



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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[www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop)

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP

# NEWS

## TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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**Angie Erickson**  
CEO

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### CONTACT US

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## FROM THE CEO

# Let's Beat the Peak Together

Summer is here, and with it, comes higher energy usage and higher energy bills. As energy consumers, most of us know we can save money by making smart energy choices. But did you know that when you use electricity can be just as important as how much you use?

Throughout the day, energy use fluctuates based on consumer demand. Typically, households use larger amounts of electricity in the morning when most people are getting ready for their day, and in the evenings when people return from work, cook dinner, wash clothes and watch television.

These times when people are using more electricity at the same time are called "peak" hours. The cost for Twin Valley to provide power is higher during these times because of the additional demand for electricity. Peak hours occur between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., each day excluding weekends and holidays.

By shifting some of your energy use to hours when demand is lower, also known as off-peak hours, you can save money on your energy bills and help keep rates lower for our entire membership.

Here are a few easy ways you can shift energy use to off-peak hours:

- ▶ Avoid the use of your oven and stove during peak hours. Do your cooking later in the evening or grill out.

- ▶ Wait to do laundry until after the peak in the evening, or do it in the morning.

- ▶ Run the dishwasher right before you go to bed.

In addition to shifting energy usage to off-peak hours, good old energy conservation will help lower your energy bill, especially during peak hours.

- ▶ Adjust your thermostat. During summer months, raise the thermostat a few degrees during peak hours.

- ▶ Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. (Try to make this a daily habit, whether during peak or off-peak hours.)

- ▶ Turn off ceiling fans if people aren't in the room. A good rule of thumb is fans cool people, not places.

There are many ways to save energy and money by making a few minor adjustments to your daily routine.

We're here to help. Contact us if you have questions about your energy bill or for additional energy-saving tips.



Angie Erickson

## SAFETY TIP

Only use a gas or charcoal grill outside. Grills are designed to be used outside where there is plenty of ventilation.

Using one in a closed or partially enclosed space can cause carbon monoxide (CO) to build up and cause CO poisoning. Grill in the great outdoors.



SOURCE: [WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM](http://WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM)

# Unlock Comfort and Savings

If you're working on your summer to-dos, consider adding home weatherization to your list.

We typically think about weatherizing our homes during winter months when we're standing next to a chilly window or a drafty exterior door. But weatherizing your home provides comfort and energy savings year-round, especially during summer months when your air conditioner is working overtime.

According to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), a home with insufficient insulation and air leaks wastes more than 20% of the energy used to heat or cool the home — that's essentially throwing money out the door. Fortunately, most weatherization projects are easy to DIY and can be completed in a day.

The simplest and most cost-effective weatherization strategies include air sealing around windows and exterior doors.

If you have older windows, odds are you have air escaping through tiny cracks and gaps around the frame. Do a quick visual inspection. If you can see any daylight around the frame or the windows rattle easily, you likely have air leaks. Also check for any small cracks around the frame that may not be visible with sunlight.

If you suspect you have leaky windows and plan to apply new caulk, be sure to remove the old caulk and clean the area well before application. Caulking materials vary in strength and properties, but you'll likely need a half-cartridge per window.

Silicone caulk is a popular choice and can also be used to seal joints between bathroom and kitchen fixtures. If you have any leftover caulk, use it to seal those areas.

Another effective but simple weatherization project is installing weatherstripping around exterior doors. The most common types of weatherstripping options are V-channel,

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felt and foam tape. To choose the best type for your home, consider temperature fluctuations and weather exposure. Most homeowners opt for felt or foam tape; both options are easy to install but will need to be replaced every couple of years, depending on wear and tear. Weatherstripping should be installed around the top and sides of the door.

If you see daylight around the bottom of an exterior door, consider installing a door sweep in addition to weatherstripping. Door sweeps are available in aluminum, plastic, vinyl and felt options.

Weatherstripping can also be installed around windows, typically to the sides of a double hung or sliding window, or around the window sash.

If you're unsure how to install weatherstripping or apply caulk, check out trusted websites like [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com) or [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov) for step-by-step instructions and video tutorials.

Another way to improve comfort in your home is adding insulation. While this is a more costly project and requires a professional's help, it's an effective way to decrease heat flow, which impacts energy use in winter and summer months. Older homes may need additional insulation to either replace older materials or meet newer efficiency standards. Contact a qualified installation specialist if you suspect your home's insulation levels are inadequate.

## 3 WAYS TO SEAL IN COMFORT

In addition to increased comfort, weatherizing your home is an excellent way to save energy and lower your cooling and heating costs. Here are three ways you can seal in comfort and savings.



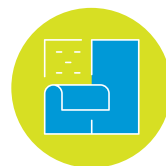
### 1 CAULK

Apply caulk around cracks and openings between stationary components like door frames and window frames.



### 2 WEATHERSTRIPPING

Install weatherstripping around components that move, like doors and operable windows.



### 3 INSULATE

Adding insulation is an effective weatherization strategy, especially for older homes. Consider additional insulation in areas like an unfinished attic, exterior walls and floors above uninsulated spaces.

## THANK YOU for Joining Us at the Annual Meeting!



Twin Valley Electric Cooperative held their 77th Annual Meeting Tuesday April 16, 2024, at the LCHS Cafeteria.



## 5 Tips for Hiring an Electrician

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you're looking to hire an electrician.



- 1 Hire a licensed, qualified electrician for the job.**  
Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.
- 2 Make sure the electrician is insured.**  
Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.
- 3 Read all the reviews.**  
Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews — not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.
- 4 Determine your budget. Get two quotes.**  
Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can vary greatly, so get at least two quotes.
- 5 Talk timeline.**  
Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.



## BEFORE JUMPING IN

### Know These 6 Pool Safety Tips

Keep these electrical safety tips in mind before and during swimming season. These safety tips also apply to hot tubs.



Teach these tips to kids and teens, especially when it comes to using a cellphone that is plugged into an outlet.

SOURCE: SAFE ELECTRICITY

## BEFORE YOU JUMP IN:

### Consider Potential Electrical Hazards

If you own a pool or hot tub, you know there are several steps required to keep it clean and well maintained. One aspect of owning a hot tub or pool that is not often top of mind for homeowners is the electrical system, which can pose a significant or even deadly hazard.

Since pool and hot tub areas mean wet skin and wet surfaces, the chance of electrocution increases when electricity is present.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) points out that electricity around pools, hot tubs and spas can be found in underwater lights, electric pool equipment (e.g., pumps, filters, vacuum), extension and power cords, electrical outlets or switches, electrical devices such as TVs and overhead power lines.

To keep swimmers and hot tubbers as safe as possible, be sure to have the electrical system inspected, repaired and upgraded to local and National Electrical Code by a licensed contractor. Also, do not set up a pool (temporary or permanent) where power lines are overhead or within 25 feet of water.

#### ELECTRICAL SAFETY AROUND WATER ALSO INCLUDES:

- ▶ Making sure ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are installed on:
  - ▶ Underwater lighting circuits operating at 15 volts or more.
  - ▶ All electrical equipment, including 120- and 240-volt heaters close to the pool.
  - ▶ All outdoor receptacles (outlets) within 20 feet of the water's edge.
- ▶ Testing permanently installed GFCIs monthly. Test those that are portable or connected to a cord before each use.
- ▶ Looking for signs of mold or other growth on the inside lenses of lights, which can indicate water leakage.
- ▶ Ensuring that the power switch and GFCI for underwater lights are

clearly marked and easily accessible in an emergency.

- ▶ Labeling power switches for pool, hot tub and spa equipment, as well as lighting.
- ▶ Using battery-operated electronics whenever possible.
- ▶ Ensuring that hands and feet are dry while using electrical devices.
- ▶ Keeping long-handled tools and poles away from nearby power lines, including the drop-down lines to your home.
- ▶ Holding pool skimmers and other long-handled tools as low as possible to the ground and carrying them horizontally.
- ▶ Keeping electrical cords, wires and devices out of reach and at least 5 feet from the water.
- ▶ Unplugging a device that has fallen into the water before touching it. Even submersible pumps designed to run under water may not be safe to use when someone is in the water.

#### ELECTRICAL SHOCK DROWNING — WHAT TO LOOK FOR

You may hear complaints of tingling or other odd sensations. Swimmers may feel a tingling sensation, experience muscle cramps or may not be able to move. You may see panicked behavior by others or a motionless swimmer in the water. You might also see underwater lights that are not working properly.

If you think you are being shocked while in the water, move away from the source of the shock and get out of the water. If possible, exit without using a metal ladder; touching metal may increase the risk of shock.

If you think someone in the water is experiencing an electrical shock, immediately turn off all power. If the power is not turned off, rescuers can also be shocked or electrocuted. After the power is disconnected, call 911, or have someone else make the call.

SOURCE: CPSC