

Five Ways to Save Energy When Working from Home

By Abby Berry

Today, more Americans are working from home than ever before. More time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day. If you're punching the clock from home, there are small steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills. Here are five easy ways to save energy when working from home.

1. Use a smart power strip. Plugging in your most-used devices, like computers, monitors and routers, to a smart power strip ensures these devices aren't drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips also give you the option to select which devices should stay in "always on" mode.

2. Unplug your least-used equipment. If your home office includes equipment like printers and scanners, you're probably not using these electronics every day. In this case, go ahead and unplug your least-used electronics and devices, since many of these draw energy even when they're not being used.



3. Choose ENERGY STAR®-certified office equipment. If you're looking to purchase new equipment for your workspace, look for the ENERGY STAR® label to ensure you're getting the most energy efficient features. Computers, monitors, imaging equipment and other office electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating include power management features to make saving energy easy, and most are designed to run cooler and last longer.

4. Flip the switch and use natural light instead. It's still chilly out there,

so take advantage of natural light and additional warmth from the sun. When you're working during the day, open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light in—and don't forget to turn off the lights to reduce energy use!

5. Lower the thermostat. Home heating makes up a significant portion of your energy bills. Turn the thermostat down a couple degrees during the day to reduce energy use and save money. The Department of Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 68 degrees or cooler during winter months. You're more likely to stay focused and alert when it's cooler in your home, so all the more reason to mind the thermostat.

Working from home doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bills, and whether you're working remotely or not, these practical tips can help everyone reduce their energy use.

Contact Park Electric if you have questions about your bills or want additional information about saving energy at home.



Managers Comments

by Matt Haggerty

Participating actively in the communities we serve is one of Park Electric's priorities. Guiding this priority are two of the seven cooperative principals: Education and Training and Concern for the Community. These two principals go hand in hand when it comes to community involvement. Park Electric looks forward to participating in community events, such as Farmers Markets and providing scholarships and providing educational programs about electric safety to our members and the surrounding communities.

Park Electric's safety training starts at a young age. Our youth education program teaches kids grades 1st through 5th about the risks and hazards

of high voltage electricity in a classroom format. Grade schools and private entities can request that one of our staff members provide an electric safety demonstration. During this program students learn of hazards they may face in day-to-day life and lessons about the equipment they may see. The training also provides them the information of how to safely deal with each situation and who to contact. This training lasts around 30 minutes to an hour and can be customized to the children involved. For the first responders and adults in



our communities, we have a large-scale arc demonstration trailer that illustrates the dangers of electric lines. During this training two of our linemen will review scenarios that are often experienced in the field. They review common hazards, things to look for when arriving on the scene of an accident and will answer any questions the group has. This is a great opportunity for first responders to better understand the dangers of power lines. This training has to be set up well in advance, so we ask that if you are interested please contact our office.

Park Electric is also willing to meet special training requests. At one time, we had a request from Park County dispatch to provide them with interactive maps that show where our lines are located.

We worked with their IT staff to install the program, then trained their staff how to use the mapping program. This provided a valuable aid for dispatchers so they can quickly find the proper utility to notify when they receive reports of downed lines or an accident.

Word of mouth is one of the best ways our involvement with the community can be spread. If you or someone you know are interested in our training programs or would like a personalized training, please call our office and ask to speak with Matt Haggerty at 406-222-3100.

PARK SPARKS
FEBRUARY 2022

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks.

When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source: Dept. of
Energy

