is considered one of the most innovative film makers in the movie industry stated, "Hope is not a strategy. Luck is not a factor. Fear is not an option." So, if hope is not the strategy, what is? Hope is a driver for change. That has always been the case but hope alone can't provide us with the fuel to carry our goals to fruition. For example, if we hope to lose weight, we will fail if we don't prepare healthy meals and snacks and remove our temptations as much as possible. Hope alone won't drive us to the gym after work instead of to Dairy Queen for a large blizzard. I know for me; I have to hope I'll get a good workout in, but I never have to hope that ice cream will taste good! Finally, it takes a well thought out, cohesive and logical plan that is easily implemented and has logical, achievable way-points along the way coupled with desirable incentives or rewards to ensure successful completion of any

goal or resolution.

By adjusting our thinking and devising and following achievable plans, we can all find success in our New Year's resolutions. By accepting a desire/need for change we are already halfway there! One of our founding fathers, the brilliant Benjamin Franklin said, "How few there are who have courage enough to own their faults, or resolution enough to mend them." Wow! It appears that even 200 years ago there was a need for resolutions as well. Have a blessed, happy, and prosperous 2024 and enjoy the winter season!



Around the District...



We  our communities!

10 Simple Ways to Stay Warm & Save Energy

1. **Open the drapes.** The sun's rays will help heat your home for free. Let them shine in through south-facing windows all day. Then, cover the windows once the sun goes down.
2. **Dress in layers.** It costs a lot less to pull on a sweater or wrap a blanket around you while you watch TV than it does to move the thermostat up even a couple of degrees. Add a couple throw rugs to tile and wood floors, and keep blankets on the sofa. Wear socks and fuzzy slippers indoors.
3. **Humidify.** An electric humidifier will add moisture to the air, which makes it feel warmer and helps retain the heat. Your whole house will feel more comfortable if the air isn't too dry.
4. **Open heating vents.** And move furniture and other items away from them so they're not blocked and can do a good job of evenly distributing warm air through the house.
5. **Turn on the fans.** Flip the switch that makes the blades spin clockwise so they push heated air, which naturally rises, back down into the room.
6. **Turn off exhaust fans.** Kitchen and bathroom fans serve an important purpose, they clear the air of humidity and odors. But once the air clears, turn them off. The longer a fan runs, the more heated air it sends into the great outdoors.
7. **Add insulation.** Especially if your home is older, the attic insulation might have fallen out of place and even diminished over the years. That could mean heat is escaping through the roof.
8. **Tune up your furnace.** Call a professional HVAC technician to inspect and repair your system and change its filters.
9. **Lower the temperature at bedtime.** Throw an extra blanket on your bed and turn the thermostat down 10 degrees before you turn in. You could save up to 10 percent on your heating bill if you let your house cool off a bit.
10. **Close the fireplace damper once the fire dies down.** An open damper when the fireplace is not in use lets warm air escape through the chimney.



Cuming County Public Power District (CCPPD) gives special awards to 4-H members that have an interest in electrical projects at the Cuming County Fair.

This year, these special awards were given to Ayva Knobbe (Grand Champion Overall) and Jaden Schultz (Reserve Champion Overall) for their flashlight projects.

Thank you to all of the 4-H participants that took an interest in electrical projects.

We are proud of you!



Fight the Winter Chills

Frigid temperatures can cause heating systems to work over-time, and since heating and cooling can make up nearly half of your electric bill, you may experience sticker shock when you open the bill. Instead of waiting until after a potentially high bill is in your mailbox, be proactive. There are things you can do now to help ensure you are managing your energy use and spending less.

These simple steps can help you manage your use:

- Wrap exposed pipes and water heaters that are in unconditioned spaces.
- Make sure to change your air filter once a month.
- Keep drapes closed at night and keep those that don't get direct sunlight closed during the day.
- Keep the fireplace damper closed when it is not in use. Keeping it open can bring cold air into the room.
- Caulk around the fireplace hearth, and caulk or weather strip around doors and windows.
- Log on to your CCPPD account to keep up with your usage. If we've had a few days of frigid temperatures, see how you can try to save.
- Dress for the weather, even if you are inside. Wearing proper clothing like long sleeves and pants, or wrapping up in a cozy blanket will help combat the temptation of bumping up the thermostat.

Using the tips above can certainly help you manage your energy use, but your bill may still be higher than normal in winter months.

Why?

- The weather makes a big impact on electric bills, accounting for nearly half of your bill.
- Even those with the most efficient HVAC systems will see more use in extreme weather.
- When extreme cold temperatures hit, our furnaces work overtime.
- For example, even if you set your thermostat to our recommended 68 degrees in the winter, when it is 19 degrees outside, your system has to work hard to make up that 49-degree difference.
- Your heater works harder and cycles on and off more often, making your use much higher. That means your bill will be much higher.
- Remember, there is value in comfort. For us to be comfortable in our homes, our heaters are going to work harder, but it may be worth the additional cost to you.



Do you know if your home needs insulation?

The answer is probably "yes" if you:

1. Have an older home and haven't added insulation. In a recent survey, only 20 percent of homes built before 1980 were well insulated.
2. Are uncomfortably cold in the winter hot in the summer - adding insulation creates a more uniform temperature and increases comfort.
3. Build a new house or addition, or install new siding or roofing.
4. Pay excessive energy bills.
5. Are bothered by noise from the outdoors - insulation helps muffle the sound.
6. Are concerned about the effect of energy use on the environment.
7. Notice that snow melts from part of your roof more rapidly than from the eaves.
8. Cuming County Public Power District has information available to assist you in energy efficiencies. If you are interested in improving insulation values in your home, give us a call. Incentives may apply for homeowners whose primary heat source is electric.



Cuming County Public Power District

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Regular meetings of the CCPPD Board are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month at the CCPPD office

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