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HOT TIPS TO BE MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT THIS SUMMER

When it's summertime in Texas, the AC is running. And running. How do you keep your home cool and prevent a soaring energy bill? Try these money-saving ideas from Bluebonnet's member service representatives.

TURN IT UP

Set the thermostat to 78 degrees (or 80 degrees when not home), especially from 3 to 7 p.m. You can save as much as 10% on your bill.

TURN 'EM OFF

Lights can eat up a chunk of your electric bill. If you're leaving the room, close curtains to block the sun's heat.

GET SMART

Upgrade to a programmable or smart thermostat to better control your temperature settings. A smart thermostat lets you remotely adjust the temperature and some can even learn and adapt to your habits.

TRACK YOUR USE

Log in to your online account at bluebonnet.coop or on our mobile app and see how much electricity you are using. Try these tips to see how much your power use drops.

KILL THE VAMPIRES

Computers, small appliances and electronic devices can silently eat electricity, even when they are in standby mode. Plug them into an advanced power strip and turn it off when they're not in use.

LEAVE THE HOUSE

Can't stand 78 degrees? Go someplace cool during the hottest part of the day: the library, grocery store, shops, gym or coffee shop.

GRILL IT!

Don't let your oven heat up your kitchen in the summer. Use a slow cooker, eat some cool sandwiches or barbecue outdoors. Then kick back and enjoy the season.

COOL THE RIGHT PLACES

Cool only the rooms you're using, and keep vents to other rooms closed. Why blast the whole house unnecessarily?

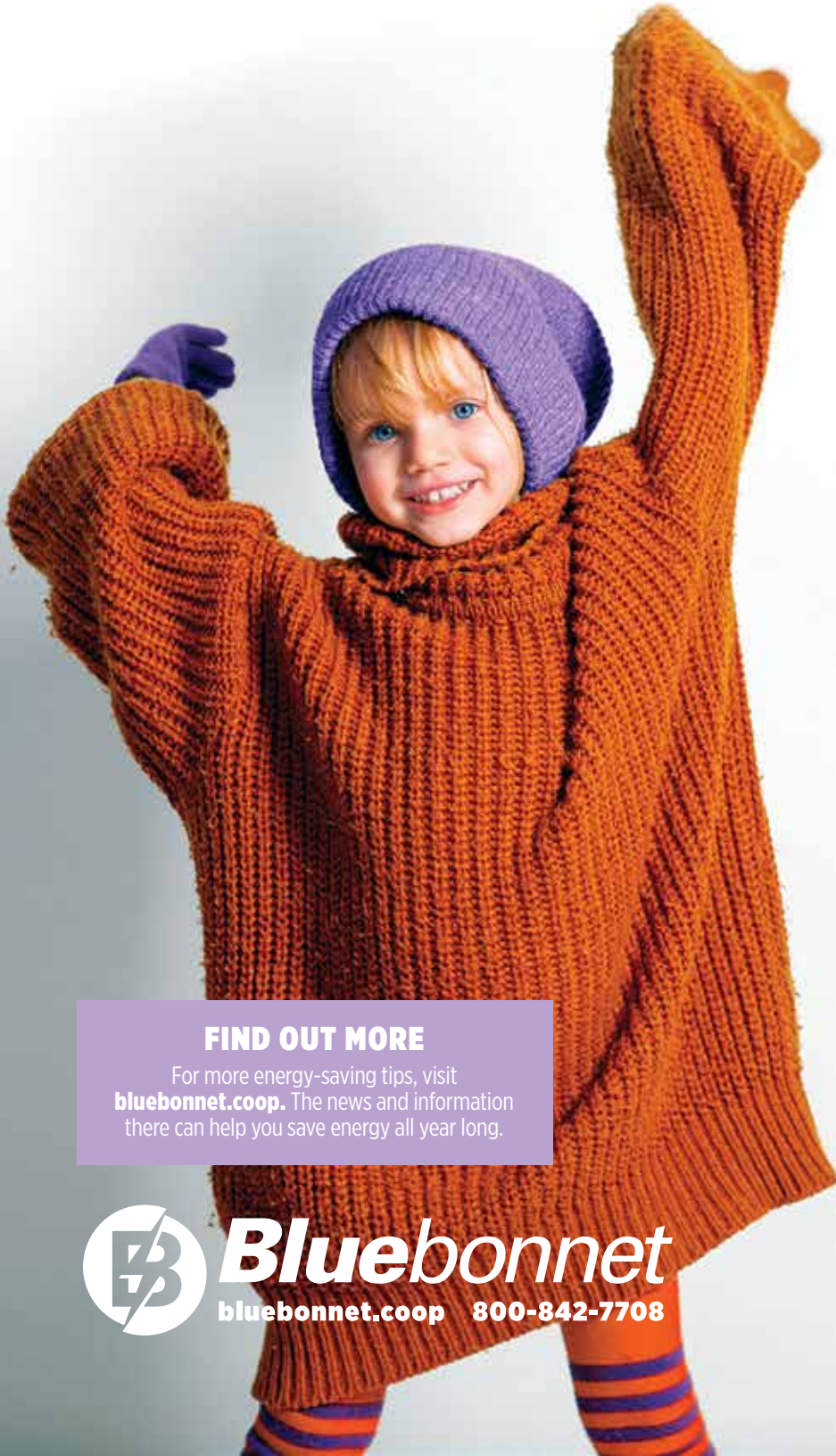
LOSE THE GARAGE FRIDGE

That extra refrigerator that holds cold drinks or other items is probably 1) old, 2) hot and 3) an energy guzzler. If you can't live without it, consider yourself warned.



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COOL TIPS TO BE MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT THIS WINTER



Cold weather happens, even here in Central Texas. Saving energy is not only a good way to save money but also conserves our valuable resources. Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative can help with some smart ways to conserve energy during winter:

LOWER YOUR WATER HEATER TEMPERATURE

The U.S. Department of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) on your water heater during the winter months. Plus, consider washing clothes in cold water.

TURN DOWN THE THERMOSTAT

You can save about 3% on your energy bill for every degree you drop the temperature.

SWITCH CEILING FAN DIRECTION

Change the direction of your ceiling fans so that their blades turn clockwise. This pulls cool air toward the ceiling and pushes rising warm air down toward the floor.

UPGRADE YOUR FIREPLACE

Add an insert or replace your fireplace with an energy-efficient model. Traditional wood-burning fireplaces can draw heat out of your home if not used properly, but a few changes can help keep the warmth inside.

LET THE SUN IN

Allow natural warmth in through the windows, especially south-facing windows, to take advantage of the sun's heat.

USE SPACE HEATERS SELECTIVELY

You can save energy by heating only the room you are in.

WEAR WARM CLOTHES

Putting on a sweater and slippers or wool socks might allow you to stay comfortable and still lower your thermostat temperature.

LIMIT THE USE OF EXHAUST FANS

They suck out all the indoor air your heater has worked so hard to heat.

ELIMINATE DRAFTS

Cold winter air can sneak in around windows, doors and electrical outlets. Weatherstripping, insulation and insulated curtains can help keep the warm air in and the cold air out.

FIND OUT MORE

For more energy-saving tips, visit bluebonnet.coop. The news and information there can help you save energy all year long.



Bluebonnet
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