NOVEMBER 2026

# CO-OP CURRENT

South Central Indiana SCI REMC



## DON'T WAIT FOR COLD WEATHER BEFORE PREPARING

It's never too early to start preparing your home for winter weather. The coldest months of the year are when your heating system works the hardest to keep your home comfortable.

For example, if you keep your home at 70 degrees during the summer and outdoor temperatures reach 90 degrees, your cooling system is working to make up a 20-degree difference. In the winter, if your thermostat is set to 70 degrees and temperatures drop below 30 degrees, your heating system is working to overcome a difference of more than 40 degrees, which is more than double the temperature difference your system makes up during the summer. During extreme cold spells when temperatures fall below zero, your system has to work even harder.

While we can't control the weather, there are many ways you can help your heating system work more efficiently. Small steps like improving insulation, sealing air leaks, and maintaining your equipment can help reduce energy usage.

### ENERGY-EFFICIENCY TIPS FOR WINTER

- **Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting, and lower it when possible.**
- **Seal air leaks around windows and doors to prevent drafts.**
- **Stagger appliance use and choose smaller appliances when possible.**
- **Maintain your heating system with regular upkeep and clean filters.**
- **Unplug electronics or use power strips to reduce standby energy use.**
- **Add layers of clothing and thick socks, then bundle up with blankets to feel warmer.**



### USE HEATING DEVICES SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY

Space heaters, heating pads, and electric blankets can provide extra comfort during the winter, but they can also use a significant amount of energy and create safety risks if not used properly. The more you use them, the more energy they consume. Follow these tips to stay safe and use them efficiently:

- DON'T leave space heaters or electric blankets unattended. Turn them off when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- DO check for cracked plugs, loose connections, or damaged cords before use.
- DON'T use heaters or blankets with frayed or worn cords.
- DO keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including furniture, papers, clothing, and rugs.
- DON'T use electric blankets while sleeping or as a mattress pad.
- DO plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Avoid extension cords and power strips, which can overheat.
- DON'T fold or bunch electric blankets while in use, as this can cause overheating and increase fire risk.

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To report an outage, visit sciremc.com and click Report an Electric Outage, download the SCI Connect app, or use TextPower, sciremc.com/textpower.

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# CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WHILE SAVING ENERGY

The holiday season is here, bringing festive decorations, family gatherings, and plenty of cooking and baking. While these traditions create special memories, they can also increase energy use around your home.

At SCI REMC, we want to help members enjoy the season while using energy wisely. With a few simple changes, you can keep your home festive and comfortable while managing your energy use.

## BRIGHTEN YOUR HOME EFFICIENTLY

Holiday lights are a great way to add seasonal cheer, but choosing energy-efficient options can help reduce energy use. LED holiday lights use less energy than traditional incandescent lights, last longer, and stay cooler to the touch.

You can save even more by using timers to control when your decorations turn on and off. Turning off unused lights and unplugging decorations when they're not needed can help save energy and lower electricity use.

## COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS

Holiday cooking and baking can keep your kitchen busy, but there are ways to prepare your favorite meals while using energy efficiently. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers, and microwaves typically use less energy than larger ovens and stovetops.

When using your oven, cook multiple dishes at once when possible to maximize efficiency. You can also turn the oven off a few minutes early and allow the remaining heat to finish cooking your food. On the stovetop, match your pan size to the burner to avoid wasting energy.

By making a few simple adjustments, you can celebrate the holidays and find ways to use energy more efficiently.



## HOLIDAY ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

**Decorate Wisely**

- Choose LED holiday lights.
- Use timers for decorations.
- Turn lights off when not in use.

**Before Guests Arrive**

- Seal drafts around doors and windows.
- Lower your thermostat when possible.
- Replace dirty furnace filters.

**Save in the Kitchen**

- Use smaller appliances when possible.
- Cook multiple dishes at once.
- Match pan sizes to burners.

**Need Help Saving?**

SCI REMC's energy advisor is here to help you find ways to improve your home's efficiency. Contact us to learn more about available energy-saving services.

# LAST CHANCE!

**Be sure to submit your rebate application by Dec. 15, 2026, to qualify for this year's rebates!**

*sciremc.com/rebate*

