

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

SHANGRI-LA BUILDS \$10.8 MILLION ACTIVITY PARK



JUNE 2021



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Northeast Connection is published monthly to communicate with the members of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative.

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Nick Sutton - Operations & Engineering

VINITA HEADQUARTERS

27039 South 4440 Road, Vinita, OK 74301

GROVE OFFICE

212 South Main, Grove, OK 74344

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Offices are closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

DISPATCHING AVAILABLE 24 HOURS AT

1.800.256.6405

If you experience an outage:

1. Check your switch or circuit breaker in the house and on the meter pole to be sure the trouble is not on your side of the service.
2. When contacting the cooperative to report an outage, use the name as it appears on your bill, and have both your pole number and account number ready.

Please direct all editorial inquiries to Public Relations at 800.256.6405 or email publicrelations@noec.coop

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WHAT'S IN A NAME

Nick Sutton

Manager of Operations and Engineering

What is NOEC? I was asked this question recently by a former classmate who I ran into at a local grocery store. He asked where I was working and I replied "NOEC." He asked what NOEC was and where it was. When I answered – saying "you know, REC" – he knew right away what I was talking about. If you grew up in northeast Oklahoma like we did, you know about REC, and especially REC Day.

Everyone in our community knew about and looked forward to REC Day. As a kid growing up in rural Vinita, REC Day was always a big deal. My parents would let me bring my bicycle to town and ride the streets while they attended the meeting. As a country kid who lived on a gravel road, riding a bike on pavement was something to look forward to. You could coast forever on the pavement. I got to see my friends and drink all the pop I could get my hands on from the friendly servers under the tents. The meeting was held in the park so there were always huge tents set up that offered protection and shelter from the weather.

That day was full of fun for everyone. I would watch the old timers play horseshoes. My friends and I would take breaks from riding our bikes to play a game of cup ball with the cups from which we had been drinking pop. As you may have figured out by now, I have many fond memories of those days.

At the time, I really had no idea what was even taking place at REC Day. Years later, I understand what a cooperative represents. I realize that it is more than just fun and games. I now grasp the importance of REC Day and how it is an annual meeting that allows members to vote and conduct important business. Looking back, I see that my parents were doing more than simply visiting with neighbors—they were exercising their right to democratic member control as part-owners and shareholders of the cooperative.

Continued on page 7.



02

2021 DISTRICT MEETINGS



04

SHANGRI-LA "THE ANCHOR"



08

FATHER'S DAY RECIPES



10

LIGHTNING SAFETY TIPS

Events are published as space allows and must be submitted at least 60 days in advance. Send information, including phone number for publication, to Northeast Connection Events Calendar, PO Box 948, Vinita 74301 or email to publicrelations@noec.coop

\$100 IS HIDING!

Search the pages of NE Connection for a 6-digit account number with an asterisk on each side. For example: *XXXXXX*. Compare it to your account number, which appears on your monthly electric bill. If they match, contact the cooperative at 918.256.6405, by July 1, 2021, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

JUNE 2021 EVENTS

Jana Jae Fiddle Camp & Music

June 3-5 | Grove

Grove Civic Center & Snider's Camp
918.786.8896

Grand Lake Camp Bandage

June 5 | Afton

Grand Lake RV Resort
918.276.2192

American Heritage Music Festival

June 10-12 | Grove

Wolf Creek Park and Snider's Camp
918.786.8896

4-Way Rodeo

June 11-12 | Pryor

Mayes County Fairgrounds
918.637.5603

Commerce Days

June 16-19 | Commerce

Commerce High School
918.675.4373

Vinita Route 66 Festival

June 18-19 | Vinita

Downtown Vinita
918.323.1918

O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw Nationals

June 18-19 | Miami

Ottawa County Fairgrounds
417.887.9400

Oklahoma 8-Man All Star Game

June 19 | Miami

Red Robertson Field
918.542.4432

Food Truck Thursday

June 24 | Claremore

Downtown Claremore
918.341.5881

Oklahoma Gun Show

June 26-27 | Tulsa

Tulsa Expo Center
918.275.4867

Frontier Cove Day Camp

June 28-July 2 | Adair

New Life Ranch
918.422.5506

June events are subject to date change or cancellation. Please contact the host for most current event information.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICTS 4, 6, AND 8 TO SELECT BOARD TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

DISTRICT MEETINGS:

- District 4 - John L. Myers - JULY 29
- District 6 - Sharron Gay - JULY 27
- District 8 - (vacant) - JULY 26

Note: Meeting locations with driving directions to meetings will be announced in the July NE Connection.

REQUIREMENT TO REGISTER

At District Meetings

Only eligible members may register and cast a vote at any member meeting. In order to register and vote you MUST be one of the following:

- Primary on an individual account
- Primary or secondary on a joint account
- Named representative of a business or organization (present a letter from the governing body of the entity stating you are the representative for that entity)

If you are not listed on the account, regardless of marital status, you will not be able to register to vote. We strongly encourage you to check your account. It is simple to add a person to make a joint account. Call member services at 800.256.6405.

The Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees is extending invitations to Cooperative members in Districts 4, 6, and 8 to attend their respective 2021 District Meetings this summer. As always, the invitation includes freebies like soda and giveaways, along with the chance to win a \$250 electric credit.

Trustee elections for Districts 4, 6, & 8 will take place at the 2021 Cooperative Annual Meeting. Elected Trustees will serve for three (3) year terms on the Cooperative's Board of Trustees. The official 2021 Trustee candidates for Districts 4, 6, & 8 will be selected at their respective District Meeting.

Section 3.06 of the Cooperative Bylaws requires any member desiring to be a Trustee candidate to file with the Cooperative their Notice of Candidacy for Trustee during the filing period of July 5-9, 2021. The Notice of Candidacy for Trustee must be filed at the Headquarters Office of the Cooperative: 27039 S 4440 Rd, Vinita, OK 74301.

Only pre-qualified candidates can be nominated at District Meetings.

Members may register to vote/participate at their District Meetings from 6-7 p.m. Those in line prior to 7 p.m. will be given a card ensuring their opportunity to register.

The meeting will start as soon as is practical thereafter or when all members with cards have registered.

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NOTE: Currently, the Cooperative is planning to conduct the 2021 District Meetings in the same manner it has conducted District Meetings in the past. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, there may be government-imposed restrictions or guidelines in place, limiting the size of gatherings such as the Cooperative's District Meetings, or it may otherwise be unsafe to gather for the District Meetings. If such restrictions or guidelines are in place at the time set for the District Meetings, or if it is otherwise unsafe to gather for the District Meetings due to COVID-19, then the Cooperative may take certain actions necessary to maintain the safety of the members, Cooperative employees, and the public, and/or to comply with any government imposed restrictions/guidelines regarding gatherings. These actions may include, but are not limited to: (1) postponing the District Meetings to a later date that is not less than thirty (30) nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting, in accordance with Section 3.06 of the Cooperative's Bylaws; (2) utilizing drive-thru registration and voting; (3) conducting the District Meetings utilizing live video technology (e.g., Facebook Live); or (4) if necessary, cancelling the District Meetings. The Cooperative will take all reasonable efforts to conduct the District Meetings, nominate Trustee candidates, and elect Trustees in accordance with the Cooperative's Bylaws, while maintaining the safety of the members, Cooperative employees, and the public, and complying with any government-imposed restrictions/guidelines regarding gatherings.

INTERESTED MEMBERS MAY BECOME CANDIDATES

Have you ever considered becoming a member of the Cooperative's Board of Trustees? Members residing in Districts 4, 6, and 8 may run for election if they meet the Trustee qualifications below.

The Board meets regularly to review the performance of the Cooperative, establish goals and operating policies, and ensure the financial health of the Cooperative. For more information on Board participation, please call 800.256.6405, extension 9417.

TRUSTEE QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION 3.02. Qualifications (in part)

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Trustee of the Cooperative who:

- (a) while serving on the Board or during the five (5) years preceding nomination thereto shall have been finally adjudged to be guilty of a felony;
- (b) is, becomes, or within the last five (5) years has been employed by the Cooperative, a Cooperative subsidiary, or a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any Cooperative employees;
- (c) is, and if elected and seated as a Trustee will continue to be, a Close Relative of an incumbent Trustee or Cooperative employee;
- (d) has not continuously been, for at least one (1) year prior to nomination, or who ceases after election to be, a Member in good standing of the Cooperative, receiving Electric Service at a permanent and year-round residence which is the Member's primary residential abode in the Trustee District from which the Member is elected; or
- (e) is not at least eighteen (18) years old; or
- (f) while a Trustee, and during the one (1) year immediately before becoming a Trustee, is or was employed by, controlled, owned more than ten percent (10%) of, served as a trustee, director, or officer of, or received more than ten percent (10%) of annual gross income from an Entity that advances the Entity's financial interest by: (1) competing with the Cooperative or a Cooperative subsidiary; or (2) providing electric energy or a good or service related to providing electric energy; PROVIDED, however, that a Trustee shall be permitted to serve as a director or Trustee of such an Entity on the Cooperative's behalf.

Notwithstanding the Close Relative restrictions/prohibitions in Section 3.02(c), no incumbent Trustee shall lose eligibility to remain a Trustee or to be re-elected a Trustee if, during incumbency, the Trustee becomes a Close Relative of another incumbent Trustee or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage or an adoption to which the Trustee was not a party.

Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for Trustee lacks eligibility under this Section or as may be provided elsewhere in these Bylaws, it shall be the duty of the Board (or a Board-authorized representative) to disqualify the nominee. Upon the establishment of the fact that any Person being considered for, or already serving as, a Cooperative Trustee lacks eligibility under this Section, it shall be the duty of the Board (or a Board-authorized representative) to withhold such position from such person or to cause such person to be removed therefrom, as applicable. A Trustee's office shall automatically become vacant if the Trustee is absent from three (3) consecutive regular Board meetings, unless the remaining Trustees resolve that there was good cause for such absences. Nothing contained in this Section shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board.

SECTION 3.06. Nominations (in part)

Any Member desiring to be nominated as a Trustee candidate from the District of their primary residence, shall file with the Cooperative written notice, on a form provided by the Cooperative, of their candidacy and intention to seek nomination for the office of Trustee from their District at such time as the Board may designate as the official filing period. Only Members filing such written notice of candidacy and intention to seek nomination shall be eligible for nomination at the applicable District Meeting.

CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD: JULY 5-9, 2021

**Monday through Thursday - 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM,
Friday - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**The Notice of Candidacy for Trustee MUST be filed
at the Headquarters Office of the Cooperative:
27039 S 4440 Rd, Vinita, OK 74301**

SHANGRI-LA CELEBRATES MAY OPENING

OF \$10.8 MILLION ACTIVITY PARK

The slogan “membership has its privileges” was made famous by a popular credit card company back in 1987. The company’s advertising campaign over the next decade dutifully reminded those fortunate enough to qualify for its card that they were eligible for exclusive rewards.



Thirty years later, don’t be surprised if you hear members of Grand Lake’s premier resort echoing those same sentiments. With the recent addition

of “The Anchor,” an elaborate indoor/outdoor activity park, membership offers even greater rewards for patrons of Shangri-La Resort in Afton, Oklahoma.

Ground was broken on the \$10.8 million activity park complex in February 2020. Despite a barrage of challenges from a global pandemic and weather, The Anchor was constructed in less than 15 months and was ready for reveal at its much-anticipated May 2021 grand opening.



Groundbreaking participants for “The Anchor” included (from left) Dale Forrest of Paragon Contractors, Shangri-La President & CEO Barry Willingham, resort owner Eddy Gibbs, Executive Chairman Jason Sheffield, Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, Shangri-La CFO Nancy Brandwein, Architect Mark Thomas, and Paul Bulten.

The addition of the activity park brings the total investment to more than \$75 million since Eddy Gibbs purchased the property in 2010. Once considered primarily a golf destination, Shangri-La now proudly offers something for everyone.

"We are expanding the recreational offerings to add to our popular championship golf course," said Shangri-La President & CEO, Barry Willingham. "We are also focused on providing more indoor entertainment options for our members and our hotel guests to make Shangri-La an attractive year-round destination for business groups and families alike."

The Anchor complex boasts 11,000 square feet of indoor space featuring state-of-the-art Hologate virtual reality simulators, escape room games, an arcade, pop-a-shot basketball, billiards, ping-pong, shuffleboard, darts, and several video screens for viewing your favorite sporting event. There is even an indoor-outdoor bar and lounge where guests can relax after hours of play. Should inclement weather inhibit outdoor play, Trackman golf simulators will allow golfers to play all 27 holes of Shangri-La’s championship golf course in a climate-controlled environment. There are also NASCAR and Formula One racing simulators, and shooting and fighter jet simulators that are guaranteed to test even the most skilled gamers.

Indoor fun, however, is just one aspect of The Anchor. The outdoor portion of the complex features a new racquet club with tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball, sand volleyball, fire pits, a fishing pond, and an event area. Kids of all ages will love playing wiffle ball in the park’s mini Fenway Park replica.

Another unique feature of the new activity park is the replica anchor from the battleship USS Oklahoma.



The ship's anchor, which inspired the name of the new activity park, is proudly displayed across from the new facility. It bears the names of the 429 personnel who served our country on this vessel when it was attacked at Pearl Harbor in 1941.

While Shangri-La members will enjoy priority discounts on food, beverages, and game play, The Anchor—as with the resort's golf operation—will be available for public use.

“Though members do enjoy significant benefits and discounts at The Anchor, we want to make sure the general public knows they are absolutely welcome here,” explained Lee Lawson, Director of Anchor Operations. “This facility was designed to offer something for everyone in all seasons, and we are excited to deliver that enjoyment to every person who walks through the door. We are incredibly proud of this facility and it is an honor to be responsible for ensuring its success.”

Gibbs has indeed breathed new life into the Grand Lake landmark since taking ownership in March 2010. He has made it his mission to reclaim the vision of Charles Davis, one of the property's original developers. Davis, Shangri-La's second owner, established a legacy of his own during a memorable run that spanned nearly two decades.

The Monkey Island development has certainly seen its share of ups and downs. Sadly, there were many lean years for the once-great development after Davis sold in 1987. It changed hands five times before stability was finally restored under Gibbs.

Golf has seemingly been the one constant at Shangri-La. Although the course footprint has been changed over the years, construction of the initial course began under Davis in 1969 and was finished in 1970. Gibbs' first order of business after taking ownership 40 years later was the establishment of a championship-level course. Work commenced immediately to carry out that vision. The remaining buildings of the original resort were demolished and construction began on a 13,000 square foot club house. The pristine new club house opened July 2011 with an 85-seat restaurant, bar, lounge, fitness center, and golf shop.

Two new golf holes were built to accommodate the club house and adjacent practice facilities, which included a new driving range. Crews also began work on a new nine-hole golf course on the site of the former gold course, closed two years prior due to lack of demand. The new course, named Champions Nine, opened for play in November 2011. Meanwhile, reconstruction of the old blue course saw tee boxes rebuilt, fairways manicured, and deteriorating sand traps replaced. The north nine holes on the blue course opened for play in May 2012 as the Legends Nine, at which time the remaining nine holes were closed for redesign and renovation. The Heritage Nine opened in May 2013, marking completion of reconstruction on Shangri-La's 27 hole all-new championship golf course, which has since been named “Oklahoma's #1 Golf Destination” by Midwest Golfing Magazine.





Shangri-La plays host to some high-profile golf events each year. Three in particular of which the resort is very proud are The Folds of Honor Classic, The Mary Moore Charity Tournament, and The Shangri-La Invitational. The Folds of Honor Classic is held the first Sunday of October each year and has raised more than \$175,000 for the Folds of Honor Foundation, benefiting the families of deceased or injured military personnel and veterans. The Mary Moore Charity Tournament takes place each August and has raised almost \$250,000 for the Home of Hope Special Olympics program. The Shangri-La Invitational is held the first Monday in August each year and includes players from both the collegiate and professional level.

While the golf opportunities at Shangri-La are exceptional, the resort has clearly evolved into much more than a golfing destination. Members and guests enjoy access to copious amenities at Shangri-La.



The hotel facilities, named “Outstanding Lodging in Oklahoma” by the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association, stay busy throughout the year—thanks to 119 luxury rooms; 9,000 square feet of convention and meeting space; a full-service medical spa; fitness center; steam room; sauna; indoor pool; and a sprawling 6,500 square foot outdoor resort pool with splash pad, tanning ledge, hot tub, food & beverage services, and fire pits.

Shangri-La has also worked hard to establish itself as an attractive dining destination. While fine dining is offered at The Summit Restaurant & Buffalo Bar, a more casual family dining experience is available at Doc's Bar & Grill. Patrons also enjoy al fresco lakeside food and beverages at the seasonally operated Eddy's Lakeside Bar. A relaxed atmosphere can be found at the resort's new Monkey Grind coffee shop, a proud purveyor of Starbucks coffee.

And let's not forget about the full-service Shangri-La Marina, located adjacent to the resort hotel, where Sail Grand offers yacht charters, boat and personal watercraft rentals, as well as parasailing adventures.

Add to all of that an elaborate activity park and Shangri-La distinguishes itself as one of the premier resort destinations in the U.S. for corporate events, weddings, golf outings, a weekend getaway, or a family vacation. Plan your visit today and begin enjoying the newly-expanded amenities. For more information, call 918-257-4204 or visit online at www.shangrilaok.com.

**The Anchor Activity Park
opening May 2021**

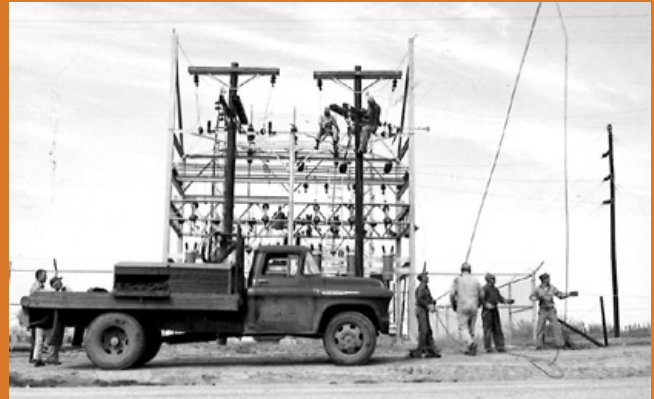


WHAT'S IN A NAME

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE COVER

As an NOEC employee, I can tell you that there is a lot that goes into a successful annual meeting. Before the voting takes place, a candidate (or candidates) must be selected for the ballot. The cooperative is divided into nine districts and each district holds a meeting on a three-year, rotating basis. These meetings give you and your neighbors an opportunity to select a candidate to represent your district on the annual meeting ballot.

Annual meeting is held the third Saturday of each September. The day is a mixture of fun and business. By the time annual meeting has concluded, the membership at-large will have elected three trustees to serve a three-year term on the board of trustees. These trustees govern the operations of the cooperative, as well select and hire the general manager. The general manager, in turn, hires employees to work at the cooperative.



Rural electric cooperatives, or RECs, are private, independent, electric utilities. They are owned by the members they serve. So what is NOEC, you ask? Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (NOEC) is YOUR electric cooperative. Your electric cooperative is owned by YOU, the member, and it is important to know that NOEC is YOUR REC.



KIDS SPORTS CAMP

THE ANCHOR AT SHANGRI-LA

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN JULY | AGES 4-12 | SNACKS AND LUNCH PROVIDED | \$80 PER DAY OR \$250 FOR THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Basketball
- Baseball/Softball
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Fishing
- Soccer

Wednesday, July 28
Horseback Riding Day!

for more deals visit bit.ly/shangrila-sportscamp





FEATURE RECIPES

FATHER'S DAY FAVORITES



Prep: 10 minutes

Cook: 20 minutes

Makes: 4 kebabs

STEAK AND POTATO KEBABS

MAIN

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb ribeye steak
- 8 baby Bella mushrooms
- 8 baby Yukon gold potatoes

MARINADE

- 1/4 c. soy sauce
- 1/4 c. ketchup
- 1/4 c. vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp white vinegar
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder

Step 1: Cut the steak into 16 equal pieces. Place the steak and mushrooms in a gallon size storage bag.

Step 2: In a medium sized bowl whisk together the marinade ingredients. Pour over ingredients in bag. Marinate at least 1/2 hour and up to 2 hours.

Step 3: Clean the potatoes. Place the potatoes in a large saucepan and add enough water to cover by 1 inch. Bring the water to a boil and cook potatoes until just barely fork-tender, about 5-7 minutes. Drain and set aside.

Step 4: Add a piece of steak, a potato, another piece of steak, and a mushroom to a skewer. Then add another piece of steak, a potato, another piece of steak, and a mushroom again. Repeat with remaining 3 skewers and ingredients.

Step 5: Heat a grill to medium-high and lightly oil the grate. Add the kebabs and grill about 5-6 minutes on both sides, flipping every 3 minutes.

CAJUN BROILED SHRIMP

MAIN

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb shrimp peeled and deveined
- 1 Tbsp Cajun seasoning
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 whole lemon

Step 1: Preheat oven to broil setting.

Step 2: Combine shrimp, Cajun seasoning, and oil in bowl. Stir to combine. Cover and refrigerate up to 30 minutes.

Step 3: Lay shrimp in a single layer on a jelly roll pan.

Step 4: Cook on the middle rack until shrimp turn pink, about 5 minutes.

Step 5: Transfer to serving platter and squeeze lemon juice over shrimp.



Prep: 35 minutes

Cook: 5 minutes

Makes: 4 servings

STRAWBERRY PIE

DESSERT

INGREDIENTS

- 9 inch pie shell
- 4 c. strawberries washed and hulled
- 1 1/2 c. water
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 2 Tbsp cornstarch
- 3 oz package strawberry Jell-O

Step 1: Bake pie shell according to package directions. Let cool.

Step 2: Place washed and hulled strawberries in cool pie shell.

Step 3: Combine water, sugar and cornstarch in a saucepan. Bring to boil and cook two minutes. Add strawberry Jell-O and stir until dissolved. Pour over berries.

Step 4: Chill until set.



Prep: 10 minutes

Cook: 17 minutes

Makes: 8 servings

SUMMER PREPAREDNESS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & LIGHTNING SAFETY

OUTDOOR LIGHTNING SAFETY TIPS

Be Aware:

Check the weather forecast before participating in outdoor activities. If the forecast calls for thunderstorms, postpone your trip or activity, or make sure adequate shelter is readily available.

Go Indoors:

Remember the phrase, "When thunder roars, go indoors?" Find a safe, enclosed shelter when you hear thunder. Safe shelters include homes, offices, shopping centers, and hard-top vehicles with the windows rolled up.

Seek Shelter Immediately:

If you are caught in an open area, act quickly to find adequate shelter. The most important action is to remove yourself from danger. Crouching or getting low to the ground can reduce your chances of being struck, but does not remove you from danger.

Separate:

If you are in a group during a thunderstorm, separate from each other. This will reduce the number of injuries if lightning strikes the ground.



SAVE ENERGY IN THE SUMMER

Be Smart with Your Thermostat

It feels good to blast the AC after getting home from a workout, time spent outside, or just a generally sweltering summer day. But it probably won't feel so good later when you see that your utility bills have skyrocketed. Keep in mind that for every degree you raise your thermostat above 72°, you save up to 3% of your cooling expenses. Try setting your thermostat to 78°, or as high as your comfort allows.

Keep Your Home Breezy

Another easy way to cut down on cooling costs is by using fans. Ceiling fans are great for cooling an entire room, and many homes already come equipped so there's no purchase necessary.

Wash with Cold or Warm Water

Avoid using hot water whenever possible. Because 90% of the energy used by your washing machine goes toward heating the water, doing your laundry on either the cold or the warm cycle will save you a tremendous amount of electricity.

Keep Track of Your Electronics

When you place heat-generating devices such as lamps or TVs near air-conditioning thermostats, you can trick them into thinking the room is hotter than it really is. Your thermostat will sense the heat from these devices and spend extra energy trying to cool the house down. Be mindful of where your thermostats are and try to keep electronics away from them. Devices like computers, curling irons, hair dryers, stereos, and televisions heat up your house as well, so make sure they're turned off when they're not being used.