

PHANTOM POWER



What is it and can I exorcise it?

What better month to talk about “phantom power” than October – the month that hosts Halloween!

Phantom power, also called standby power, refers to the energy that’s wasted around your home when devices are plugged in and using power, but you’re not actively using them. While phantoms are defined as “figments of the imagination,” phantom power is very real.

Think about all the devices currently plugged in at home: laptops, gaming consoles, TVs, kitchen appliances, alarm clocks, even electric toothbrushes. The average home has dozens of items plugged in at any given time. Statistics show that 75% of the electricity these devices consume is used when they aren’t even on. That’s a lot of energy simply drifting away. In fact, all that phantom power can add up to 10% of a home’s energy costs. (Reference table right).

So, how can I “exorcise” phantom power?

Once you know how much phantom power you’re using, you can find ways to limit phantom power’s impact on your energy bill. An energy usage meter can help with this.

One primary action is to keep an eye on electronics. While appliances all over the home can draw phantom power, entertainment-related devices, like set-top boxes for recording TV shows and gaming consoles, can drain a lot of energy when they’re just in standby mode.

The easiest way to save on phantom power is to simply unplug your devices when they’re not in use. For devices

that aren’t so easy to unplug, you can use power bars to manage what’s actually on. You can even find power bars with built-in timers or auto shut-off capabilities, motion sensors, and infrared (IR) sensors (which automatically cut power when they’ve been out of use for a certain length of time) to make sure you’re not falling victim to phantom power.

With the increase of smart devices continuously connected, phantom power is likely to be more of an issue than it was just five years ago.

Appliance	Annual Standby Usage
Coffee Maker	1.14 watts
Microwave	3.08 watts
Typical LCD TV	3.06 watts
Sony PlayStation 4	8.4 watts
DVR	28.0 watts
Typical Laser Printer	7.0 watts
Google Home	2.0 watts
LIFX+ 1100 Lumen Bulb	0.3 watts
Microsoft Xbox One	15.7 watts
Smart Security Camera	1.6 watts

Co-op Week takes place from **October 17 to 23, 2021.**

CO-OP WEEK

17 - 23 OCTOBER 2021

Embracing the future
with **co-operation**



Every year, co-operatives, and the people behind them, celebrate the co-operative movement and co-op values in Canada.

Annually they take this opportunity to emphasize that co-operation is the solution to building a better, more prosperous and united future, with a perspective on sustainable development inspired by our cooperative values.

This year's theme is: **Embracing the future with co-operation.**

The chosen theme is meant to doubly qualify the collective future that we want: connected to each other in support of the evolution of community based co-operatives.

FENN REA is an electric co-operative. Electric co-ops are unique and only exist in Alberta, although rural electric co-operatives are prevalent in the United States. Like our American counterparts, REAs operating under co-operative principles literally "electrified" rural Alberta when government and for-profit utilities would not.

The FENN REA story is very similar to that of other community co-operatives. We follow seven co-operative principles which are:

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Member economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training, and information
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

FENN REA celebrated its 70th Anniversary this year, having registered with Alberta Rural Utilities on July 9, 1951. We are proud of our success and our ability to respond to our members and make decisions in the best interest of the REA.

The 2021 theme "Embracing the future with co-operation" accurately reflects our philosophy. We enjoy a partnership with Battle River Power Coop who has been supplying members with our Regulated Rate Option for several years. We are active members of the Alberta Federation Of Rural Electrification Associations (AFREA). AFREA leads us in our efforts to influence government about the importance of REA's as a benchmark for true cost of electricity delivery in Alberta.

Embracing the Future with **Co-operation**

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 September 2021, the RRO is priced at \$0.13208 per kWh, which is reflected on your enclosed bill. For October 2021, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate for FENN REA members is \$0.12531. 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