A Case of Two Different “Warmers” in 2017 and 2018

Overall, both 2017 and 2018 were warmer than normal years for Kenergy’s service territory. However, these two years produced significantly different kilowatt hour (“kWh”) usage levels and net margin levels for our membership. Kenergy’s margins increased $2.3 million from 2017 to 2018, predominantly due to the increase in average residential use from 1,194 kWh per month in 2017, to 1,325 kWh per month in 2018.

So, why did our membership have record low use in 2017 and slightly higher than average use in 2018? Even though both years were warmer than normal, they were warmer in two very different ways. 2017 was warmer than normal during the winter and 2018 was warmer than normal during the summer.

2017’s warmer winter reduced the amount of kWh’s members used to heat their homes. Meteorologists refer to this as fewer ‘heating degree days.’ 2018’s warmer summer increased the amount of kWh’s members used to cool their homes. This is referred to as more ‘cooling degree days.’ In the end, whether Kenergy has a lower net margin year like 2017, or a higher net margin year like 2018, all of the margins are allocated back to the members that used the electricity because Kenergy is a not-for-profit electric cooperative.

In fact, consistently positive margins, a solid equity position and excellent operating cash flow allowed Kenergy to continue its practice of retiring patronage capital earned in prior years to its current and former members. Kenergy returned $2.4 million in net patronage capital during 2018, bringing the 7-year total to $20.3 million in cash returned to our members.

All Kenergy offices will be closed Thursday, July 4th.
Ah, summer. Cookouts, swimming pools, camping—it’s the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. And when it’s time to come back indoors, there’s nothing better than that cool blast you feel from your home’s air conditioning unit.

Your heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer months, and if it breaks down, it’s also the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.

• Change or clean filters. Dirty filters block airflow, which can greatly decrease the efficiency of your system. The Department of Energy recommends changing or cleaning filters every month or two during the cooling season. If your unit is in constant use or is subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair, consider checking filters more frequently.

• Clean the HVAC unit. Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt, and small debris. Use a hose to spray the HVAC unit once each season to ensure maximum airflow. (Warning: Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.)

• Clear space around the HVAC unit. Dryer vents, falling leaves, and grass left behind from the lawnmower can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near the unit, trim it back at least 2 ft. around the condenser to increase airflow.

If you want to evaluate the efficiency of your HVAC system, try this quick test:

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about $12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.

You should also have your HVAC system periodically inspected by a licensed professional. The frequency of inspections depends on the age of your unit, but the Department of Energy recommends scheduling tune-ups during the spring and fall, when contractors aren’t as busy.

When HVAC equipment fails, it’s inconvenient and uncomfortable—especially during the dog days of summer. Remember, your HVAC system runs best when it’s regularly cleaned and serviced. With a little maintenance along the way, you can add years to your system’s lifespan.
HOMEMADE DONUTS

Glazed – sprinkled – chocolate icing – oh my! Friday, June 7th is National Donut Day and we think you should celebrate with a classic recipe. These glazed donuts are sure to be a hit with your family!

INGREDIENTS
Donuts:
• 1 and 1 1/8 cup whole milk, warm
• 1/4 cup sugar
• 2 1/4 teaspoons (one package) Instant Or Active Dry Yeast
• 2 whole large eggs, lightly beaten
• 1 and 1/4 stick unsalted butter (10 tablespoons), melted
• 4 cups all-purpose flour
• 1/2 teaspoon salt
• Shortening/oil for frying

Glaze:
• 4 tablespoons salted butter, melted
• 1 teaspoon vanilla
• 3 cups powdered sugar
• Enough milk to make a thin icing (about 1/2 cup)

DIRECTIONS
1. To make the dough: warm the milk until it is getting nice and warm when you dip your finger in it (about 105 degrees). Add the milk to a mixing bowl or the bowl of your stand mixer. Add the sugar and stir to dissolve. Add the yeast and stir to combine. Let the yeast rest for 5 minutes.
2. Add the beaten eggs and melted butter to the bowl and stir to combine.
3. While the mixer is running slowly, add the flour and salt and mix until the dough comes together. Mix for a whole five minutes to work the dough well. Turn off the bowl and let the dough sit in the bowl of the mixer for 10 minutes.
4. After the rest period turn the dough out into a lightly oiled bowl, cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate the dough for at least 8 hours up to overnight.
5. To form the donuts: Remove the dough from the fridge and roll it out on a lightly floured surface until it is 1/2 to 1/3 of an inch thick. Use a three-inch donut cutter to cut out the donuts.
6. Place the cut donuts and holes on a lightly greased baking sheet.
7. Repeat with the remaining dough.
8. Cover the donuts and let them rise until doubled in size, about one hour. The donuts will be very puffy and airy looking.
9. To fry the donuts: Heat a few inches of oil or shortening in a large cast iron skillet or fryer over medium heat until the oil reaches 365 to 375 degrees (use a thermometer). Carefully add the donuts to the hot oil and fry until golden brown, about 1 1/2 minutes per side. The donut holes will only take about 30 seconds per side.
10. Use a slotted spoon to remove the donuts from the hot oil and place them on a paper towel lined baking sheet to remove extra grease. Let them cool slightly. Dip the hot donuts in the glaze and enjoy right away.
11. For the Glaze: Just combine all the ingredients in a medium bowl and mix until smooth. Add just enough milk to make thin icing. Take the donuts out halfway in the icing take them out, turn them icing side up, and place them on a cooling rack set inside a baking sheet (to catch the drips).

Recipe courtesy of Pioneer Woman

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it’s easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index
HOLIDAY WORLD KENERGY MEMBER DISCOUNT
Holiday World is open and Kenergy members can get discounts on tickets and season passes! Go to HolidayWorld.com/FunClub and login using the following information for your savings:

Username: Holiday700
Password: World700

Featured Businesses Offering Discounts
If you are a business wanting to participate in the Co-op Connections program, please contact Jeanette Weedman at (270) 689-6157 or jweedman@kenergycorp.com

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**Next2New**
10% Off Entire Purchase
212 N. Main Street, Beaver Dam

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10% Off Entire Purchase
212 N. Main Street, Beaver Dam

**Coppa Caffe**
10% Off Entire Purchase
1107 S. Main Street, Hartford

**The Spot Coffee & Finery**
10% Off Regular Menu
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**PizzAroma**
$5 Off Dine-In Only
Excludes Sunday Brunch/Alcohol
611 Emory Drive, Owensboro

For more details and offerings, visit online Co-op Deals at connections.coop and download the app to your smart phone. You can pick up a list of participating businesses or a free discount card at any Kenergy office.

July billing schedule
*Billing cycle noted on bill

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