

BELFALLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 598 • Rosebud, TX 76570 • Phone (254) 583-7955

GIVE HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT SAVE ENERGY

Holiday gift giving may warm hearts, but it generates a million tons of waste between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve.

To offset some of it, why not stuff those stockings with energy-efficient small appliances like kitchen aids and grooming devices? Look for the Energy Star label—it guarantees that the appliance you're buying is energy-efficient—on TVs, DVD players, cordless phones and computers.

The newest compact fluorescent light bulbs are small enough to slip into a holiday stocking. The bulbs outperform fluorescent lamps of the past, and they save tons of energy

over their long lifetime.

If you're buying a battery-powered present, include rechargeable batteries. If the gift requires standard batteries, let the recipient know where to recycle them.

Give your time instead of a department store item. Offer to baby-sit, work in the yard or cook dinner. Loved ones will be touched by your consideration, and the gift could save you money and energy.

Wrap your gifts in reusable bags or yesterday's newspaper. Glam them up a bit with hand-drawn greetings. The paper can later be used as packing material.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY HELPS STRETCH HOLIDAY DOLLARS

Stretch your holiday budget by saving a few bucks on energy this season.

Your outdoor holiday lights may make your home sparkle at night, but turn them off when you go to bed. Not only will you save on your electric bill, but you also will reduce the risk that the lights will start a fire.



Further reduce the cost of your holiday festivities by switching to LED—or light-emitting diode—holiday lights. LED strings last longer and use less than 1 percent of the energy of incandescent lighting.

Trade your incandescent porch lights for compact fluorescent bulbs. Fluorescent bulbs last up to 10,000 hours, use about 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and screw right into most standard light sockets.

Finally, microwave or slow-cook as much food as possible. Save your oven and stove top for big jobs like roasting the turkey. Microwave ovens use up to 75 percent less energy than conventional ovens, and a slow cooker can heat an entire meal for less than 10 cents' worth of electricity.

IN EMERGENCIES

During regular business hours, call:
(254) 583-7955

These are telephone numbers to call to report outages after business hours and on weekends and holidays.

- Kenneth Fikes.....(254) 583-4556
- Larry Koslosky.....(254) 583-4555
- Doug Matous(254) 583-2957
- Bobby Skala.....(254) 583-7219
- Ernest Martin(254) 583-2219
- Joe W. Marek(254) 583-4016
- James Campbell(254) 583-2786
- Jeremy Tepe(254) 583-2557
- Jennifer Balboa.....(254) 583-1161
- Rosemary Pomykal..(254) 869-2526

TEND TO FREEZER, EVEN WHEN IT'S FREEZING OUTSIDE

Even when it's freezing outside, keep tabs on the extra freezer in your garage or basement.

Ice cream season is long gone, so your freezer may be nearly empty. Yet a full freezer uses less energy because the already-frozen food keeps the unit's temperature low.

If you have a freezer that isn't quite full, pack it with water-filled plastic milk cartons or two-liter bottles. This will keep your freezer running efficiently.

The water-filled containers—filled

to four inches from the top—will ease the strain on the freezer's motor and keep food cold longer during a power outage. You can drink the water in an emergency.

Also:

- Keep the freezer's temperature higher than zero. Colder temperatures waste energy without extending the shelf life of your frozen food.

- Chest-style freezers are cheaper to run than uprights because cold air stays in the unit when you open the top. When you open an upright freezer, all the cold air flows out.

- Defrost a freezer if frost builds up to one-quarter of an inch. That happens only in units that aren't self-defrosting or frost-free.

EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN USING EXTRA ELECTRICITY

When you're wrapping presents, fixing dinner, decorating the house and singing carols, don't neglect the dangers that can come with using extra electricity.

- Stringing holiday lights means using lots of extension cords. Don't overload outlets. Use no more than three sets of lights per extension cord.

- Check decorative lights for damaged cords, plugs and sockets. Replace anything that's frayed, cracked or broken.

- Buy cords that are certified by Underwriters Laboratories; look for the UL symbol on the package.

- Don't run cords under rugs, carpets or baseboards. This creates a fire hazard.

- When you put up outdoor decorations, avoid stringing lights in trees near power lines. Fasten outdoor lights securely with insulated staples, never nails or tacks.

- Keep electric lights away from decorative metal trees. Keep all light strings out of the reach of small children and pets. Both like to chew the wires!

WHAT TO GET SOMEONE WHO HAS IT ALL

What do you give to the people on your gift list who already seem to have everything? How about something to help your family and friends prepare for the unexpected? Some suggestions:

- A smoke detector with extra batteries.

- Five-pound fire extinguishers for the kitchen and bedrooms.

- A heavy-duty flashlight with extra batteries.

- A first-aid kit.

- A weather radio with a battery backup and tone-alert feature to receive weather alerts.

- A winter car kit, including flares, shovel, windshield scraper and a battery-powered radio.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM
BELFALLS ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE