



Where customers have a choice



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A MESSAGE FOR YOU

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EVP and General Manager



Beat the Peak

When you look around your home, you will notice more devices and equipment that require more electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Pitt & Greene EMC must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply, regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.



As you can see with your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on what your family is doing. Pitt & Greene EMC must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak times." These "peak times" are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities, including Pitt & Greene EMC, typically pay more for electricity, either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power, during those morning and evening "peak times." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes, or during the hot summer days when the air conditioner is trying to keep us cool.

If the term "peak times" is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper, like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak times, when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches in the winter and up in the summer, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the

switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak times. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to offpeak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.

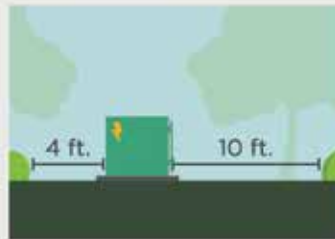
3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them. Here's how you can help:

1. Plant trees in the right place. Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



3. Report dangerous branches. If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



Trimming improves safety for all.

Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.

Save Energy

Test and Seal Your Home's Ductwork

If your home has a central heating or cooling system, it probably relies on ductwork to carry conditioned air to each room. If this ductwork is not properly sealed, up to 30 percent of the energy you purchase to operate your heating or cooling system could be wasted by duct leaks. Duct sealing will reduce loss.

The best way to measure the airtightness of your home's duct system is by performing a duct blower test. A duct blower is a portable fan that is used to pressurize the ductwork in your home. It is calibrated to determine the size and location of air leaks, giving guidance to air sealing technicians on where to concentrate their sealing efforts. A duct-blower test and subsequent air sealing can be performed by either a building contractor or by heating, ventilation, and

air conditioning (HVAC) contractor.

Why should duct testing and sealing be a part of your home improvement? Think of your home's ductwork as part of the building shell, working in conjunction with ceilings, walls, and floors to keep heat outdoors in summer and indoors in winter. You have probably noticed that even small leaks around your doors and windows cause uncomfortable drafts, perhaps forcing you to adjust your thermostat to keep your home comfortable. Yet these door and window leaks allow only room temperature to escape. Your home's ductwork, on the other hand, carries air that is heated or cooled beyond room temperature. Duct leaks are also pressurized by the system's fan, increasing the rate at which air is lost through even small gaps. This



rapid loss of energy laden air makes duct leaks more costly than similarly sized leaks in ceilings, walls, and floors.

How to Clean Refrigerator Coils... and why it matters!

Your refrigerator is one of the largest, most-used appliances in your home. It requires only minimal maintenance—just simple cleaning of the condenser coils, which disperse heat.

If the coils are covered with dust, gunk or pet hair, they cannot diffuse the heat properly and will not run efficiently. A bigger problem can result if the compressor burns out from having to run constantly because of the grimy coating. This can be an expensive problem. The bottom line? A minor investment in time once a year can save you cold cash down the line.

1 Locate the refrigerator's coil, a grid-like structure, or fan that will likely have a covering or grate protecting it. The coil is usually concealed behind the front toe kick or in the back. Some newer models have internal coils, so if you don't find them in the front or back, this may be the case with your fridge.

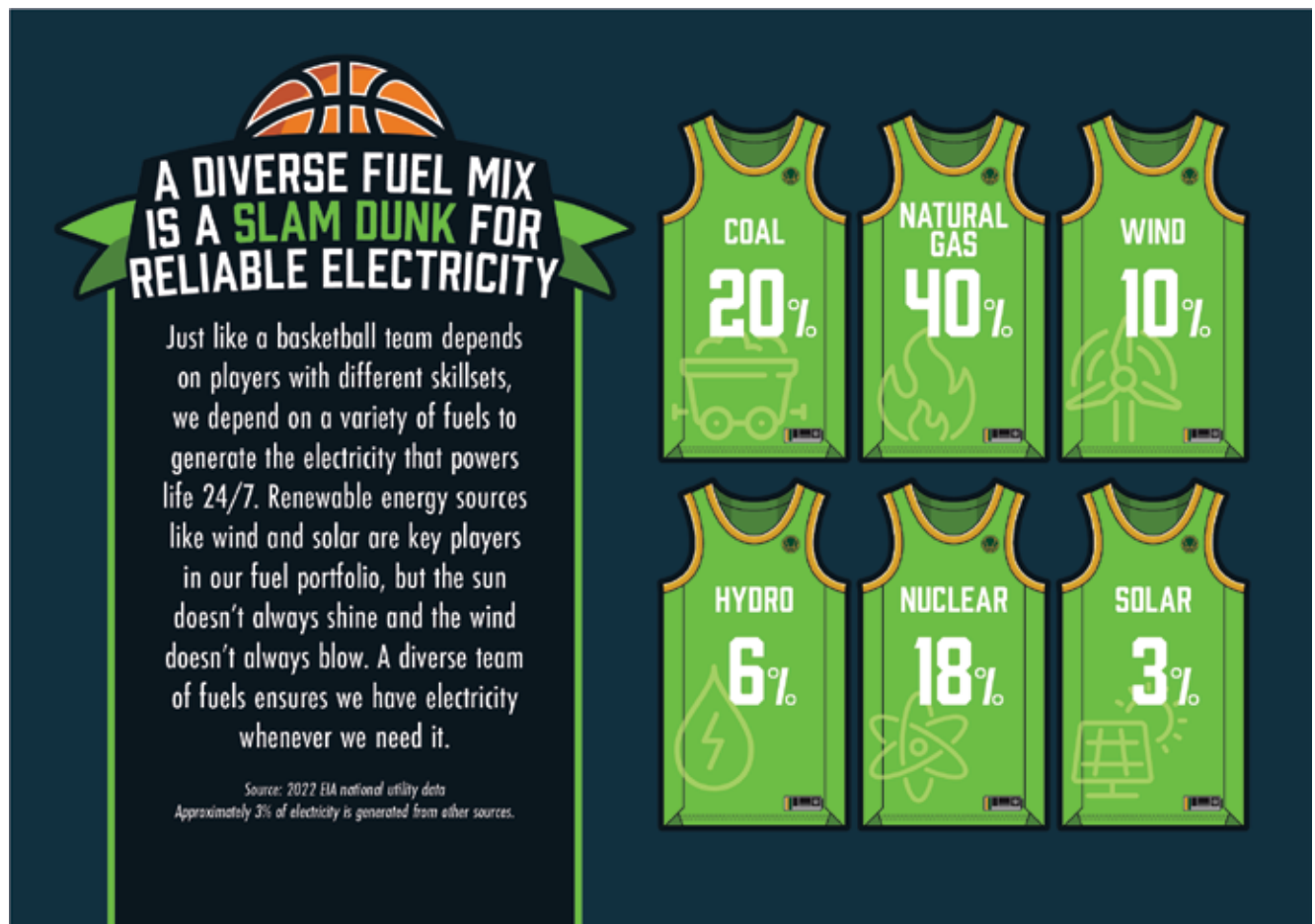
2 If the coil is in the back, slide the refrigerator away from the wall, removing the plug from the electrical outlet. If the coil is in the front, slide the refrigerator away from the wall, removing the plug from the electrical



outlet when possible. You may also need to disconnect the line to the water dispenser or icemaker to allow enough room to work.

3 Gently vacuum and clean the coil. Using the brush or crevice attachment, carefully vacuum the dust and dirt wherever you see it. If you have pulled the fridge out, vacuum and wipe down the sides and back of the fridge and the floor.

4 Once the floor is dry, plug in the refrigerator and rearrange the power cord and supply lines so they don't get a kink or stuck under the weight of the refrigerator. Slide the refrigerator back into place. Be sure to replace the toe kick panel if this was removed.



Springtime and Gardening Safety

March 19th marks the first day of Spring. The longer days and the warmer weather find many working in their yards. According to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission more than 145,000 people are treated in the emergency room for injuries caused by gardening tools. Please keep in mind the following precautions from Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. before you head out with your tools.

- Before using any appliance or tool, read and follow the manufacturer's use and care instructions.
- Before each use, inspect tools for frayed power cords and cracked or broken casings. If the product is damaged, don't use it or attempt to repair it yourself. Return the product or have a qualified repair shop examine it.
- Pay attention to warning markings. Don't allow tools to get wet unless they are labeled "Submersible."

When using tools outside, make sure they are appropriate for outdoor use.

- Never alter a product or remove safety features such as blade guards or electric plug grounding pins.
- Use only properly rated outdoor extension cords with outdoor electrical tools.
- Check the switch on a power tool or garden appliance to make sure it's "Off" before you plug it in.
- Unplug all portable electrically operated power tools when not in use. These tools contain electricity even when turned "Off" but still plugged in.



- Have a qualified technician install ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) receptacles in all outdoor outlets. After installation, test GFCIs monthly.
- Never carry an appliance by the cord, and never yank the cord when removing it from a receptacle. When disconnecting the cord, always grasp the plug, not the wire. Keep the cord away from heat, oil and sharp edges.

Important Sales and Use Tax Notice

A purchaser (farmers, manufacturers and commercial laundries) that is eligible for a preferential tax rate on electricity should complete and furnish the seller/electricity supplier Form E-595E, Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement Certificate of Exemption, to take advantage of qualifying reductions.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening and use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.

Pitt & Greene EMC
will be closed Friday,
March 29, in
observance of Easter.



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