

# KENERGY

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JOE IMEL

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## Don't add electrical hazards to your home office

It's more common than ever for people to work from home part time or full time—but setting up a home office requires planning for electrical safety.

Bringing electrical equipment home from the office or adding new equipment to make your home office fully functional can create some safety concerns of their own. Being proactive about electrical safety in your home office can alleviate electrical and fire concerns.

Here are some things to consider when setting up a home office:

- Create a dedicated workspace. Even if it's just temporarily adjusting a desk or side table, set up a comfortable spot for your laptop or desktop, printer and any other necessary equipment. This will help you avoid moving things around constantly and prevent power cords from becoming tripping hazards.
- Check older office equipment. If you're bringing in older items, inspect the electrical cords and connections, especially those that might have been tucked away behind furniture for years. Ensure they aren't damaged or loose.



SVETLANA DOBE STOCK

- Inspect outlet fit. In older homes, make sure outlets securely hold plugs. Avoid using adapters to fit three-prong plugs into two-slot outlets, as this bypasses safety features.
- Avoid overloading outlets. Don't plug multiple power strips into one outlet.
- Limit extension cord use. Only use extension cords temporarily, and avoid long, flimsy ones with multiple outlets. Always unplug them when not in use.
- Don't run cords through traffic areas. Never place electrical cords across high-traffic areas, under rugs, or through doorways.
- Watch for overheating. Be mindful of equipment that's getting too hot,

- and look for discolored plastic casings or outlet covers, which can indicate overheating.
- Turn off devices when not in use. At the end of each day, turn off all appliances to save energy and ensure safety.

If you live in an older home or need to use multiple electrical devices, consider having a licensed electrician inspect your setup. They might recommend adding more outlets, installing arc-fault circuit interrupters, or updating circuits to prevent overloading. These updates will make your home office safer, more efficient and more comfortable.





Line Technician Nate Broadley—5 years of service

## Message from the President

# How winter weather impacts reliability

When outdoor temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. That's because we're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the morning and early evenings—and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At Kenergy, we work closely with our local generation and transmission cooperative, Big Rivers Electric Corporation, to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch. But the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and power provider.

In winter months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if an unexpected event like a sudden ice storm or equipment malfunction occurs. Kenergy and Big Rivers take proactive steps to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning, but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the heat on for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way):

- Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it down several degrees whenever possible. Your heating system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temperature and the outdoor temperature.
- Stagger your use of major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers.
- Ensure that your heating system is optimized for efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation. Make sure your furnace filter isn't clogged and dirty. Replace it as needed.
- When possible, use cold water to reduce water heating costs. Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save energy and reduce mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.
- Unplug devices when not in use to eliminate unnecessary energy use. Even when turned off, electronics in standby mode consume energy.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, not only can you save money on your electric bill, but you can also contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping our local community warm and connected.

By *Tim Lindahl*  
President & CEO



# Meet your director



**Richard Basham**  
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6402 Old Corydon Road

**Owensboro:** 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
3111 Fairview Drive

**Hanson:** 9 a.m. – Noon, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
2620 Brown Badgett Loop

**Hawesville:** 9 a.m. – Noon, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
315 Hawes Blvd

**Marion:** Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m. – Noon,  
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# EFFECTIVE WAYS To Lower Home Energy Use

Outside factors, such as fuel and equipment costs and extreme weather, can impact electricity prices. But you have the power to control home energy consumption by taking proactive steps to reduce energy use.



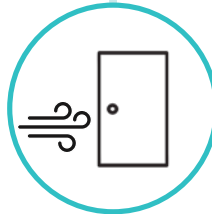
## Thermostat Management

The thermostat is one of the best places to lower your energy use because heating and cooling account for a significant portion of home energy consumption. During winter months, adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting to reduce energy use. The Department of Energy recommends 68 degrees or lower.



## Utilize Off-Peak Energy Times

Plan energy-intensive chores and tasks, such as running the dishwasher or washing clothing, during off-peak energy hours, when the demand for electricity is lower. Off-peak times are early in the morning or late evenings. By scheduling these activities during off-peak periods, you can help keep rates lower, reduce demand and relieve pressure on the grid.



## Seal Your Home

According to Energy Star, about 20% of heated or cooled air that moves through a home is lost due to lack of proper insulation and air leaks. Ensure your home has sufficient insulation levels and seal air leaks around windows and doors with caulk and weather stripping. This is a simple, effective way to lower energy use and improve indoor comfort.



## Maintain Equipment

The health of your heating and cooling system is essential for comfort and can greatly impact energy bills. Maintain your system by regularly replacing dirty filters and scheduling annual inspections for maintenance and necessary repairs.