



## NO-COST TIPS



Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep the heat out.



Adjust your thermostat to the highest comfortable setting. 78 degrees is recommended in the summer.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



Remove debris and obstructions from around outdoor air conditioning units.



Use the bathroom fan to remove the heat and humidity from your home when showering.

## LOW-COST TIPS



Apply caulking and weather stripping in and around your home to minimize air leaks.



Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.

## KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Consumers use electricity for many different reasons. The choices consumers make about how they use electricity – turning machines off when they’re not using them or choosing to buy energy-efficient appliances – may accomplish the same goal but are two very different approaches.

Energy conservation is any behavior that results in the less use of electricity. Turning the lights off when leaving a room or adjusting the thermostat to a higher setting during summer months are both ways of conserving electricity.

Energy efficiency is using technology that requires less energy to perform the same function. Using a light-emitting diode (LED) light bulb that requires less energy than an incandescent light bulb to produce the same amount of light is an example of energy efficiency.

## FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE

Knowing when or how to conserve energy is not always straightforward. Neither is knowing which energy-efficient technologies are right for your home or office building. A little research can go a long way to reducing your electric bill.

For further tips and resources on how to reduce your energy consumption, please visit our webpage at:

[carrolecc.com/energy-saving-tips](http://carrolecc.com/energy-saving-tips)

or call one of our Member Service Representatives at **1-800-432-9720**.



THINK.



ACT.



SAVE.

*We all have the power!*



As a member of Carroll Electric Cooperative, you expect reliable and affordable electricity. While Carroll Electric's overall reliability has set records nine times in the past 10 years, **can your co-op continue to deliver on that promise?**

A complex network of electricity generators and thousands of miles of electrical lines work together to ensure that enough electricity is available on the coldest winter mornings and during the hottest days of summer.

But what happens when the demand for power overwhelms the ability to provide it? That's a particularly vexing question given the transition taking place in how electricity is produced and shared across the electric grid.

**The key to meeting your essential energy needs centers on balancing electricity supply with demand.** While that may sound simple, there is a complex web of organizations that work together to make it happen each day.

Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) coordinate, control, and monitor the electric grid across several states in a region. Think of them as air traffic control managers, regulating the number of planes – in this case, electricity – that leave an airfield and later arrive at their destination.

Even so, **there is an increasing frequency of occasions where there is an imbalance in the electric grid that leads to rolling power interruptions or blackouts.** In those cases, there is simply not enough supply to go around. In February 2021, that is precisely what happened in both the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), two regional transmission organizations that balance supply and demand across the region. However, other RTOs across the United States are experiencing the same problem.

While there were many factors to blame, **events like these happen because power plants that generate electricity are being closed faster than new producers come online.** In most cases, traditional large-scale power suppliers, such as coal and nuclear plants are being closed and replaced by alternatives on a much smaller scale. So, what's the answer?

Absent new large-scale alternatives or monumental advances in energy storage, dispatchable baseload generation — coal and nuclear energy facilities — must continue to operate. While electric cooperatives and others in the energy sector will continue to develop intermittent options and pursue new technologies, each form of power supply has strengths and weaknesses. As such, a diverse mix of resources is required. Carroll Electric is working with industry and political leaders to protect this mix.

For more information on this topic, please visit [carrolecc.com/on-the-record](http://carrolecc.com/on-the-record).

