

COLUMBUS CURRENTS

Affordable Electricity Powers Quality of Life

By Anne Prince

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity powers quality of life

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing. Typically, when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%; medical care increased 2.8%; and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity; it still remains a great value.

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why Columbus Electric Cooperative will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.



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Safe travel for the holidays



You have been planning for weeks to travel to visit your family for the holidays. Unfortunately, inclement weather may be in the forecast or come unexpectedly. If you must drive during inclement weather here are some tips to stay safe.

- Stay on main roads and highways and drive during daylight hours and avoid driving alone if possible.
- Take blankets just in case you become stranded.
- Also take plenty of drinks and snacks.
- Have a first aid kit that includes a flashlight with extra batteries
- Double check your vehicle is equipped with a spare tire and a jack.
- Notify family members or friends where you're going and when you plan to return.
- If you are forced to stop because of inclement weather pull over to the side of the road turn on your hazard lights and remain in your car.
- If you become stranded for an extended period of time turn off your car so you don't run out of gas. With a window cracked turn it on every hour for a few minutes to stay warm. Be sure that your exhaust pipe stays clear if it's snowing to avoid carbon monoxide buildup.



Board Highlights

It was business as usual at the November meeting of the Columbus Electric Board of Trustees. The expenditures and the financial reports for the month of October were reviewed and approved. The construction and maintenance activity that took place since the October meeting and the monthly safety report were reviewed.



Merry Christmas to you and your family from Columbus Electric Co-op.

Our office will be closed Thursday, December 23rd and Friday, December 24th in observance of Christmas!

Happy New Year

Our office will be closed Friday, December 31st in observance of the New Year!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.



Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number
1-800-950-COOP (2667)