

EMEPA East Mississippi Electric Power Association
We Care
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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Liberal or conservative-left or right-extremes everywhere

Like many of you, I watch the political pundits and the network commentators who tell us what we are supposed to think. Everyone seems to have a new perspective on the troubles that beset us as a nation. But it is easier to offer criticism than to effect solutions.

Let there be no doubt that conditions are quite fragile in the energy business. We do not have a comprehensive energy policy. Without an energy policy to address building new generating facilities, expanding the transmission grid and developing alternative resources, the reliability and affordability of electric service in Mississippi, and ultimately, our overall quality of life could be affected. An energy train wreck



"At EMEPA...we consider it a privilege to be your electric service provider."

General Manager Wayne Henson

is inevitable if we continue to pursue the policies that got us in this mess. It appears doubtful that we will wake up

in time to put partisan politics aside to avoid this. Public policy has become increasingly personal and vile. The vast majority of us long for the civility and dignity we seem to have lost in our political processes.

Common sense, respect and dignity must be reclaimed. Reasoned debate can produce solutions. Failure to do so is not an option. Extremes will not be the path to success and security. We need leadership with integrity, values and principles.

These basic principles must begin at local levels. I observe too many of us who are quick to criticize while failing to engage in the solution of these many problems. We could

try something simple like offering encouragement while expecting better from all those to whom we have entrusted leadership. Tough times require strong voices of reason and resolve; yours and mine. I ask you to join me in doing our part to reclaim the best values of our society.

Our southern culture of polite respect and focused determination can set the standard. A quiet strength coupled with unrelenting resolve produces results.

We are now on **Twitter!**

Follow @EMEPA for tips on energy efficiency and outage updates from East Mississippi Electric Power Association.

twitter



WHO KNEW A FRESH LAYER OF INSULATION WOULD HELP ME WEATHER THE ECONOMY?

There was money hiding in my attic. Not anymore. It's saving \$243 a year just by adding insulation. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at ForgetMeGave.com.



Keep air from leaking into and out of your home

Every article about saving energy tells you that caulking around windows and doors is the simplest way to keep air from leaking into and out of your home.

That's only true, of course, if you know how to do it.

Here are some simple instructions for using caulk around your home to keep your expensive air-conditioned or heated air indoors where it belongs—and the outdoor weather outside.

1. Buy the caulk. Caulk is a flexible sealer made from silicone or paintable acrylic latex that you can work into cracks and gaps around your house to fill them in and prevent air from leaking through them into or out of the building. You'll find it at the hardware store in a plastic or cardboard tube or cartridge. If you want to paint the caulk to match your window frames, buy a brand that's paintable. If you want to caulk less often, silicone might be a better choice, as it's less prone to cracking. It's not paintable, but it comes in

a variety of colors. You'll use about a half cartridge per window.

2. Buy a caulk gun. Slip the tube of caulk into the gun to make it easier to work with. Applying caulk directly from the tube is a headache unless you're just filling in a tiny area. You can buy a caulk gun at a hardware or paint store for less than \$15.

3. Decide where you will caulk. Any hole, gap, crack or opening on the inside or outside of your house needs caulking. The biggest gaps often are around windows and doors. Seal gaps and cracks around exterior light fixtures, outdoor taps and openings for exhaust fans and where cable and phone lines enter.

4. Load your caulk gun. Slide the tube of caulk into the caulking gun. Snip the tip off of the tube, making as small a hole as possible so you can control the amount of caulk that squeezes out of it. Secure the tube snugly into the gun. 5. Prepare the surface. Clean and dry the area you will caulk. You will apply the caulk between the window frame and the stucco or siding on the outside of your house or at the joint between the frame and the drywall indoors. Scrape away old caulk and loose paint, and scrub off dirt from that area.

6. Apply the caulk. Hold the gun at a 45-degree angle and squeeze a small bead of caulk into the tiny line that separates the window frame from the stucco, brick or siding. Use your finger to smooth the caulk into that tiny opening. Repeat the process until you have caulked all the way around the window frame.

7. Let the caulk dry for 24 hours, and then paint it to match your window frame.

8. Repeat the process on any gap or crack that exposes your home to the outdoor weather. You'll save more on your energy bill than you spent on the equipment.



DON'T FORGET

Daylight savings time begins March 14

Set your clocks ahead one hour, as we spring forward!



Volunteer fire department donations exceed \$480,000

Seeing the flashing lights and hearing the sirens of a fire truck speeding by, we stop and give thanks that it's not our home, our neighborhood, and we also give thanks to our community volunteer fire departments who every day risk life and limb to make us all safer.

Through the generosity of EMEPA members, more than 1,000 volunteer firefighters, who make up the rural volunteer fire departments in East Mississippi, received \$58,412 in 2009 to buy equipment they need to protect our communities. EMEPA members

have donated more than \$480,000 since the program's inception in 1998.

The safety of our members is of foremost importance to EMEPA. Every dollar can make a difference to the well being of our community. By donating to your local volunteer fire department through your monthly EMEPA bill, you are supporting these brave men and women who voluntarily risk their lives to save others.

The service provided by volunteer fire departments is priceless. When a

fire or emergency situation arises, time is of the essence. Volunteer fire departments provide the reaction time necessary to stifle a burning home, rescue victims and salvage valuables from the burning building.

Volunteer firefighters get no personal gain for the heroic work they do. Their greatest reward is knowing they are helping their neighbors. They are an essential part of our lives, unpaid and at the same time unwavering in their dedication.

We ask that you pledge only \$1 or more a month to help your local volunteer fire departments augment their budgets to maintain equipment and technology. Giving is so easy. Simply make your tax deductible donation as part of your payment on your monthly EMEPA power bill. Every dollar donated will be directly forwarded to the volunteer fire department of your choice. Remember to give a little to those who give so much.

DONATION AUTHORIZATION
Simply check one of the boxes below, choose your Volunteer Fire Department, fill out the authorization form, sign and drop it in the mail.

Yes! I will donate \$1 per month to support my Volunteer Fire Department.

OR

Yes! I will donate \$____.00 per month to support my Volunteer Fire Department.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

I agree to donate the above amount to the Volunteer Fire Department of my choice with the payment of my monthly EMEPA power bill. EMEPA will add the amount above to my monthly power bill. All monies paid will be applied first to any balance on my EMEPA account. I understand that 100% of my donation will be forwarded to the Volunteer Fire Department I selected.

I agree to allow EMEPA to release my name to the Volunteer Fire Department of my choice.

I have the right to discontinue my donation at any time and will notify my EMEPA office before doing so.

Print Name (as Listed on EMEPA Account)

Address

Date

Phone #

Authorization Signature



Make your monthly donation of \$1.00 or more with the payment of your monthly EMEPA power bill. 100% of your donation will be directly forwarded to the volunteer fire department of your choice.

Log on to www.emepa.com for more information and find out how your much-needed dollars will help.

Give a little to those who give so much.

- Clarke County:**
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beaverdam | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathersville |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carmichael | <input type="checkbox"/> Pachuta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coyt | <input type="checkbox"/> Quitman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clarkdale | <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling Creek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desoto | <input type="checkbox"/> Shubuta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Quitman | <input type="checkbox"/> Snell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enterprise | <input type="checkbox"/> Stonewall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harmony | <input type="checkbox"/> Theadville |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hopewell | |

- Kemper County:**
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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Mile Corner | <input type="checkbox"/> Northbend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Damascus | <input type="checkbox"/> Porterville |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DeKalb | <input type="checkbox"/> Preston |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Preston/Mt. Salem |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kemper Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Scooba |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Nebo | <input type="checkbox"/> Springhill |

- Lauderdale County:**
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|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alamucha | <input type="checkbox"/> Martin South |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bailey North | <input type="checkbox"/> Meehan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bailey South | <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Causeyville | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Springs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Center Ridge | <input type="checkbox"/> Russell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clarkdale | <input type="checkbox"/> Sam Dale North |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collinsville | <input type="checkbox"/> Sam Dale South |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duffee | <input type="checkbox"/> South |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lauderdale | <input type="checkbox"/> Suqualena |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Toomsuba |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost Gap | <input type="checkbox"/> Vimville |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marion | <input type="checkbox"/> Whynot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Martin North | |

- Winston County:**
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|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beat 5/Providence | <input type="checkbox"/> Mars Hill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Betheden | <input type="checkbox"/> Nanih Waiya |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Winston | <input type="checkbox"/> Noxapater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Point | <input type="checkbox"/> Shiloh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lobutch | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louisville | |

Practice electrical safety during spring storm season

Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, lightning, high winds and storms kill and injure many people every year.

Economic losses from these events can amount to billions of dollars in losses.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) urges consumers to become more knowledgeable about electrical safety during and after weather disasters.

"After severe weather is gone, electrical hazards can still cause deaths and injuries," noted Brett Brenner, ESFI president. ESFI warns consumers to beware of electrical dangers associated with downed power lines, portable electric generators and electrical wiring or appliances that have been wet. These precautions can help keep you and your family safe from electrical hazards during and after disasters:

- Take care when stepping into flooded areas—whether indoors or out. Submerged outlets, electrical cords and downed power lines can energize water, posing a lethal trap.
- Stay away from downed power lines and anything touching them.
- If you see someone who is in contact with a downed power line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Instead, call 911.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.
- If you get a portable electric generator, have it installed by a licensed electrician to ensure it meets local electrical codes and is properly grounded.
- Keep the generator dry and do not

operate it in enclosed or partially enclosed areas. Generators can produce high levels of deadly carbon monoxide very quickly; consider using a carbon monoxide detector.

- Do not overload the generator and carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions.
- Do not use electrical wiring or equipment that has been wet. A qualified service repair dealer should recondition electrical equipment; a licensed electrician can inspect electrical systems.
- To avoid lightning strikes, go indoors during electrical storms and stay away from windows.
- If outdoors during electrical storms, move to a low point. Stay away from metal items, including sports equipment, buildings, clotheslines, poles and fences. Avoid trees.
- During electrical storms, do not use corded telephones except for emergencies.
- Avoid contact with water and plumbing during electrical storms.
- Don't forget pets during thunderstorms. Doghouses are not safe from lightning. Chained animals can easily become victims of lightning.

Visit EMEPA at www.emepa.com, ESFI at www.electrical-safety.org or call your local EMEPA office for more on electrical safety.

The Value of Electricity

A dollar's worth can get you:

36  (intense) hours of gaming

48  hours of watching TV

72  freshly-ironed shirts

72  hours of laptop Internet access

100  hot pots of coffee

375  pieces of toast (nicely browned)

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Energy conservation tips

High energy costs are an important concern that affect consumers and businesses alike. While they affect all Mississippians, they are of particular concern to farmers, homeowners and small businesses. It's important to take steps to reduce expenses where possible. Extremely high or low temperatures can have a dramatic affect on energy use and costs. While such temperature extremes do not happen often, they are difficult to predict.

Since we can't control energy prices, or the weather itself, the important thing is to make sure that homes, businesses and farms are as energy efficient as possible. This means taking conservation steps before extreme temperatures - winter or summer - arrive in earnest. Here are some tips to help homeowners and others with energy conservation.

Winter:

Which winter fuel is cheapest?

The heating value of a fuel is determined by its Btu (unit of heat) in relation to its cost per unit. Under normal conditions, natural gas where it is available usually gives more heat per dollar compared to other sources, such as propane, fuel oil and electricity. This is not always true, however; changes in the price of one fuel relative to others affect the price-to-value ratio.

What can homeowners do to reduce winter heating costs?

- Several no-cost or low-cost options are available to homeowners:
- Reduce your energy bill by turning down the thermostat from 70° F to 65° F. Lowering it even farther, to 60° F, can save another 18 percent. If you are uncomfortable at these lower settings, wear a sweater or layers of clothes and a cap. Use extra bed covering at night.
 - In very cold weather, try to use a smaller portion of your home, and heat only that area. Close off unused areas unless there is the risk of pipes freezing. Shut off the air vents and close the doors. A towel placed under the door reduces drafts.
 - Insulate windows with a clear plastic covering. An uninsulated window can lose 10 to 20 times the heat as the same area of a well-insulated wall. A storm

window conserves even better.

- Use caulking and weatherstripping around doors and windows to reduce heat loss up to 37 percent.
 - Insulate your hot water heater. A hot water heater uses 12 to 15 percent of a typical home's energy. Completely wrap electric water heaters with insulation, but wrap gas water heaters on the sides only. On gas heaters, make sure that the pilot light's access door isn't covered or that air isn't blocked from the burner.
 - Change the filter on the heating unit often. Dust can restrict air flow and increase operating costs.
 - Fix leaks, especially hot water faucet leaks. Hot water leaks make your hot water heater operate unnecessarily.
- #### How can farms and small businesses reduce winter heating costs?

Many of the same principles for home energy conservation also apply to other structures:

Stop unnecessary air leaks by caulking, weatherstripping and sealing holes, cracks, and other places where cold air can enter. If the structure isn't well insulated, consider adding insulation based on recommendations for the particular structure. Make sure the structure is ventilated properly for more efficient fuel use and for safety reasons.

In buildings with high ceilings, consider installing a circulating fan to mix layers of hot and cold air for improved heat distribution and to bring warmer air toward the floor. Keep equipment properly maintained, vented and serviced. Keep records of monthly bills so you will know how well your conservation efforts are paying off.

If you own equipment that operates on oil or if you otherwise have access to fairly large amounts of inexpensive, used motor oil or wood, then an oil-fired or wood-fired heater might be an option for you to lower heating costs. These units are best designed for farm shops and similar structures. Newer units are generally more efficient than those designed several years ago.

In the field, use no-till planting to reduce the number of trips over a field, thus saving fuel. Look for ways to get the most efficiency from nitrogen fertil-

izer, such as planting legumes to supply nitrogen and testing soil to determine plant needs. Apply fertilizer at optimum times for plant use, and apply weed control chemicals when weeds are small. Safety is an important issue with heating equipment. Don't try to adjust regulators on gas tanks or make potentially dangerous repairs yourself. Contact the gas company or utility for help.

Summer:

What can homeowners do to reduce summer energy costs?

Many energy conservation principles apply in summer as well as winter. For example:

Caulking and weatherstripping around doors and windows saves in both hot and cold weather. Raising the thermostat also significantly lowers the cooling bill. A good starting point is 78°. Every degree the thermostat is set below 78° adds about 7 percent to the cooling bill. At 72°, the cost is about 42 percent higher than at 78°. If higher thermostat settings are uncomfortable, you can make your living area feel several degrees cooler by using a fan to circulate conditioned air.

Don't overlook the value of landscaping in summer energy savings. About 60 percent of the heat entering a home in the summer is through the roof. Provide shade to the roof, walls and driveways to reduce heat absorption and save energy and money.

Take advantage of windows in the spring for fresh air and natural ventilation. In the summer, keep the drapes drawn to reduce radiant heat from the sun. Ventilation is especially important to reduce summer energy costs. Make sure attics are properly ventilated.

Change air conditioner filters regularly. Insulate air conditioner ducts that are exposed in the attic or in other areas.

If you buy new appliances, look for energy saving features. Check the energy guide on appliances for energy consumption.

If you're building a new home or adding to an existing structure, match the equipment to the heating and cooling load as nearly as possible. Oversized equipment wastes energy. But keep in

mind that while a window cooling unit works well for a small area, a central unit may be more economical for larger areas in the long run.

What can farmers do to save on summer energy costs?

Many principles for home energy conservation also apply to farm structures:

Stop unnecessary air leaks by caulking, weather-stripping and sealing holes or cracks where warm air can enter.

Proper ventilation is especially important in poultry houses or other structures that house farm animals.

Ventilation is important not only for energy savings, but also for improved air quality for health purposes.

Keep cooling equipment properly maintained and serviced. Keep records of monthly bills so you will know your conservation efforts are paying off.

In the field, save energy by using no-till or minimum till planting to reduce the number of trips over a field. Look for ways to get the most efficiency from nitrogen fertilizer, such as planting legumes to supply nitrogen and testing soil to determine plant needs.

Apply fertilizer at optimum times for plant use, and apply weed control chemicals when weeds are small for best control and to reduce chances of having to reapply chemicals.

Keep engines and equipment in good operating condition. Repair fuel and oil leaks, and clean or replace air filters. Use ballast to keep wheels from slipping and using more fuel. Keep tires properly inflated.

Keep irrigation engines serviced and well-tuned. Make sure motors, switches and control panels are clean. Check connections to make sure they are tight, and lubricate moving parts that require it.

Irrigate according to a schedule for more efficient fuel and water use.

Safety is always a factor with electric equipment. Don't take chances with faulty connections, make potentially dangerous repairs, or cut corners that put your safety at risk. If in doubt, contact an electrical contractor for help.

For more information on energy conservation, visit www.emepa.com.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

A significant amount of the average home energy bill pays for heating water. Take five-minute showers instead of baths and make sure your water heater is set no higher than 120° F.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy