



# Kilowatt Korner

NOVEMBER 2022

Congratulations to all our Meeker Cowboy athletes for an excellent fall sports season. From Cross Country, Men's Golf, and Softball to Football and Volleyball's quarterfinal finish at State. Great job athletes, coaches, parents, and fans! And congratulations to the "Newsies"; another outstanding Meeker musical. It is a great time to be a Meeker Cowboy.

The holiday season is upon us and WREA hopes to see you all at the **Meeker Parade of Lights & Jingle Mingle on Wednesday, November 30, 2022; a Meeker Holiday favorite.** WREA is a proud sponsor of the Parade of Lights & Jingle Mingle that support the Pioneers Health Care Foundation. Santa's elves will be busy shopping local this holiday season with so many great options from fashion and gift boutiques to hardware stores, auto parts and sporting goods. Don't forget to wrap up your shopping at one of Meeker's great restaurants.

If you are traveling this holiday season, think about using these five simple Energy Saving Tips ...

**1. Set Your Thermostat to Vacation Mode** - If no one (including your pets) is staying home while you're away, set the thermostat to a more moderate temperature than usual. Most smart thermostats have a "vacation mode" that will override your normal daily schedule. With a smart thermostat, you can also monitor your home's temperature while you're gone and set it to a comfortable temperature for the day you return. If you go on vacation in the winter, set your thermostat to no lower than 60 degrees. While it may be tempting to lower the temperature even further, this puts your pipes at risk of freezing.

**2. Unplug Unnecessary Appliances** - Coffee makers, toasters and other plugged-in appliances use energy even when they're not in use. The sneaky energy waste is called phantom load and can account for up to 10% of your electric bill. Solve the problem by plugging your appliances into smart power strips that recognize when an appliance isn't in use and cuts power to it. If you're not using smart power strips, be sure to unplug all electric appliances that have a power light.

**3. Water Heater Settings** - Like a smart thermostat, your water heater has a setting on its temperature dial labeled vacation mode that decreases your water heater's temperature and conserves energy. Water heating can account for around 20% of the energy consumed at home. Set your water heater to 'vacation mode' if you're going to be gone for an extended length of time. Some newer, energy-efficient water heater models have the option to program your return date so your water is ready to use when you return. If it doesn't, it should take less than an hour for your water to heat back up. Just be sure to leave a reminder to turn it back on whenever you get home.

**4. Close your blinds and/or curtains** to help insulate your home in the winter and keep it secure.

**5. Turning off the lights may seem obvious but be sure to turn off your ceiling fans as well.** Running either will only contribute to your electric bill and shouldn't be necessary if you follow the steps above. If you like to leave lights on for added security, try plugging lamps into a timer to turn on for a few hours in the evening.

WREA wishes you all a safe and fun Thanksgiving holiday whether you are staying in Meeker or are traveling to see family. Even with all of the challenges and chaos that exists in our world, right here in Meeker, we have much to be thankful for, including our WREA membership!

*Thank you!*

~ White River Electric Association