

Midwest Energy, Inc.

Current Comments

December 2024

Making energy work for YOU

'Tis The Season for Energy Efficiency Savings

Looking to give yourself a holiday gift of savings? Review these energy efficiency tips and learn how just a little time and money can lead to big savings year-round!



Change over your light bulbs to LEDs.

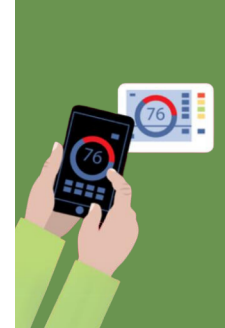
Savings: \$5-25 per month

Deck Your Home with LED Lights. Are you still using incandescent light bulbs in your home? Light-Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs were invented in the 1960s, and today more than two-thirds of all light bulbs sold for home use in the U.S. are LEDs. The advantages are huge: while they cost a bit more than traditional bulbs,

LEDs use just a fraction of the electricity (\$1 of electricity might light a traditional bulb for five days, compared to 44 days for the LED), and LEDs tend to last longer. At around \$1.10 per bulb when bought in bulk, changing out the bulbs in your home with LEDs will offer a very quick payback. With nine percent of a typical home's electricity used for lighting, savings range from \$5-25 per month.

Close your fireplace damper when not in use. Everyone loves a warm fire in the winter! But an open damper with no fire just pulls heated air from your home right up the chimney. So take a few minutes (once your fire is safely out!) and close your damper for more savings.

Ask Santa for a programmable thermostat. Modern digital thermostats are inexpensive (between \$40-100 for most models) and easy to install and program, allowing you to



Ask Santa for a smart or programmable thermostat to save energy.

automatically turn down the heat at night or when away at work. A rough estimate is that for every one degree you turn down your thermostat, you realize 1% savings on your bill. Potential savings - \$5-10 per month.

Plan for crowds. Having a big holiday party with lots of people? An average adult gives off as much heat as a typical 100-watt incandescent bulb. Two dozen people can warm a room pretty quickly. Lowering the thermostat a couple degrees will have your furnace running less, while your guests stay comfortable. *Continued*

Thurman Elected As New Board Member in District 4

Election results for the 2024 Board of Directors election were announced at Midwest Energy's Annual Meeting in October.

Incumbents Dale Unruh of Great Bend representing District 3, and Louise Berning of Scott City representing District 5 were both re-elected. In District 4, incumbent Juanita Stecklein chose not to seek re-election, and Judy Thurman was elected as a new Board member.

Thurman is a resident of Ellis County, from where she and her husband run a full-time farm operation in Pawnee County. She is also the bookkeeper



Thurman

for Thurman Family Farms, a role which includes projections and forecasting. She retired from a nearly 30-year career with the Farm Credit System, where she worked in business planning, leadership development, banking operations and compliance. Mrs. Thurman is an active member in two farm service cooperatives in Pawnee County.

Midwest Energy's nine-member Board of Directors serve three-year terms of office. To learn more about director elections, visit www.midwestenergy.com > About > Board of Directors Elections.



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Community Fund Awards \$75,000 to Local Groups

Midwest Energy's Community Fund benefits charitable, educational and nonprofit organizations in the Midwest Energy service area. Five customer committees review charitable

requests, and allocate funds based on meter count to activities that focus on youth, arts, education, libraries, community events or other priorities that fall within the guidelines.

which awards five \$5,000 grants annually. Impact Grant applicants must match the award with funds from the community. Application deadlines for the Community Fund are Mar. 1 and Oct. 1, and Impact Grant Programs are due Aug. 1. Below is a summary of all Community Fund awards made in Fall 2024.

Impact Grant Awards (\$5,000 Each)	
Hoxie Recreation	
USD 242 Weskan Schools	
Lamed Area Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Commission	
Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas	
Nova Theatre, Stockton	

Community Fund awards range from \$100 to \$1,000 and are made semi-annually. Midwest Energy also sponsors an Impact Grant Program,

Area	# Requests	\$ Requested	# Approved	\$ Approved
Colby	19	\$ 17,404	10	\$ 8,581
Great Bend	38	\$ 26,221	28	\$ 11,429
Hays	29	\$ 21,691	27	\$ 18,840
Phillipsburg	14	\$ 13,395	5	\$ 3,191
Scott City	10	\$ 8,172	8	\$ 8,370

Youth Tour Trip, Scholarship Applications Open Now

Midwest Energy is now accepting applications for the 2025 Youth Tour Trip and Scholarships.

The week-long Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., allows students to experience our nation's capitol, all while meeting other students from across the country. The trip will be from June 14 - 20, 2025.

To be eligible to apply, students must be juniors in high school, live in or attend school in a Midwest Energy service area, and their parents/guardians must receive electric and/or natural

gas service from Midwest Energy. Children of Midwest employees are not eligible to apply.

Midwest Energy will also be awarding 10 high school seniors with \$1,000 scholarships to a secondary education program of their choice. These awards will be paid directly to the student. The eligibility criteria is the same



as the trip, but the scholarships are only available to high school seniors.

Interested or know someone who is? Apply at www.mwenergy.com under the community tab. Applications are due January 31, 2025.

Holiday Energy Efficiency Savings

Going out of town? Unplug appliances and electronics. Even when turned off, some appliances still consume significant "standby power." Before heading out the door, look through your house and unplug appliances. You may save a few bucks a month while you're away.

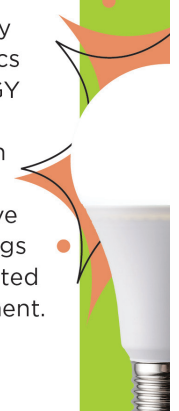
Treat your home to a professional energy audit. Midwest

Energy offers comprehensive energy audits of homes and businesses, performed by certified energy auditors. You can save hundreds of dollars a year by following their recommendations, and best of all, Midwest Energy can help with the costs! Learn more at www.mwenergy.com > Environmental > Energy Efficiency.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: energystar.gov



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