



the COOPERATOR

DECEMBER 2023 | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative
A supplement to Oklahoma Living

Think "smart" this Christmas

Five practical gifts for year-round savings

This holiday season, think “smart” and consider giving a loved one (or yourself) a gift that keeps on giving. Many smart devices reduce home energy use, which can put a little more jingle in your pocket. Consider these five energy-saving smart gadgets while shopping this holiday season.

Smart thermostats learn users’ schedules and the temperatures they prefer to keep their home. The thermostat remembers these temperatures while a home is occupied. When no one is home, it adjusts to a more energy-saving setting to avoid heating and cooling an empty home. Smart thermostats also feature apps that let family members change the temperature from anywhere in the world using a phone or other mobile device. Owners may also use the app to see how much energy is used and why, and then use that information to make appropriate adjustments to their home energy usage.


Smart lighting saves energy in multiple ways. Smart lightbulbs last longer and use less power. Smart lighting systems also have scheduled timers and allow you to remotely turn the lights off (a great feature if you have loved ones who constantly leave lights on).

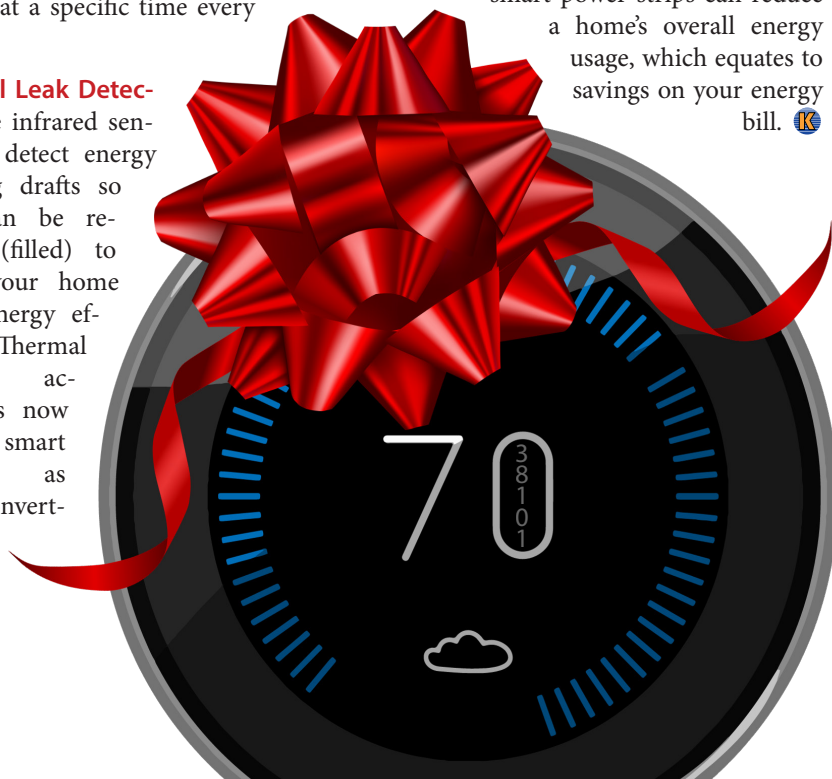
Virtual assistants, like Siri or Alexa, can connect to smart thermostats, smart lights, entertainment center devices and

others. With a few spoken words, virtual assistants can turn lights, appliances and other devices off and on, activate and deactivate security systems, shut or open a garage door, and more. These home automation devices allow homeowners to control their appliances and create daily smart-home routines through smart-phone apps. This creates many new ways to save energy. For example, owners can schedule kitchen appliances, such as dishwashers and coffee makers, to run while they are out of the house or to operate at a specific time every day.

Thermal Leak Detectors use infrared sensors to detect energy draining drafts so they can be repaired (filled) to make your home more energy efficient. Thermal imaging accessories now exist for smart phones as well, converting them

into light-weight, portable thermal leak detectors. Repairing thermal leaks in a home can save up to 20% in heating and cooling costs.

Smart power strips & surge protectors are a less expensive option to gain some smart technology without upgrading all appliances and devices to smart models. Smarter devices can be used independent of an all-smart home. The strips can detect when a device is in standby mode and cut its power supply. Using smart power strips can reduce a home’s overall energy usage, which equates to savings on your energy bill. 





OUR MISSION

Founded in 1937, Kay Electric Cooperative remains focused on our primary mission: to provide safe, affordable and reliable power for our member-owners. Today, our service territory includes 2,263 miles of line and more than 5,900 meters located in Kay, Grant, Noble, Osage and Garfield counties.

CONTACT US

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REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or use Kay Electric's SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.

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EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

- Pay online using SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.
- Pay over the phone: 800-535-1079.
- Pay in person at Kay Electric or use our 24-hour payment drop box located at 300 W. Doolin Ave. in Blackwell.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account or major credit card. Sign up for auto-pay online at www.kayelectric.coop.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Smart Operations By Jason Boesch, CEO

We've all heard the saying "Is that so Mr. Smarty Pants?" In the case of Kay Electric's smart meters, the answer is yes, that is so. Kay Electric adopted smart metering in 2000 and has benefited from that investment ever since. So-called "smart meters" and the technology behind Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) have been around since the late 1990s.

Smart metering is using technology to read our member meters remotely. You may recall years ago meters were read by a Kay Electric employee who would drive up to every meter, get out of the truck and write down the readings. One can imagine the extra time and mileage involved in that process. Conversely, smart meters not only benefit Kay Electric with greater efficiency, but they benefit you by allowing us to access that information remotely without needing to get into your yard to read the meter, disturb your dogs or disrupt your day.


Holding down costs in the long-term helps the co-op hold down rates as well. AMI meters interface with software at the co-op to provide more accurate and timely information on energy use. Our Kay Electric service territory of 2,263 miles of line spans across five counties with a maximum span of 77 miles. We're able to get the electric usage remotely, saving time and money from driving to those locations, at which point weather becomes a non-factor.

One of the popular myths of smart meters is that they give a utility the ability to monitor and restrict electricity usage and are somehow used to "look into" homes and businesses. However, that simply isn't possible with Kay Electric's smart meter technology. The co-op receives



The meter is basically doing the same job it did a hundred years ago, except we are viewing that reading remotely instead of in person.

usage information but is not "pushing" information in terms of anything on the member's side of the meter. We don't have any control over utilities, lights or otherwise, beyond the roadside meter pole. The meter is basically doing the same job it did a hundred years ago, except we are viewing that reading remotely instead of in person.

Technology today can be a real efficiency booster which saves time and money. Fortunately, Kay Electric was an early adopter of such key technologies, and the savings have paid for that investment many times over. That's smart operations. 

YOUTH CONTESTS




Apply now for 2024 student contests

Kay Electric invites local eighth-graders and high school juniors to participate in our 2024 student contests.

Four eighth-graders will win a trip to Energy Camp in Hinton. Two high school juniors will win a trip to Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and two will win an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., as part of the National Rural Electric Youth Tour. Four runners-up will win cash prizes. 1212301

Visit www.kayelectric.coop/youth to download an application or apply online. Applications are due by January 12, 2024. Questions? Please Contact Desiree Masterson-Whitehead at Kay Electric for more information: 580-363-1260 or email dwhitehead@kayelectric.coop.

Applicants must go to school within KEC's service territory; you do not have to be a co-op member. Home-schooled students are encouraged to enter. 

K-UP Grants support local communities

In 2023, the K-UP Foundation awarded more than \$12,000 in grant funds to area organizations. The Foundation was created in 2015 and provides support to rural fire departments, civic organizations, community programs, youth groups, senior citizen centers and local charities that often operate on a limited budget.

Kay Electric members make these grants possible. Members can choose to have their monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar; these funds are then dispersed to the Foundation.

First-quarter grant applications are due January 2, 2024. Applications are available on our website: <https://www.kayelectric.coop/k>.

K-UP Fourth Quarter Grant Winners

Billings Fire and Rescue - \$2,410
The Opportunity Center - \$1,500
Dearing House, Inc. - \$1,350
United Way of North Central Oklahoma - \$1,885
Operation Blessings - \$750

K-UP Foundation Financials Nov. 1, 2022 – Oct. 31, 2023

Income:

Balance Forward - \$23,526.22
Member Contributions - \$27,735.36
Donations Received - \$394.20
Interest - \$128.55

Expenses:

Grants & Expenses - \$12,237.02

Balance: \$39,564.78



GOOD COOKIN'

Christmas Bars

Ingredients

- ½ cup butter
- 2 cups packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup Christmas M&Ms
- ½ cup Christmas sprinkles

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a 9-by-13-inch pan with foil or parchment and spray with cooking spray. Cream butter and brown sugar with a mixer. Beat in eggs and vanilla until smooth. Add salt, baking powder and flour. Stir in M&Ms and sprinkles. Spread in prepared pan. (Tip: Spray your hands with cooking spray and press dough into an even layer.) Bake for 22 to 25 minutes, until the cookies begin to turn golden. Err on the side of underbaked, as they'll finish baking while they cool. Once cool, cut into bars.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away. For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

- Source Dept. of Energy

\$25 is hiding in this issue!

If you spot your account number hidden in these pages, please contact Kay Electric to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill. If no account numbers are claimed, the prize money will carry over to the next month for a maximum bill credit of \$50. Call 800-535-1079 or email contact@kayelectric.coop to claim your prize.

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