P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124
620-672-5538
www.ninnescah.com

NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.

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IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 620-672-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

Optimize Your HVAC System

As November settles in and temperatures begin to drop, your HVAC system will soon become one of the hardest-working appliances in your home. Before your system undergoes extra work this winter, now is a great time to ensure it is optimized and ready to go.

Start with something simple. One of the easiest and most effective measures you can take is checking filters. A clogged or dirty filter makes it harder for air to move through your system, which can make it run longer and work harder than necessary. Check filters regularly and replace them according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Vents matter too. Look around your home to make sure furniture, curtains, rugs, and other household items aren't blocking any supply or return vents.

If you have a heat pump, your outdoor unit also deserves extra attention this time of year. Falling leaves, limbs, and other debris can collect around the unit and restrict airflow. Clear any fallen vegetation near your unit and keep the area around your outdoor unit clear. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's cleaning recommendations. If you have a traditional central air conditioning system, your outdoor unit will likely remain idle during winter months, but it's still good practice to keep it clear of debris.

Don't overlook what you can't see. With forced-air systems, ductwork plays an essential role in delivering heated air throughout your home. Leaks, gaps or disconnected sections can allow conditioned air to escape before it reaches the rooms where you need it. If you've noticed rooms that never seem to be comfortable or unusually high energy use, ask an HVAC professional to inspect your ductwork.

Fall is also an ideal time for a professional tune-up. A technician can

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WINTER RATES NOW IN EFFECT

We would like to remind you that Ninnescah's winter rates will go into effect with your November bill. The winter rates will remain in effect through your June bill. We are listing below the rates for electric service. **** INCLUDES ENERGY COST ADJUSTMENT — VARIES MONTHLY***

RESIDENTIAL MINIMUM BILLINGS*	**SINGLE PHASE**	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$32.50
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.147280 per kWh
	Demand Charge	$0.25 per kW
	THREE PHASE	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$42.00
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.147280 per kWh
	Demand Charge	$0.25 per kW
GENERAL SERVICE MINIMUM BILLINGS*	**SINGLE PHASE**	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$35.00
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.132070 per kWh
	Demand Charge	$0.35 per kW
	THREE PHASE	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$45.00
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.132070 per kWh
	Demand Charge	$0.35 per kW
SMALL COMMERCIAL MINIMUM BILLINGS*	**SINGLE PHASE**	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$37.50
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.139820 per kWh
	Demand Charge	$0.50 per kW
	THREE PHASE	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$47.50
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.139820 per kWh
	Demand Charge	$0.50 per kW
IRRIGATION MINIMUM BILLINGS*	**SINGLE PHASE**	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$32.50
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.144820 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	Varies Monthly
	THREE PHASE	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$42.50
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.144820 per kWh
IRRIGATION – LOAD CONTROL MINIMUM BILLINGS*		**COST**
Customer Charge		$30.00
HP Charge (Billed in 5 equal installments in April-Aug.)		$38.75/HP
Winter Energy Charge		$0.089900 per kWh
IRRIGATION – NO LOAD CONTROL MINIMUM BILLINGS*		**COST**
Customer Charge		$30.00
HP Charge (Billed in 5 equal installments in April-Aug.)		$42.50/HP
Winter Energy Charge		$0.132570 per kWh

Cold Weather Rule Begins

Payment arrangements must be made with Ninnescah to use the CWR

The Cold Weather Rule (CWR) allows for special payment and disconnection procedures for residential customers with past due bills. The provision for the CWR is to ensure human health and safety are not endangered during the cold weather months. The following guidelines have been established to protect not only you, the member, but your member-owned co-op.

The co-op will not disconnect a residential service between Nov. 1 and March 31 when the National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature to drop below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within the following 48-hour period unless:

- It is at the member's request;
- The service is abandoned;
- A dangerous condition exists on the member's premises;
- The member violates any rule of the cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the member or other persons, or the physical integrity of the cooperative delivery system; and/or
- The member causes or permits unauthorized interference with or diversion or the use of (mechanical bypass), electric service situated or delivered on or about the member's premises.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE CWR THE MEMBER MUST DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Inform the co-op of their inability to pay their account in full;
- Give sufficient information to allow the co-op to make a mutually agreeable payment arrangement;
- NOT default on a payment agreement. Once an agreement has been made and those terms are defaulted on, the agreement becomes null and void and the member's service will be subject to immediate disconnection; and
- Apply for any federal, state or local funds for which the member may qualify.

THE COOPERATIVE WILL:

- Send one written notice mailed first class at least five days prior to termination of service — this notice is your non-payment notice of your regular electric bill which shows any balance not paid on your account when the current bill calculation was run;
- The day prior to disconnection the co-op will make at least one attempt to contact the member of record.
- Inform the member of any known organization where funds may be available to assist with payment of electric bill.

Optimize Your HVAC System

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inspect your heating system, identify potential problems, and make sure it is operating safely and efficiently before the coldest weather arrives. Regular professional maintenance can also help extend the life of your equipment.

Finally, take more control of your energy use by proactively managing your thermostat. There's no reason to heat an empty house. Lowering the temperature when you're away can help reduce energy use. And think about lowering the temperature while you sleep too! A programmable or smart thermostat can make those adjustments automatically, taking one more thing off your to-do list.

Your home heating system has an important job this winter. Give it a little extra attention this fall to help the system operate more efficiently, reduce unnecessary energy use, and potentially prevent an inconvenient breakdown on a cold winter night.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Lower your water heater temperature to save energy. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends 120 F for most households. Lowering the temperature can reduce energy use and help prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments. SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY







Why every step matters near a downed power line

When a downed power line touches the ground, electricity can spread out like ripples on a pond.

If your feet touch two different voltage levels, electricity can move through your body.

That is step potential, and it can be deadly.

IF YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE:

- **STOP.** Keep yourself and others at least 50 feet away.
- **CALL 911.** Report it and wait for help.
- **NEVER TOUCH THE LINE** or anything it touches, including fences, vehicles, trees, equipment or people.

IF YOU ARE NEAR A DOWNED LINE, DO NOT WALK OR RUN AWAY:

- **SHUFFLE TO SAFETY.** Keep feet close together and on the ground.
- **HOP AWAY.** Keep feet together; hop and land together.

Downed lines can be silent, still and deadly. Stay away and call 911.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

A Recipe for Holiday Energy Savings

During the holiday season, you may spend more time cooking, baking and prepping for family and friends. A few small changes can help you save energy, lower utility costs and keep your kitchen running efficiently while still baking and cooking up a feast for family.

Saving energy in the kitchen starts with using the right appliance for the job, keeping equipment in good condition, and making simple changes to everyday cooking habits.

COOKING AND PREP

- Use small appliances when possible. Choose an air fryer, microwave, slow cooker, or toaster oven for small meals or side dishes. They often use less energy than a full-size oven.
- Keep the stovetop clean. Clean burners and surfaces help heat transfer evenly.
- Match the pan to the burner. Using a small pan on a large burner wastes heat. Choose a burner that closely matches the size of the pan.
- Cover pots and pans. Lids keep heat inside, help water boil faster, and allow food to cook evenly at lower settings.
- Keep the oven door closed. Use the oven light instead of opening the door to check on food. Opening the door lets heat escape and makes the oven work harder.
- Thaw frozen foods ahead of time. Move frozen foods to the refrigerator in advance to avoid microwave defrosting.
- Cook more at once. Bake multiple dishes together when possible and make larger portions to freeze for later.
- Cut food into small pieces. Small pieces of vegetables and meat cook faster and more evenly than large ones.
- Skip the self-cleaning cycle. Use it sparingly, since it requires very high heat and uses extra energy.
- Turn down the thermostat while cooking. Cooking and baking can warm your home quickly, especially when guests are gathered.

REFRIGERATION

- Let leftovers cool slightly. Allow hot foods to cool before refrigerating (but do not leave them out too long). This keeps your refrigerator from working harder to cool warm food.
- Check the door seal. Make sure the refrigerator door closes tightly. Test the seal by closing the door on a dollar bill. If it slides out easily, the gasket may need to be replaced.
- Prevent frost buildup. Too much frost can make the freezer work harder to maintain the right temperature.
- Keep it full but not crowded. Refrigerators work best when cold air can circulate.

DISHWASHING

- Run full loads. Wait until the dishwasher is full before running it to make the most of each cycle.
- Skip heated dry. Use the air-dry or eco-mode setting to dry dishes while reducing energy use.

Small changes in how you cook, cool and clean up can help save energy, no matter the season.

Bake Up This *holiday bread recipe* and Kitchen Safety

Warm up the kitchen with a festive favorite, perfect for gifting or a holiday dessert tray.
And before you bake, take a few simple steps to keep your kitchen and your loved ones safe.

CRANBERRY-ORANGE QUICK BREAD

Ingredients

- **2 cups all-purpose flour**
- **¾ cup sugar**
- **1 ½ tsp. baking powder**
- **½ tsp. baking soda**
- **½ tsp. salt**
- **¾ cup orange juice**
- **¼ cup vegetable oil or melted butter**
- **1 egg**
- **1 Tbsp. orange zest**
- **1 ½ cups fresh or frozen cranberries, roughly chopped**
- **½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans (optional)**

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan.

In a large bowl, whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

In a separate bowl, whisk orange juice, oil or butter, egg and orange zest.

Stir wet ingredients into dry ingredients until combined. Fold in cranberries and nuts, if using.

Pour into a loaf pan and bake for 50 to 60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Cool before slicing.

OPTIONAL GLAZE: Mix ¾ cup powdered sugar with 1 tablespoon orange juice. Drizzle over cooled bread.

KITCHEN SAFETY TIPS

- Stay in the kitchen while baking; check food often and use a timer.
- Keep flammable items (towels, mitts, packaging) away from the stovetop.
- Use GFCI outlets for countertop appliances near water.
- Check appliances for damaged cords or plugs.
- Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Plug high-wattage appliances directly into wall outlets.
- Keep kids at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- For oven fires, turn off heat and keep the door closed.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG