



Some Tips to Lower Your Energy Bill and Keep Your Home Toasty Warm this Winter

You might be surprised to know that various studies confirm that more than half the energy used in a Canadian home goes to heating. Following are some quick and toasty tips to keep the heat where it belongs—in your home!

Make your curtains work for you.

In winter, open curtains and blinds in the morning to let in natural heat and sunlight. Be sure to close them in the evening to keep that heat in.

Change (or clean) your furnace filter.

A clean filter improves air flow and ensures warm air can actually make it out of the vents and into your home.

Relocate your furniture.

If a couch, chair or table is blocking a baseboard heater or an area rug covering, or partially covering, a heat register – then you should consider moving these items so heat sources have space around them to let air flow freely.

Use your ceiling fan effectively.

Ensure in winter that your ceiling fans spin clockwise. This will produce an updraft and move the warm air that collects near your ceiling down into the room.

After using the oven, leave the door ajar.

If you are using your oven to cook a meal, there is no sense leaving that heat go to waste. After dinner is removed, leave the door cracked open and allow that extra heat to escape and warm the kitchen.

Reset your water heater temperature.

Water heaters are a significant source of energy use in a home and most people have the thermostat set too high. Just reducing the temperature a few degrees can save you money and you probably won't notice the difference.

Lower the temperature in your home.

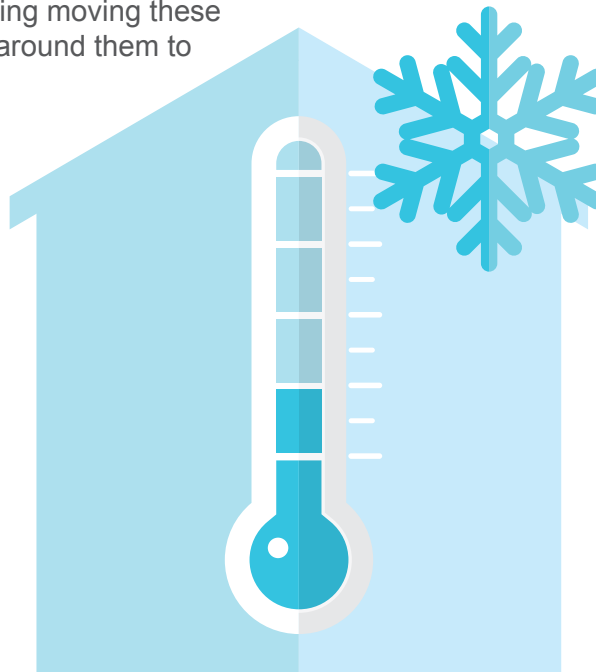
Experiment with setting your temperature to the lowest setting that you feel comfortable – this will result in long-term savings. Consider a programmable thermostat and ensure you reduce temperatures when you are not at home.

Turn the thermostat down when you go to sleep.

Reducing home heating for 8 hours per day will translate to long-term savings. Once again, consider a programmable thermostat to do that automatically for you.

Eliminate drafts and plug holes.

Check for spaces around your windows and doors that could be letting in cold air. If you place your hand a few centimeters away from edges and feel a draft, consider filling the cracks with weather stripping or sealant.



For power outages, emergency power troubles and service requests, contact the distribution system operator for FENN REA: **ATCO Electric**
Phone toll-free: 1-800-668-2248

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Understanding Your Monthly Bill

There are various components and charges involved in electricity delivery. For this article we are using a monthly bill example (see right) for the Regulated Rate Option (provided to FENN REA by Battle River Power Coop). Charge details would appear on all monthly invoices; but might be listed differently.

All monthly invoices will reflect your billing address, your account number, the service address site ID, the current meter read, the kWh hours used for the current billing cycle, and the electricity rate.

Other sections of your monthly invoice provide details on the amount due and the due date, in addition to other account information.

ENERGY: This line item reflects the cost of electricity used within the billing cycle. Depending on whether you have a contract with a retailer or are on the default Regulated Rate Option – this amount may vary. This section reflects your consumption (established by your meter read) during the billing cycle at the current cost of the energy. The cost of RRO electricity can vary based on weather conditions, pricing on the open market, time of year (e.g. we have the lights on longer in winter) and other possible influences.

ADMIN FEE: This is the fee charged by the electricity retailer/RRO provider (Battle River Power Coop) to cover the costs of billing and other customer service related functions.

ATCO DIST/TRANS: The Distribution Tariff (DIST) is the charge to operate your FENN REA distribution system and covers the ATCO annual contract fee to facilitate that operation. This includes new construction, vegetation management, pole testing and replacement, emergency responses and annual maintenance to keep the system functional. This is a fixed fee and is established annually by your elected Board of Directors.

The transmission component (TRANS) is based on consumption so it varies monthly reflecting your usage. Transmission rates are established by the Transmission Facility Operators (TFOs). This amount is collected by ATCO and remitted to the TFOs – no amount accrues to FENN REA.

FENN REA CHARGES: This charge covers the operation of FENN REA, including Board of Directors’ expenses, administration, Annual General Meeting, contract negotiations, accounting/audit, contractor management, inspections, and industry and stakeholder relations in addition to sustaining the Deposit Reserve.

Regulated Rate Option (RRO)

The RRO rate may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you receive the default RRO rate.

For December 2021, the RRO is priced at \$0.12500 per kWh, which is reflected on your enclosed bill. For January 2022, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate for FENN REA members is \$0.16280. The RRO rate is also listed on www.fennrea.com.

Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

Information on FENN REA’s Code of Conduct Compliance Plan can be found on our website: www.fennrea.com