

CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,
President / CEO

Keep Your Cool

HERE IN TEXAS, we all know that summer temperatures often last well into fall, which means people spend more time indoors to avoid the heat. There's one appliance that rides to the rescue during this time: your air conditioner. I can't imagine life without it.

But cooling in the summer—and heating in the winter—accounts for a major portion of residential energy use. In fact, about 40% of all U.S. energy use is devoted to maintaining indoor temperature levels.

In Texas in September, I imagine that this percentage is considerably higher.

In light of that, I'd like to share with you some ways you can reduce air conditioning's effect on your power bill.

1. CHANGE OR CLEAN THE AIR FILTER.

This is probably the most important step you can take to increase efficiency and reduce the wear and tear on your central AC system, which has to work harder to force air through a clogged filter.

This advice also applies to those who rely on window AC units. Ensure that those units are also properly weatherstripped to prevent air leakage around the unit.

2. USE A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT.

These devices will turn your temperature up automatically during times of the day you specify, such as when nobody's home. In fact, if properly set, it can take a significant chunk out of your cooling bill.

But if you purchase one, it's important to properly program it—a step many people skip. Luckily, programmable thermostats have become easier to use in the past few years. Newer ones can learn your usage patterns and automatically adjust temperatures without needing your intervention. Some can even be adjusted remotely with a smartphone.



3. USE FANS WISELY.

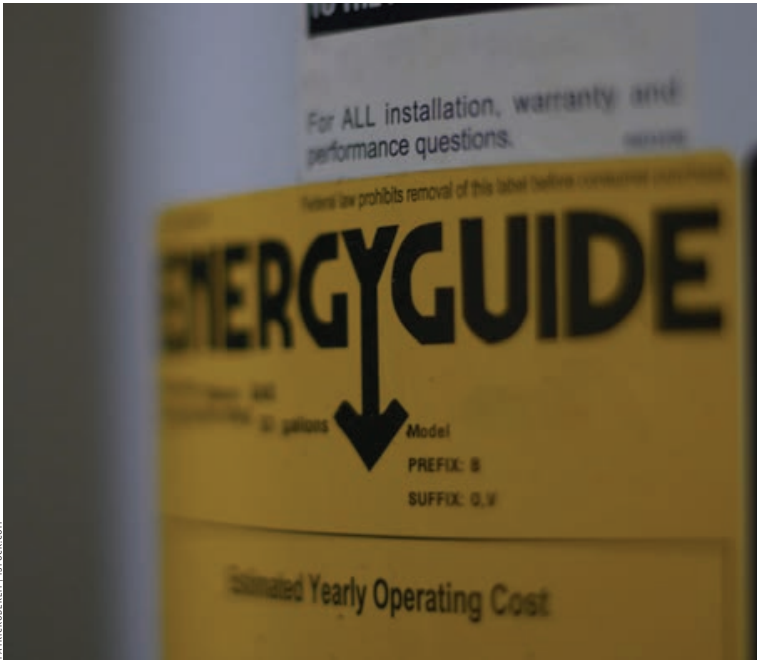
An easy way to feel comfortable while setting the temperature up a couple of degrees is to use a fan. The air moving against your skin evaporates moisture, which makes you feel cooler. But be sure to turn fans off when nobody is around. They're only effective when blowing directly on someone.

Draw blinds or shades during the day. Keeping the sun's heat out of a room will help it stay cooler. Open shades after sunset to allow heat to escape.



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Look for the Label

IT'S HARD TO MISS those big, yellow EnergyGuide labels stuck on the sides of new refrigerators, heating and cooling systems, water heaters, and many other major home appliances. That's good if you're shopping with energy efficiency in mind.

The yellow label is one of the greatest aids if you're concerned about energy costs. It tells you approximately how much energy one product will use compared to the product next to it, so you can narrow your search to the two or three models with the lowest numbers, then choose based on the features you want.

Keep in mind, label numbers are estimates. Actual costs will be determined by how your household uses the appliance and your local utility rates.

Be sure to compare apples to apples. The upper left of each label indicates the type of product (e.g., refrigerator) and some of its key features. If you're looking at models with significantly different features, you won't get a true comparison from the energy-use estimates on their labels. Likewise, the estimated yearly operating cost shows a range of how a particular model compares only to similar products.

And don't forget to look for the Energy Star logo. You may see it on an appliance's EnergyGuide label, on the product itself or on product packaging.

The Energy Star logo is on many appliances because manufacturers have seen that people appreciate it—it's become one of the most trusted logos in the U.S.

Energy Star-certified products meet specific Environmental Protection Agency product standards for energy efficiency. Products that carry Energy Star's "Most Efficient" label are the best of the best, often incorporating innovative features to maximize energy savings.

You can learn more about the EnergyGuide and Energy Star labels at energystar.gov.

Taylor Electric Cooperative

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Merkel office. Located near the entrance of the building.

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NOTICE

Effective June 1, 2023, all credit/debit card transactions will be assessed a 2.45% convenience fee.

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