



MESSAGE FROM  
GENERAL MANAGER  
MARK STUBBS

## Springtime savings.

**AS THE WEATHER WARMS UP** and the days get longer, it's a good time for homeowners to take a few steps that could save energy—and money—throughout the spring and summer. Here's a few money-saving energy tips:

**1. Tune up your air conditioner.** Don't wait until the summer heat is here to have your AC tuned up, because if you do, you run the risk of a breakdown on a sweltering summer day. A qualified technician can replace your central air conditioning system's filters, make sure it has enough refrigerant and clean its evaporator coils. A pro also can spot problems in the making and recommend repairs, so they don't put your unit out of commission.

**2. Open your windows.** Natural ventilation costs nothing. On warm spring days, invite spring breezes and sunshine in. It's a great way to air out the house as you begin your annual spring cleaning.

**3. Turn off the heat.** And delay your use of the air conditioner. Unless March and April are especially warm this year, enjoy the fresh spring air for as long as you can.

**4. Seal cracks in the drywall on the indoor side of your exterior walls.** You'll find them around electrical outlets, cable lines, windows, and doors. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save up to 30 percent on your energy bills by sealing air leaks around your house.



**5. Service your large appliances.** The refrigerator is one of your home's biggest users of energy. Keep it clean on the inside and out—including the back of it, where coils collect dust and sap the unit's efficiency. Clean the lint out of your dryer's vent.

**6. Bring in sunlight.** During daylight hours, switch off artificial lights and use windows and skylights to brighten your home.

**7. Use ceiling fans.** Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat several degrees when it gets warm outside. This can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.

**8. Cook outside.** On warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of an indoor oven.



**TAKE CHARGE. SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY BY DOWNLOADING OUR FREE ENERGY-SAVING TIPS IN THE EFFICIENCY HUB AT: [FarmersElectric.coop](http://FarmersElectric.coop)**



## POWER BEYOND PAYMENTS

More than just a payment portal, SmartHub is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing your energy usage securely from anywhere.

**DOWNLOAD THE FREE SMARTHUB APP FOR APPLE OR ANDROID AT: [FarmersElectric.coop](http://FarmersElectric.coop).**



MEMBER HUB

# Bill Plans for all.

## Members are different. Homes are different. Lifestyles are different.

Farmers EC offers multiple bill plans designed to work with our members needs. We offer a Traditional Plan (month-to-month), a Budget Plan (averaging month-to-month), and a Proactive Plan (pay-as-you-go)—all available with paperless billing and online conveniences. Take charge and choose the best billing and payment plan for your household, and don't forget to signup for SmartHub to monitor your account, analyze energy usage, and pay online.

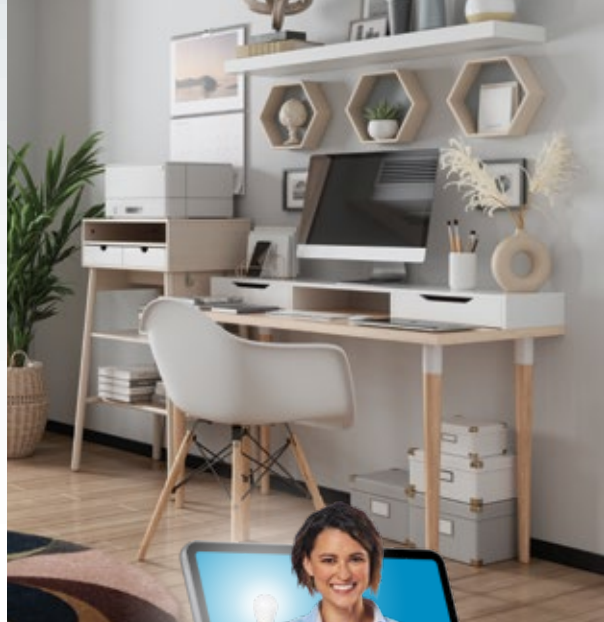
**TAKE CHARGE. LEARN MORE IN THE ACCOUNT HUB AT: [FarmersElectric.coop](https://FarmersElectric.coop)**



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**YOU'RE IN POWER.**

# Tune up your home office.



**WHETHER YOU USE YOUR HOME OFFICE** for your job, for school or just a place to pay bills, make sure it's energy efficient.

It's tempting to leave your computer on all the time for quick access, but it's best to shut it down overnight. Like burning a light in an empty room, an idle—but on—computer wastes energy.

Enable your computer's power management features. These are the features that automatically put your computer into an efficient standby mode when it's not in use for brief periods.

Shut off printers, copiers, scanners, and other devices when you leave your home office. If you plug them into one power strip, you can turn them off with the flick of a single switch. Some power strips now come with timers that you can set to automatically turn equipment off each evening.

Light your office with LED bulbs, which use less energy and last for years.

Buying new home office equipment? Look for the Energy Star label on computers, printers, copiers, and fax machines. Energy Star appliances use less energy.



## Work more energy efficient:

- ▶ Position your desk near a window for natural light and turn your interior lights off.
- ▶ During warmer months, use a small desk or floor fan to keep you cooler and set your thermostat to 78 degrees.
- ▶ During the colder months, dress in layers and keep your thermostat setting lower.
- ▶ Use warmer-colored LEDs to create a more relaxing and warm-feeling work environment.



**TAKE CHARGE. CREATE A MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOME OFFICE. REQUEST OUR FREE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY GUIDE IN THE EFFICIENCY HUB AT: [FarmersElectric.coop](http://FarmersElectric.coop)**



## EMERGENCY PLANNING

Farmers EC cares about the communities and members we serve. Staying prepared for unexpected challenges will make all the difference for you and your family's safety.

### STORM SAFETY

Read about how an emergency checklist, family evacuation plan, and other safe practices can keep you prepared in the event of a storm or other natural disaster.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT

Learn what supplies and other items The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends you include in your emergency preparedness kit.

**TAKE CHARGE. DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE PDF RESOURCE GUIDE IN THE SERVICE HUB AT: [FarmersElectric.coop](http://FarmersElectric.coop)**





## Generator safety.

As we head into spring storm season, we encourage you to review these safety rules for portable generator use.



- ▶ Never connect a standby generator to your home's electrical system. Here are the two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment:

**Stationary generator:** An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

**Portable generator:** Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

- ▶ Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is deadly.
- ▶ Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.
- ▶ Start the generator before connecting appliances.
- ▶ When the weather creates wet or damp conditions, use a generator only when necessary. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot pool or drain under it.
- ▶ Be sure the generator is turned off and cool before fueling it.
- ▶ Keep children and pets away from portable generators. Many generator components are hot enough to cause burns during operation.

**TAKE CHARGE AND START SAVING. DOWNLOAD OUR FREE ENERGY-SAVING TIPS IN THE EFFICIENCY HUB AT: [FarmersElectric.coop](http://FarmersElectric.coop)**

# ODDS & ENDS

## Save The Dates

### Sun., March 12: Daylight Saving Begins

Set your clocks an hour ahead.

### Fri., April 7: Good Friday

Farmers EC will be closed for this holiday.

Crews will be on standby in case of outages.

## 2023 Scholarship



We are currently accepting applications for the 2023 academic year. Each year, Farmers EC awards thirty \$500 scholarships to outstanding high school seniors.

**For application and details, go to: [PoweringYouth.com](http://PoweringYouth.com) and scroll down to Farmers EC Youth Programs. Application Deadline: April 14, 2023**

## Texas Homeowner Assistance Fund (THAF)

Farmers EC members who own their homes and are struggling with mortgage payments, home-related expenses and utility bills may be eligible for assistance with past-due and future payments from the Texas Homeowner Assistance Fund.

**For more information and to apply, go to: [TexasHomeownerAssistance.com](http://TexasHomeownerAssistance.com)**