



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*We are committed to the well-being of our members and employees to provide safe, reliable power and maintaining the company's financial strength.*

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# **Power Pointz**

November 2020

## **Improving Basement and Crawl Space Efficiency**

Basements can account for a large portion of a home's energy use, especially in colder climates, and are often a key area when looking to improve the energy efficiency of a home. Crawl spaces can also waste energy.

There are typically several air leaks in basements and crawl spaces, particularly where pipes and wires enter or exit the space. Air often enters the home around the sill plate, which sits on top of the foundation. If you can get to the sill plate, apply caulk around it. Sealing any gaps or leaks around basement windows can also increase efficiency.

Insulation applications are quite different between basements and crawl spaces. In both cases, the insulation strategy and the installation itself must be done correctly to prevent mold or exacerbate moisture problems.

The place to begin in basements is the rim joist, which is right above the sill plate on the top of the foundation wall. Rigid foam board can be carefully fitted between the joists.

If you're building a new home, there are advantages to insulating the outside of the foundation wall, but this isn't practical for most existing homes. Insulate the inside of the foundation wall if you're sure moisture is not leaking through the wall from the outside. Experts do not recommend fiberglass insulation in contact with the foundation, which was a common practice for decades. Instead, they prefer sprayed on foam or rigid foam board applied directly to the foundation wall. A wood-framed wall can be butted up against the rigid foam and insulated with fiberglass or mineral wool batts. The bottom plate of the wall, which sits on the concrete floor, should be pressure treated wood.



Over the past several years, the most common approach to insulating crawl spaces was to insulate under the floor with fiberglass batts. This allowed the crawl space to be vented to the outside, which alleviated any moisture buildup. If all the right moisture control and drainage steps are taken, the crawl space can be unventilated, and the insulation can be applied to the foundation walls instead of underneath the floor. That said, there are pros and cons to this strategy, so do some research online or consult with a local expert.



Operation Round Up® is a volunteer program in which Garland Light and Power Co. Members can choose to round up their electric bill to the next whole dollar each month, in order to help those in need. The money will be used to assist local individuals and non-profit organizations in the communities we serve.

Please return this form to our office if you would like to participate and help those who need a helping hand.

Funds are never provided for political purposes.

Yes! I'd like to help.

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Member Signature

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Date

# Three Ways To Winterize Your Manufactured Home

In difficult times like these, it's more important than ever to ensure the money we spend yields the results we need. Make your manufactured home more energy efficient with one of these tips. Some are quick, easy and cheap, but others may require more money than you want to spend. Choose the approach that works best for your home and budget.

## 1. Furnace

It doesn't cost anything to lower your thermostat in the winter. Clean or replace the furnace air filter as often as recommended. Manufactured homes that are heated with an electric or propane furnace can likely reap dramatic savings on heating costs by installing a heat pump. Ductless heat pumps are efficient and eliminate the problem of leaky furnace ducts. If you don't have the budget to make this an out-of-pocket investment now, you may qualify for a loan. It's quite possible that your energy savings would cover the loan payment.



## 2. Water heater

One simple way to lower costs is to lower your heater's thermostat. Make sure it's set to medium: between 120 and 140 degrees.

Another fairly simple fix is to insulate the first several feet of the hot water pipe where it exits the tank. If there is room around your water heater, you could also wrap the tank with an insulation jacket, which can be purchased from a home supply store for about \$20. If the water heater uses gas or propane, be careful not to restrict the air needed for combustion or install insulation too close to the exhaust flue.

## 3. Ducts

Leaky furnace ducts are often a major source of energy loss. A simple first step is to make sure all supply and return registers are open and not covered by furniture or rugs. Closed registers can really take a toll on a heating and cooling system. You could also save energy by sealing the ducts at the floor registers. The biggest leaks, however, are likely under your manufactured home and could require the services of a contractor to locate and seal.

With these simple steps, you can look forward to a cozier and less-costly winter.

# Nighttime Energy Use Can Save Energy

Instead of running your dishwasher right after dinner, consider waiting until bedtime to turn it on. Same with the clothes dryer. And how about charging your phone and other rechargeables while you sleep?

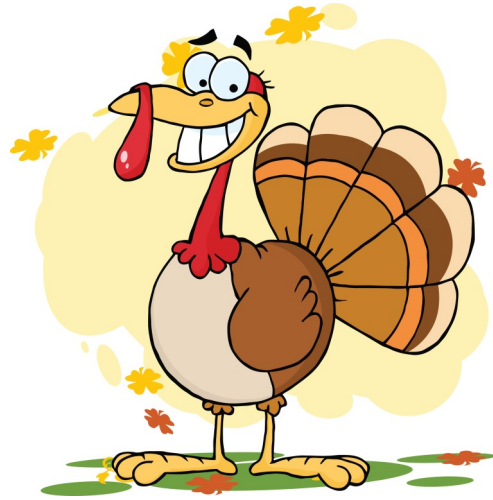
Most people use their electric appliances at the same time every day: Early in the morning when they're getting ready for work, right after dinner and at mid-day.

That means there's a lot of demand on a limited amount of electrical "capacity" all at the same time.

In the summer, when everyone's also running air conditioners, that can tax the electrical system. It can even cause a brownout, although that's rare. But it could put so much pressure on the system that new electrical plants will be needed and that's expensive.

A better solution: Spread your energy use out. Do the laundry and the dishes at mid-morning while everyone else is at work or late at night when most people are sleeping.

Garland Light & Power will  
be closed on  
November 26th and  
27th for Thanksgiving.



## **2021 CALENDARS ARE HERE STOP BY THE OFFICE TO GET ONE**

### **LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

This program provides assistance for winter heating bills. It is available for the months of November through May. The State of Wyoming accepts applications from October 1st through February 28th each year. Benefits are based on household size, income and type of fuel used as the primary heating source.

Crisis Assistance-This is a one time per program year benefit available to persons who are facing an energy emergency. The benefit amount is based on the amount needed to resolve this crisis, up to a maximum of \$400. Crisis funds can be used for deposits on new accounts, LP tank sets, and back bills. Crisis assistance is available from October through the middle of April. Back bills prior to October 1st are the clients responsibility.

For a LIEAP application, call 1-800-246-4221.

