

Energy Efficiency For The Modern Family And Its Many Devices

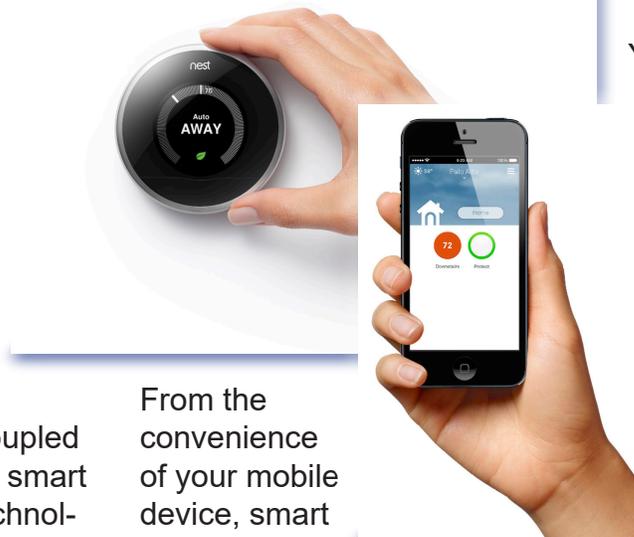
If you are struck by the amount of screens, remotes, gaming controls, charging stations and cords that have become fixtures in your home, you are not alone. The typical American family is well connected and owns a variety of electronic devices. According to the PEW Research Institute, 95 percent of U.S. families have a cell phone and 77 percent of Americans own a smart phone. Nearly 80 percent of adults own a laptop or desktop computer, while approximately half own tablets.

Consumer electronics coupled with the growing array of smart home appliances and technology have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles. The increased reliance on our many devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

Using smart technology to manage energy savings

So how can we save energy when we are using more electronic devices than ever before? The answer may lie with some

of those same electronic devices that have become indispensable to modern living. In many cases, energy savings is a touchscreen away as more apps enable you to monitor energy use.



From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use across several platforms—controlling your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices. One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, like Nest models. Using your mobile device, you can view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is

used and make adjustments accordingly. For example, program your thermostat for weekday and weekend schedules so you are not wasting energy when no one is home. Check and adjust the program periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

You can also ensure efficiency by purchasing ENERGY STAR-certified appliances. Many new appliances include smart-technology features such as refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or when a door has been left open. New washers, dryers and dishwashers allow you to program when you want the load to start. This means you can program your task for off-peak energy hours—a smart choice if your electric rate is based on time of use.

“Old school” energy savings for new devices

Of course there are the time-tested “old school” methods of energy efficiency that can be applied to the myriad of household electronic devices and screens. Computers, printers,

The Benefits of LED lights:

- Efficiency**
LED lights use 30-70% less electricity than traditional lights. This translates to lower electric bills.
- Environmental Safety**
LED lights do not contain arsenic, lead, mercury or other harmful gasses. It's not hazardous to dispose of LED lights, like it is with CFL lights.
- Long Lifetime**
LEDs can last 8 times longer than compact fluorescent, and 50 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Left on for 6 hours daily, LED lights may last 18 years!
- UV Free**
UV emissions are said to be harmful to health after prolonged exposure. LEDs emit far less UV radiation than traditional lights.
- Durability**
LED lights are made with solid-state components that are resistant to shocks and vibrations. They are far less likely to be damaged than lights with delicate filaments.
- Temperature**
LEDs put off 20-30% less heat than incandescent, fluorescent or halogen bulbs. This is primarily due to an absence of IR radiation.
- Low Maintenance**
Due to their long lifetime, LEDs are ideal for outdoor and commercial lighting applications.

Working for Nebraska

(continued)

phones and gaming consoles are notorious “vampire power” users, meaning they drain energy (and money) when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off or placed on a timer.

While modern life involves greater dependence on technology, your best resource for saving energy and money remains your local electric co-op.

Regardless of your level of technical expertise with electronic devices, Custer Public Power District can provide guidance on energy savings based on your account information, energy use, local weather patterns and additional factors unique to your community.

For more information on Smart Thermostat Incentive and Energy Saving Tips, go to www.custerpower.com and look for the **Rebate Program** link.

Eli Taylor Represents Custer Public Power District at the 2019 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Eli and 16 other Nebraska high school students traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 2019 NRECA Youth Tour on June 14. The Nebraska Rural Electric Association hosts the youth tour, and Public Power Districts sponsor the youth so they can learn about political engagement, leadership, and the pressing issues facing public power and cooperatives across the United States. The students were able to see many historical sites and monuments around Washington, D.C., Gettysburg, Mount Vernon, and Arlington National Cemetery. To be eligible for the tour, Eli attended the 2018 NREA Leadership Camp at Halsey. Three area students will be attending this years camp. For information on the 2020, NREA Leadership Camp call 308-872-2451 and ask for Tarin.



Safe Electricity Urges Caution Around Electric Meters And Equipment

Electric meters, poles, and lines keep our electric system running smoothly, but they are often overlooked and even abused. Safe Electricity urges everyone to stay away from and be respectful of utility equipment in order to keep electrical systems running safely and reliably.

Don't tamper with your electric meter for any reason. ***Tampering with your meter is illegal in many states, but more importantly, can cause electrocution and fire, resulting in injury and damage, even death.*** If you think there may be a problem with your meter, call your local electric provider —don't try to fix it yourself.

Exercise caution with and around electrical equipment to protect yourself and others:

- Never try to prune trees that appear to be growing into power lines. Contact your electric provider. Utilities have skilled professionals trained to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearances.
- Don't post fliers or posters on electric poles. Damage to the poles can create a dangerous situation for those around them, and can cause outages affecting many more. Posters, nails, and staples can make it dangerous or impossible for linemen to climb the poles if needed and protruding nails are a danger for anyone who needs to remove the poles.
- When landscaping, plant tall-growing trees safely away from power lines; seek help in choosing and planting trees and bushes that won't grow to interfere with electrical equipment.
- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow and interfere with underground wire, pipes and cables. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.



Before digging, call the local underground utility locator service to mark location of underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided.

~Stop~Think~Safety First~

Mini Spanish Tortilla with Zucchini

A Spanish tortilla is different than your Mexican tortilla. It's main ingredients are eggs and potatoes.



For 1 serving:

- 1 medium russet potato
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- ½ zucchini, thinly sliced
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3 large eggs
- 2 tablespoons grated Manchego cheese
(substitute Monterey Jack Cheese or a White Cheddar)

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F.
2. In a medium pot, cover the potato with at least 1 inch of water and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Boil until the potato is fork-tender, 22 to 25 minutes.
3. Drain the potato, slice it into thin rounds and set aside.
4. Heat the olive oil in a small, oven-safe skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and zucchini; season with salt and pepper. Sauté until tender, about 4 minutes.
5. Add the potato slices and sauté until all the veggies are lightly browned, 5 to 7 minutes. Spread the vegetables into an even layer in the base of the pan. Remove the skillet from the heat.
6. Whisk the eggs together in a medium bowl and pour them over the vegetables. Top the eggs with the cheese.
7. Transfer the skillet to the oven and bake until the eggs are set and the potato and zucchini slices on the top are golden brown, 12 to 15 minutes.
8. Serve the Spanish tortilla warm or at room temperature with the side salad.

Recipe can be found online at PureWow. Look for “31 Easy Summer Dinner Ideas to Make Every Night in August”.

Newsletter of the Custer Public Power District



Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451
www.custerpowers.com

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Board Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the main office in Broken Bow on Hwy. 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Thedford, Nebraska.

