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Cold weather happens, even if it was 80 degrees yesterday. Save electricity and save money with a few simple suggestions from Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative.

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 electric bill for every degree you drop the temperature.

SWITCH THE DIRECTION CEILING FANS TURN

If your fan has the capability, make the blades turn clockwise. This pulls cool air toward the ceiling and pushes warm air down.

UPGRADE YOUR FIREPLACE

Add an insert or replace your fireplace with an energy-efficient model.

LET THE SUN IN

Allow natural warmth in through the windows, especially south-facing windows.

USE SPACE HEATERS SELECTIVELY

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

WEAR WARM CLOTHES

It may seem obvious, but putting on an extra sweater and adding wool socks with your slippers will let you lower your thermostat temperature.

LIMIT THE USE OF EXHAUST FANS

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

ELIMINATE DRAFTS

Cold winter air can sneak in around windows, doors and even electrical outlets. Weather stripping, insulation and insulated curtains can help keep warm air in.