

# EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

## *Echoes of the Empire*

MAY 2024

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## Grow Your Summer Energy Savings

BY JOSH DELLINGER GENERAL MANAGER



JOSH DELLINGER

One of my favorite things about summer is the opportunity for fresh, homegrown food, whether it's shopping at the local farmers' market or sharing the abundance of garden tomatoes with a neighbor. It's amazing how just a few seeds, some fertilizer, and water can turn into a bounty.

When I think about energy efficiency, I think about that bounty of food, and how with just a few simple actions you can use less electricity and reap the rewards of energy savings.

You don't need to be a farmer or botanist to know that plants need water — just like you don't have to be a lineman or engineer to know that adjusting the thermostat or turning off lights can reduce your monthly electric bill. In fact, if you read Empire Electric Association's publications regularly or follow us on Facebook, you know there are a lot of things you can do at home to save electricity and money.

Summer months can bring higher energy bills for some of our members. Air conditioning your home can account for a large portion of your monthly energy use in the summer; the hotter it gets outdoors, the harder your air conditioner works to keep you cool indoors.

There are several ways you can manage energy use at home, and on the next page we provide a few tips that can help grow your summer energy savings.

But I'd also like to share a few ways we're here to help you save — not only during the dog days of summer, but throughout the year.

One of the great things about being part of EEA is that we're locally owned by you, our members. So instead of making profits, we can focus on helping our community.

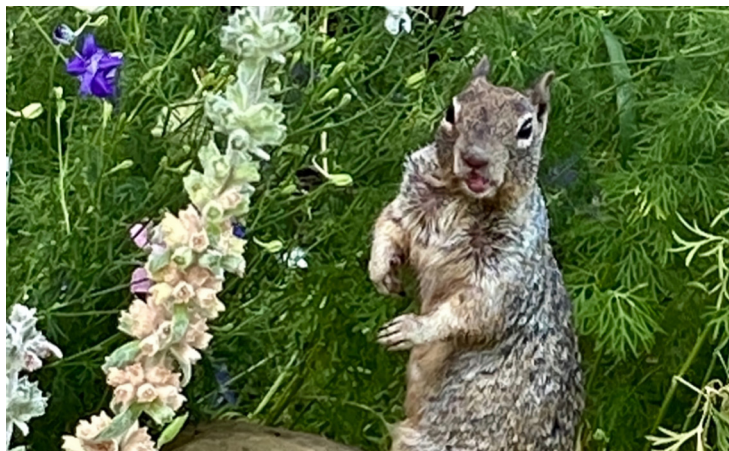
We've developed incentives and programs to help you keep your money in your wallet:

- **Rebates** – EEA, in conjunction with our power supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, offers financial incentives for efficient equipment you purchase, including heat pumps and water heaters. Many rebates can be claimed by simply filling out a form. Find a list of all our rebates at [eea.coop/electrify-save-program](http://eea.coop/electrify-save-program).
- **Recycle** – If you have an old refrigerator or freezer that's running but is not used much, it's costing you. EEA offers \$60 per unit to help pay for the cost to recycle up to two units per membership per year.
- **Energy Audits** – Having a certified energy auditor assess your home and make recommendations on the best way to make your home energy efficient is a great first step in lowering your energy bills. EEA will pay 50% of the cost up to \$500 of an audit completed by an approved auditor. You can find a list of auditors and more details at [eea.coop/programs-help-you-save-energy](http://eea.coop/programs-help-you-save-energy).
- **Take Control of Your Use** – Use SmartHub to track your energy use. You can even get alerts when your use spikes so you can make changes in real time. If you are not on SmartHub, sign up at [eea.smarthub.coop](http://eea.smarthub.coop).
- **Rates** – EEA offers rate options for most members. Our Time of Use Demand rates provide the most flexibility to lower your monthly bill by shifting energy use to Off Peak times and staggering use of high demand appliances. Off Peak Time is before 1 p.m.

## Grow Your Summer Energy Savings

or after 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and all day Sunday. High demand appliances include air-conditioning units, electric resistance hot water heaters, electric ranges, and all electric clothes dryers.

Most people don't know everything about electricity, and that's why we're here to help you. There are no investors making profits here. Just knowledgeable people with local jobs, working for our neighbors to ensure there is electricity available when you need it. Contact us and we can work with you to find more ways to save energy — and money.



**Squirrel!!!!** by Charlotte Daves

## 5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

### 1. **Raise your thermostat.**

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

### 2. **Install window coverings**

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

### 3. **Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping**

around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.

### 4. **Run ceiling fans**

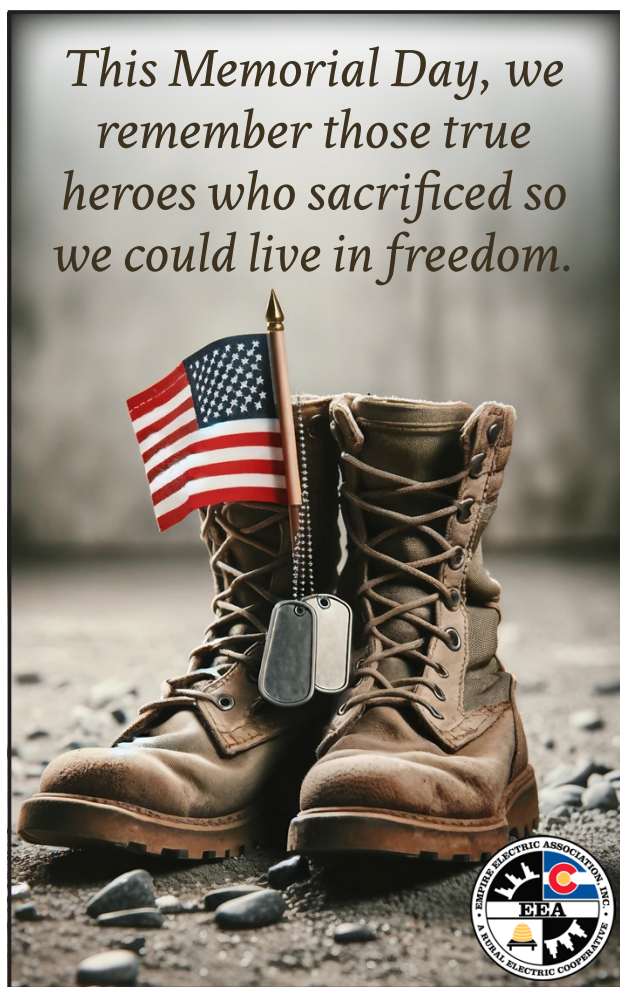
for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.

### 5. **Lower your water heater thermostat**

to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



Source: Dept. of Energy

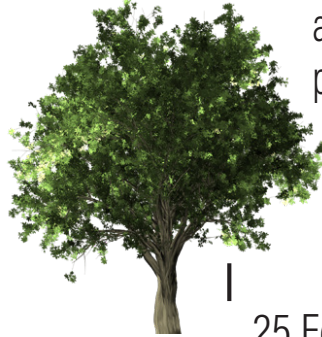


**Large Tree Zone**

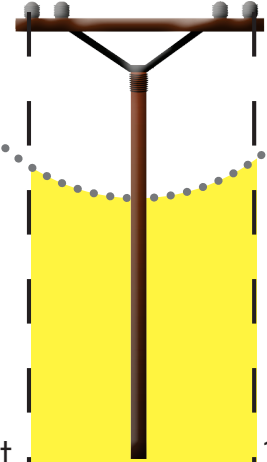
40 ft. height when mature at least 50 ft. from power lines.

**Medium Tree Zone**

Under 40 ft. height when mature at least 25 ft. from power lines.

**EEA Tree and Shrub Planting Guide****Low Tree Zone**

15 ft Height or less when mature at least 15 ft. from power lines.

**TREE PRUNING ZONE**

Avoid planting within 15 ft. of power line conductors and power pole. Trees planted directly under powerlines may become a fire hazard and will be removed.

4 Feet



12 Feet

**Pad Mount Transformer** - Keep shrubs at least 12 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. away from the sides.

**Monthly Calendar**

**May 1** – Continuing education scholarship applications are available at [eea.coop](http://eea.coop).

**May 10** – EEA's board meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at its headquarters in Cortez. The agenda is posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at [eea.coop](http://eea.coop). Members may attend in person or remotely. Instructions to attend remotely are included on the

agenda.

**May 12** – Mother's Day Day

**May 18** – Armed Forces Day

**May 27** – Memorial Day. EEA office closed.

**ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE**

The Annual Meeting of the members of Empire Electric Association, Inc. is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2024. The meeting will be held at EEA's Engineering & Operations Center located at 23999 Road L.4, Cortez, Colorado. The following business is scheduled to be transacted:

**I.** Election of directors submitted by written petition pursuant to Article III Section 4 of the cooperative's bylaws. One director is to be elected from the following districts:

DISTRICT NO. 4 [Four-year term]

DISTRICT NO. 7 [Four-year term]

(NOTE: Article III, Section 4 of Empire's bylaws states, "Should there be only one nomination from each district open for election then no ballots will be mailed or cast and the candidate will be

declared elected as a matter of law at the annual meeting or within five (5) days thereafter as provided by law.")

**II.** Voting upon proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, if necessary (NOTE: No Bylaw or Articles amendments are proposed at this time.)

**III.** Reports of Officers, Directors and Committees and action thereon.

**IV.** Any other business transacted which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

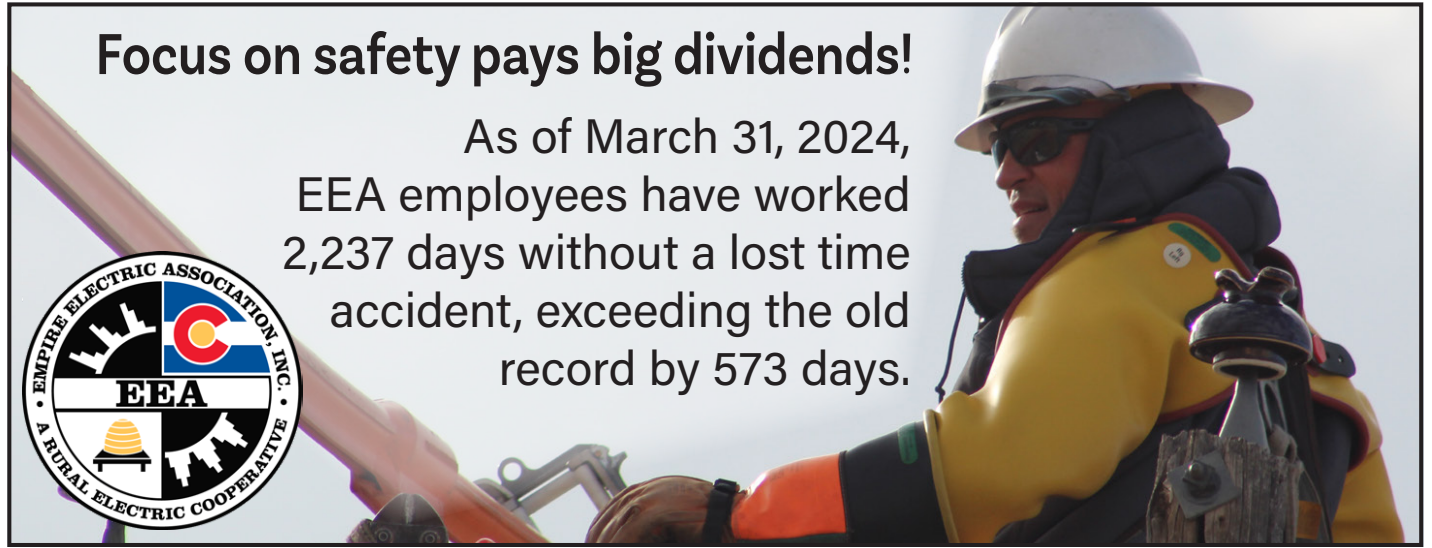
**JERRY FETTERMAN, SECRETARY-TREASURER**

Empire Electric Association, Inc.



## Focus on safety pays big dividends!

As of March 31, 2024,  
EEA employees have worked  
2,237 days without a lost time  
accident, exceeding the old  
record by 573 days.



## Safety First: Keep electric safety in mind this summer

BY ANDY CARTER MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

It's that time of year when the weather is improving, things are growing, and we tend to be much more active outside. It's also electric safety month and I want to remind you of some basic electric safety rules:

- **LOOK UP AND LIVE!** An important part of preparing for any activity is to be aware of your surroundings. Whether you are getting ready to fly a kite or climb on the roof to get your swamp cooler ready for the warmer months, look for overhead power lines and stay at least 10 feet away from them. Making contact with a high voltage power line can be deadly.
- **WATER AND ELECTRICITY DO NOT MIX.** Being safe around water with electricity is important inside and outside the house. Never hold an electric appliance or tool while you are in contact with water. Check power cords to make sure they are in good condition. Always use a ground fault circuit interrupter outlet if you are near water. Use the proper size and length of extension cord and do not allow cords to be in standing water.
- **DON'T OVERLOAD CIRCUITS.** Know and understand the power requirements of the appliances or tools you are using and do not overload the circuit to which you are connected. Most 120-volt household outlets can supply 15 amps of current or 1,800 watts. That means any cord used to deliver power to the appliance or tool will decrease the amount of power available because of resistance in the cord. Overloading circuits can damage the appliance or in some circumstances be a fire hazard.
- **STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES.** Power lines that have been knocked down may still be energized and you cannot tell if they are energized by looking at them. Stay at least 50 feet away and call 911 to report the downed line. Also be aware

of power lines or underground equipment in green cabinets that may have been damaged in an accident. Any of these may be energized. If you are in a vehicle accident involving power equipment, it is best to stay in the vehicle as long as there are no immediate threats to your safety, such as a vehicle fire. An Empire Electric Association lineman will evaluate the situation and direct you to exit the vehicle when it is safe to do so.

- **CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG.** If any of your outdoor projects involve digging or pounding anything into the ground, find out where underground utilities are before you start your project. Call 811 at least three business days before you plan to dig. Utilities will mark any underground lines so you are aware of where they are, which will help you avoid a costly and potentially dangerous mistake.



# CAN YOU DIG IT?

Remember to **call 8-1-1**  
before you dig.

 **Safe  
Electricity.org®**