



Craighead Electric  
Cooperative Corporation



[craigheadelectric.coop](http://craigheadelectric.coop)

# HOT LINES

Member Driven • Service Focused • It's What We Do Everyday

January // February 2021 CECC Newsletter

## Late Fees

Craighead Electric has postponed all late fee charges since March 2020 due to the pandemic and the challenges that our members were having to face.

Effective January 1, 2021, Craighead Electric will resume charging late fees to members' account(s) if paid after their designated due date.

If you have any questions or need to make a payment arrangement, please contact our office at 870.932.8301.

## YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

*Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!*

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



*Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.*

Wintertime in Arkansas sees a higher number of outages than other seasons of the year. Wind, ice, tree limbs, even vehicle accidents can cause unavoidable outages. We endeavor to make power outages as short as possible by having material and personnel on standby 24/7 to respond and fix damage in a timely manner.

Occasionally though, the weather can take a turn for the worse resulting in extended outages. Being prepared for prolonged periods of time without electricity can make these times much less stressful. Before the next big storm take a moment to plan your power outage pantry.

**Pantry:** Traveling to the store can be difficult or impossible during bad weather. If road conditions are poor, you may need to shelter in place for a time. Set shelf stable items aside (see info-graphic) to make sure you and your family have food available.

**Freezers:** Freezer food can remain frozen for several hours in a freezer box even without power. Keep the door shut tight to keep the food cold for as long as possible to prevent it spoiling. A tip for knowing if your freezer food has stayed frozen during an outage (or vacation) is to freeze a cup of water and place a coin on the surface of the ice. Place the cup in the freezer and leave it. Upon inspection, if the coin is still on the surface of the ice, your food is probably just fine. If the water has thawed and the coin has sunk, then you may have to discard the contents of the freezer.

**Water:** Fresh water is always important to have available. If you receive your water from a well pump like many of our members do, a power outage could leave you high and dry. Be sure to have a few jugs of water available in case of emergencies. A gallon per day per person is a good rule of thumb. Enterprising members have reportedly used commode tanks, water heater tanks, and pre-filled bathtubs as emergency sources of water. Resourceful!

Visit our outage center for more ways to be prepared for the next storm at [craigheadelectric.coop/outage-storm-center](http://craigheadelectric.coop/outage-storm-center)

## GENERATOR Safety

Avoid hurting yourself and others – including linemen working to restore power. Understand how to use your generator safely!

Learn about preventing “backfeed” and more at:





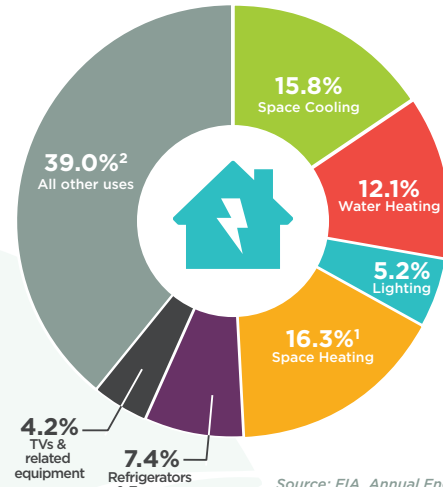
### Internet reliability update

As a relatively new local internet service provider **empower**, delivered by Craighead Electric has been at the mercy of it's upstream provider when it comes to service reliability. Most internet outages on our network have occurred due to issues with these larger regional networks rather than problems with our locally owned cooperative fiber.

To combat this, we are establishing our own direct connections to the internet "backbone". This will provide redundant pathways from your home to the rest of the world wide web resulting in higher reliability and fewer internet outages. Find out more about **empower** internet service at [empowerbroadband.com](http://empowerbroadband.com).

## How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, computers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for nearly 40% of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2020  
<sup>1</sup>Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes miscellaneous appliances, clothes washers and dryers, computers and related equipment, stoves, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.

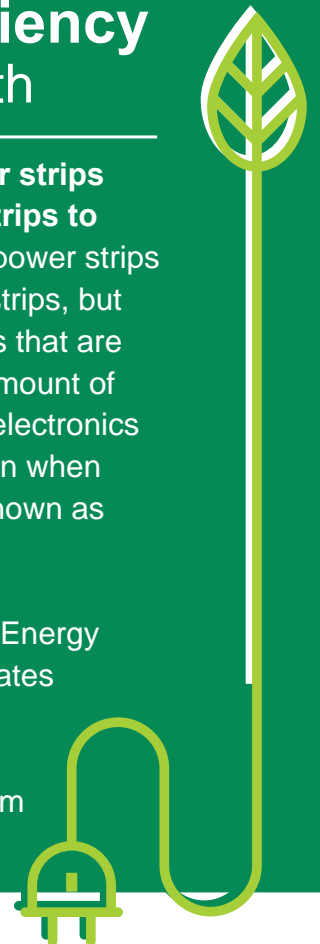
The majority of American's energy use is no longer space heating/cooling due to the proliferation of appliances, electronics, and more efficient HVAC systems. What uses the most energy in your home?

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy.** Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source: [www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)



Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.



SOURCE: CDC.GOV

Stop the spread of infectious particles by covering your mouth! The SARS-COV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 likes to hitch a ride on respiratory droplets that are emitted every time we cough, sneeze, talk, sing, or even just breath.

A simple face covering like a cloth mask stops respiratory droplets in their tracks greatly reducing the risk of transmission of infection.

Do your part to reduce the spread. Wear a mask in public spaces and when visiting with high-risk individuals.