

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : www.lyonrec.coop
Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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3 Smart Home Technologies to Help You Save Energy

Smart technologies make our homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient. By connecting your home Wi-Fi network, smart devices automate everyday tasks like lighting, heating, cooling and home security—they can even communicate with other smart devices in the home.

While not all smart home products are specifically designed with energy savings in mind, there are several smart technologies that can help you lower home energy use. Here are the top three smart home devices to help you save.

Smart Thermostats

Smart or not, your thermostat is the most effective tool for controlling energy use, as heating and cooling typically account for the largest portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats allow you to adjust the indoor temperature through an app, giving you full control from anywhere on the go. Many smart thermostats include learning capabilities and will adjust the thermostat based on previous behavior and patterns.

According to the Department of Energy, smart thermostats can reduce heating and cooling bills by more than 8% annually, and with models as low as \$65, they typically pay for themselves in one year.

Smart Lighting

Smart LED bulbs use less electricity than traditional bulbs and can be scheduled or turned off (or on) remotely through a smart phone app. Smart bulbs are available in a range of shapes, brightness levels, colors and more, so shop for the products that work best for your home lighting needs.

Many smart bulbs include motion sensors that turn on or off based on room activity, further optimizing home energy use. If you're new to smart lighting, try a home starter kit. Prices for kits range from \$70 to \$300+ depending on how many bulbs you need.

Smart Plugs

Smart plugs are inexpensive gadgets that can help you save energy. Many electronic devices consume power even when they are turned off (known as "phantom load"), which can take a toll on your energy bills. Smart plugs are simply plugged into an electrical outlet and connected to your Wi-Fi network. When set up, the smart plug can cut power (or return power) to non-smart devices, like coffee makers, phone chargers and other items that draw phantom load.

Many smart plugs can be paired with popular smart hubs, like Alexa or Google Nest, or controlled through the

plug's associated app. Smart plugs are simple to use and a set of four can be purchased for as little as \$25.

If you're looking for new ways to save energy, try these budget-friendly, convenient smart home technologies.

REMINDERS

**Lyon Rural Electric
will be closed on
September 1, 2025 in
observance of
Labor Day.**

Work Anniversaries



Patrick Wubben has been employed with Lyon Rural Electric since August 3, 2015. Patrick brings a sense of humor to work every day. His knowledge of the system and its

members is second to none. Lyon REC thanks Patrick for his dedication to the coop for the past ten years.

Tanner Church

has been with the coop since August 17, 2025. It's been a pleasure to work alongside Tanner and watch his knowledge and commitment grow every day. Tanner is always up for a challenge no matter what obstacles stand in the way. Lyon REC would like to thank Tanner for his dedication to the coop for the past five years.





Maximize Refrigerator's Efficiency

The refrigerator runs 24/7, making it one of the largest energy users in your home. But with a few simple adjustments, you can ensure that your fridge is running as efficiently as possible, keeping your energy costs in check this summer.

Here's how:

- ▶ Set the fridge temperature to 37°F and the freezer to 0°F. Colder temperatures use more energy and aren't necessary for food preservation.
- ▶ Keep the refrigerator door closed as much as possible to maintain an even temperature. Frequent opening allows cool air to escape, making the appliance work harder.
- ▶ Clean the condenser coils at least twice a year. Dust and dirt can accumulate and make the compressor work harder, wasting energy.
- ▶ Check the door seals. If the seals are worn or damaged, cold air leaks out, forcing your fridge to run longer. Replace the seals if needed.
- ▶ Avoid putting hot foods in the fridge. Allow food to cool before storing it, as placing hot items inside forces the appliance to work harder.
- ▶ Keep the fridge full but not overcrowded. A well-stocked fridge maintains its temperature better than an empty one, but overcrowding can block air circulation.

With these tips, your refrigerator can run more efficiently, keeping your food fresh and your energy costs down.

Energy Efficient Appliances: A Summer Investment

When it comes to cooling your home while still reducing electricity consumption, investing in energy-efficient appliances pays off in the long run. Whether it's your air conditioner, refrigerator or washer, energy-efficient models use less electricity, leading to lower utility bills over time.

Here's why energy-efficient appliances are a good choice:

- ▶ Look for Energy Star-rated products. These are rigorously tested to ensure they meet high efficiency standards.
- ▶ If your air conditioning unit is more than 10 years old, consider replacing it with a newer, more efficient model. Newer systems can reduce energy use by up to 50%.
- ▶ Upgrade your refrigerator to one that uses less energy. Modern refrigerators are much more efficient than older models, and choosing a smaller unit can save power.
- ▶ Replace your old washer and dryer with Energy Star models. These can reduce water and electricity use, especially when you wash using cold water.
- ▶ Choose energy-efficient lighting. LED bulbs last longer and use far less power than traditional incandescent ones.

Energy-efficient appliances can cost more upfront, but you'll save enough by using them that they are a worthwhile investment.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Delete deceptive emails. If you receive an email that appears to be from your electric utility but you are unsure about it, delete it. Never click on a link, open an attachment or send a reply to an untrusted source. When in doubt, contact your utility directly to report suspected email scams.

Source: Utilities United
Against Scams



Don't Overload Power Strips



Power strips are a common way to manage multiple electronics in one area, but they can quickly become overloaded. Overloading a power strip can cause it to overheat, leading to potential fire hazards and higher energy use.

Here's how to use power strips safely.

- ▶ Don't daisy-chain multiple power strips together. Each strip is rated for a specific load, and stacking them can exceed that capacity and create a safety risk.
- ▶ Check the power strip's wattage and make sure the total wattage of devices plugged into it does not exceed the recommended amount.
- ▶ Unplug unused devices from the power strip to reduce unnecessary energy draw, especially during the summer when electronics are in frequent use.
- ▶ Look for power strips with built-in surge protection to help protect sensitive electronics from power surges caused by storms or electrical issues.
- ▶ Use smart power strips that automatically cut power to devices such as computers, printers and TVs when they're not in use.
- ▶ Turn off the power strip when not in use, especially for high-energy devices like space heaters, microwaves or air conditioners.

Using power strips correctly not only prevents potential hazards but also saves energy, helping lower your electricity bills over time.

Electrical Cords Need Routine Checks

Make time to inspect the electrical cords around your home. Worn, damaged or misused cords can overheat and spark a fire or shock hazard.



Add these simple checks to your routine:

- ▶ **Look for frayed or cracked cords.** If you see damage, replace the cord immediately. Don't try to repair it with duct tape—damaged insulation can still cause an electrical short.
- ▶ **Avoid running cords under rugs or furniture.** Heavy objects can crush the insulation, while rugs can trap heat and lead to overheating.
- ▶ **Don't overload outlets.** Plugging too many devices into one outlet or power strip can cause overheating. Use surge protectors with built-in circuit breakers instead.
- ▶ **Choose the right extension cord.** If you're using an extension cord, make sure it's rated for the wattage of the device you're plugging in. Outdoor cords should be weather-resistant and rated for exterior use.
- ▶ **Unplug cords properly.** Pulling a cord out by the wire instead of the plug can damage it. Always grip the plug itself.

A little maintenance can go a long way in preventing electrical hazards. Keep your home safe by making these checks a habit.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)

Operating Statistics

	JUNE	
	2024	2025
KWH Purchased	11,194,453	11,361,735
KWH Sold	10,967,252	11,160,723
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	3.14%	3.06%
Total Demand	21,720 KW	22,058 KW
Average Farm Consumption	3,037 KWH	3,089 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$349.89	\$374.30
Income Per Mile	\$1,272.56	\$1,237.52
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,285.89	\$1,222.61
Miles Energized	884.82	983
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	6.91¢	7.20¢



Don't Lose Your Cool Over Cleaning the Pool

Backyard pools offer a refreshing way to stay cool, but they can also be a major source of electricity use, especially during summer when pumps, heaters and cleaning systems work overtime. Fortunately, there are several easy ways to reduce your pool's energy footprint while keeping it clean and inviting.

- ▶ Run your pool pump for no more than six to eight hours a day. If you run it longer than necessary, it will waste energy.
- ▶ Cover your pool to reduce water evaporation, keep out debris and retain heat overnight.
- ▶ Clean filters and baskets regularly to ensure the pump doesn't have to work harder than needed.

- ▶ Upgrade to a variable-speed pump. These are far more efficient than traditional single-speed models.
- ▶ Consider a solar-powered cover or solar heater to extend swim time without increasing electric use.
- ▶ Run the pump at night or early morning instead of during the hottest time of day, when everyone is using more electricity.
- ▶ Check for leaks and maintain proper chemical levels to avoid overworking the system.

A few smart choices can go a long way toward reducing your pool's energy demands. You'll save money while still enjoying summer fun in a clean and comfortable backyard retreat.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



Nondiscrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA containing all the information requested in the form. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or by Email: program.intake@usda.gov