

# NEWS & VIEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS  
OF HENDRICKS POWER COOPERATIVE

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

### AROUND TOWN

## Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 7

**Daylight Saving Time Ends**  
2 am

Make sure your clocks are turned back one hour. It's also a great time to test those smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors!

NOVEMBER 11

**Veteran's Day**

Thank you to all of the men and women who have sacrificed for our country!

NOVEMBER 25 & 26

**Thanksgiving Holiday**

Wishing all of our members a gracious and warm Thanksgiving holiday. Our office will be closed and will resume normal business hours, Monday, November 29.

NOVEMBER 27

**Holiday Craft Show**

Hendricks Co. 4-H Fairgrounds  
9 am - 4 pm

Enjoy a variety of local vendors, support small businesses, and get some holiday shopping done!

DECEMBER 4

**Avon Tree Lighting**

Avon Town Hall  
6 - 7 pm

The Avon Tree Lighting event features live entertainment and music on the front steps of the Town Hall as well as a visit from Santa, crafts, train rides, fireworks, and hot chocolate!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## Gobble Up Thanksgiving Energy Savings

Thanksgiving has become a favorite American holiday as family and friends reunite to feast and give thanks. Unfortunately, the cooking and extra guests in your home can contribute to an annual increase in energy use due to a usual drop in temperatures, lights staying on longer, and appliances operating more frequently.

Here are some energy-saving tips which can help lower the unwelcome tradition of higher energy bills following Thanksgiving celebration:

### Adjust Your Thermostat

If you're expecting a large group of family and friends, be sure to turn down the thermostat a few degrees! The extra guests and heat from cooking can add up fast and make your home uncomfortably warm for everyone.

### Have a Timeline

Schedule your bake times to avoid leaving your oven on unnecessarily. It usually takes only 5-8 minutes to preheat your oven, so plan accordingly. Cook as many dishes as possible in your oven at once; most recipes allow for variations of 25 degrees Fahrenheit in baking temperatures. Avoid the temptation of opening your oven door until your dish has finished!

### Use Smaller Appliances

If the oven is already full and you have additional dishes to warm or cook, use smaller appliances, like a slow cooker, air fryer, toaster oven, or pressure cooker. These helpful tools use less than half as much electricity as the oven.

### Use Your Dishwasher

Don't stress that mound of dishes! Using an ENERGY-STAR certified dishwasher uses less than half as much hot water as handwashing, so be sure to use your dishwasher when possible. Many even offer a 60-minute washing option!

### Allow Leftovers to Cool

Don't rush packing up and storing your meal immediately after eating. Allow your leftovers to cool on the counter, no longer than two hours, so your fridge and freezer won't have to work harder cooling your food down. So, take it easy and digest after your feast!



BE SAFE DURING THE  
**HO-HO-HOLIDAYS**  
 10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY



Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:

- 1 Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.
- 2 Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- 3 Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.
- 4 Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.
- 5 Do not use staples or nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.
- 6 String together no more than the number of strands (or fewer) recommended by the manufacturer.
- 7 Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.
- 8 Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- 9 Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.
- 10 Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.



**HUNT WHAT'S  
 IN SEASON**

**SHOOTING NEAR ELECTRICAL  
 EQUIPMENT CAN BE COSTLY AND  
 DEADLY**

HUNTING SEASON BRINGS OUTDOORSMEN INTO RURAL AREAS SOME MIGHT NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH. ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ASK HUNTERS TO BE AWARE OF ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT AND TO BE MINDFUL WHEN SHOOTING NEAR IT.

**Never shoot near or toward overhead power lines, power poles or substations.** A stray bullet can cause damage to equipment. Sometimes the damage, such as to an insulator, isn't noticed until it rains. Then it can cause an outage or a fire.

**Be especially careful in wooded areas** where power lines may not be as visible.

**Do not use utility poles or towers to support equipment** used in your hunting activity or to support deer stands. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.

**Space Heater Safety Tips & Tricks**

**Don't forsake safety for convenience**

Small space heaters are typically used when the main heating system is inadequate or when central heating is too costly to install or operate. In some cases, small space heaters can be less expensive to use if you only want to heat one room or supplement inadequate heating in one room. They can also boost the temperature of rooms used by individuals who are sensitive to cold, especially elderly persons, without overheating your entire home. Space heaters commonly run on electricity, propane, natural gas, and kerosene.

Although most space heaters work by convection (the circulation of air in a room), some rely on radiant heating. Radiant heaters emit infrared radiation that directly heats objects and people within their line of sight, and are a more efficient choice when you will be in a room for only a few hours and can stay within the line of sight of the heater. They can also be more efficient when you will be using a room for a short period because they save energy by directly heating the occupant of the room and the occupant's immediate surroundings rather than the whole room.

Safety is a top consideration when using space heaters. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of space heaters, resulting in more than 300 deaths. In addition, an estimated 6,000 people receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries associated with contacting the hot surfaces of room heaters, mostly in non-fire situations.

**When purchasing a space heater, be sure to follow these guidelines:**

- Only purchase newer model heaters that have all of the current safety features. Make sure the heater carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label.
- Choose a thermostatically controlled heater because they avoid the energy waste of overheating a room.
- Select a heater of the proper size for the room you wish to heat. Do not purchase oversized heaters. Most heaters come with a general sizing table.
- Locate the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic. Be especially careful to keep children and pets away from the heater.
- Electric heaters should be plugged directly into the wall outlet. If an extension cord is necessary, use the shortest possible heavy-duty cord of 14-gauge wire or larger. Always check and follow any manufacturer's instructions pertaining to the use of extension cords.
- Buy a unit with a tip-over safety switch, which automatically shuts off the heater if the unit is tipped over.
- Be sure your heater has at least three feet of clearance on all sides, free of furniture, curtains, clothing, and other flammable materials.



Source: Energy.gov

**Energy Efficiency  
 Tip of the Month**

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing, like around windows and doors. You can also seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, and ceilings for additional energy savings.



Source: www.energy.gov