



**Corridor Energy
Cooperative**

Corridor Connections

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR OUR MEMBERS



Landscaping with Purpose: Grow Your Energy Savings

Landscaping can do more than improve your home's curb appeal—it can also help lower your energy bills. With thoughtful planning and strategic planting, your yard can work with nature to keep your home more comfortable while reducing energy use year-round.

Planting trees or tall shrubs on the west and south sides of your home provides natural shade during hot summer months. This shade helps keep your house cooler, reducing the need for air conditioning and lowering your energy costs.

Strategic landscaping also benefits your home in winter. Rows of evergreen shrubs or trees can act as windbreaks, reducing cold winds around your home. This added protection helps your heating system work more efficiently, saving energy and keeping you comfortable.

How can landscaping help lower my energy bill?

Thoughtful planning and good design can lead to significant energy savings. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of a typical household's energy use.

When choosing trees and plants, select varieties suited to our climate. Deciduous trees are especially useful because they provide shade in summer and allow sunlight through in winter after their leaves fall, offering both cooling and passive solar heating benefits.

Slower-growing trees may take longer to provide shade, but they typically have deeper roots and stronger branches, making them more resistant to wind, snow, ice, and drought.

Windbreaks can also improve efficiency. Evergreen trees planted in rows can significantly slow wind speeds. The DOE notes that windbreaks can reduce wind speed by up to 30 times their height, helping lower heating costs. For best results, plant windbreaks two to five times the mature tree's height away from your home.

As you refresh your yard this spring and summer, consider landscaping choices that improve energy efficiency. With the right design and plant selection, your yard can help create a more comfortable home while delivering year-round energy savings.





Take Control of Your Energy With SmartHub

Did you know you can track your energy use anytime from your computer or mobile device? With SmartHub, you can easily monitor your electricity usage and manage your account all in one convenient place.

SmartHub provides detailed graphs that let you view your daily energy consumption 24/7 and track how your usage changes over time. This insight can help you identify opportunities to reduce energy use and potentially lower your monthly bill.

Get Started with SmartHub

Downloading SmartHub is free and easy. Simply visit the Apple App Store or Google Play Marketplace. After downloading the app:

- **Select Corridor Energy Cooperative as your electric provider**
- **Enter your current username and password, or create a new account**

Account Management Made Simple

SmartHub makes it easy to manage your account from anywhere.

You can view and pay your bill, receive notifications when it's due, and make secure payments online or via the mobile app.

Download the SmartHub app today and start managing your energy the smart way.

What To Do If You Encounter Damaged Electrical Equipment

It only takes a moment — a storm, a curious critter, or a car accident — for electrical equipment to become damaged. When that happens, what you do next could save your life.

Power lines, poles, and padmount transformers (the green boxes you see in yards and along roads) may look harmless after they're damaged. But they can still be energized. Electricity can also travel through the ground and nearby objects, creating invisible danger around the scene.

The most important rule: stay away and report it.

If you see damaged electrical equipment or a downed power line:

- **Stay at least 50 feet away.**
- **Never touch or lean on anything nearby.**
- **Call 9-1-1 to report it.**

If your vehicle ever comes in contact with power equipment:

- **Stay inside the vehicle**
- **Call 9-1-1 -and wait for help**

Only exit if there is a fire. If you must get out, jump clear without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time, then hop or shuffle away with your feet together.

Remember: damaged power equipment may look lifeless, but it can still be deadly. Keeping your distance and calling for help is the safest thing you can do.

For more electrical safety tips, visit www.corridorenergy.coop.



How Weather Degree Days Impact Your Energy Use

Have you ever noticed your energy use goes up one month and down the next – even when your routine (or thermostat) hasn't changed? Outdoor temperature is often the cause.

Utilities use something called weather degree days to measure how much heating or cooling is needed during a given period. Degree days compare the average outdoor temperature to 65°F, which is considered a standard indoor comfort baseline.

There are two types of degree days:

Heating Degree Days (HDD) measure how much heating is needed when temperatures fall below 65°F.

If the average temperature is 45°F, that day equals 20 heating degree days ($65 - 45 = 20$).

In colder months, higher heating degree days usually mean:

- Furnaces run longer
- Space heaters get used more
- Water heaters may work harder
- Homes lose heat faster, especially when insulation levels are low

Even if you keep your thermostat at the same setting, your heating system may have to run more often during a colder-than-normal stretch.

Cooling Degree Days (CDD) measure the amount of cooling required when temperatures rise above 65°F.

If the average temperature is 80°F, that day equals 15 cooling degree days ($80 - 65 = 15$).

In hotter months, higher cooling degree days usually mean:

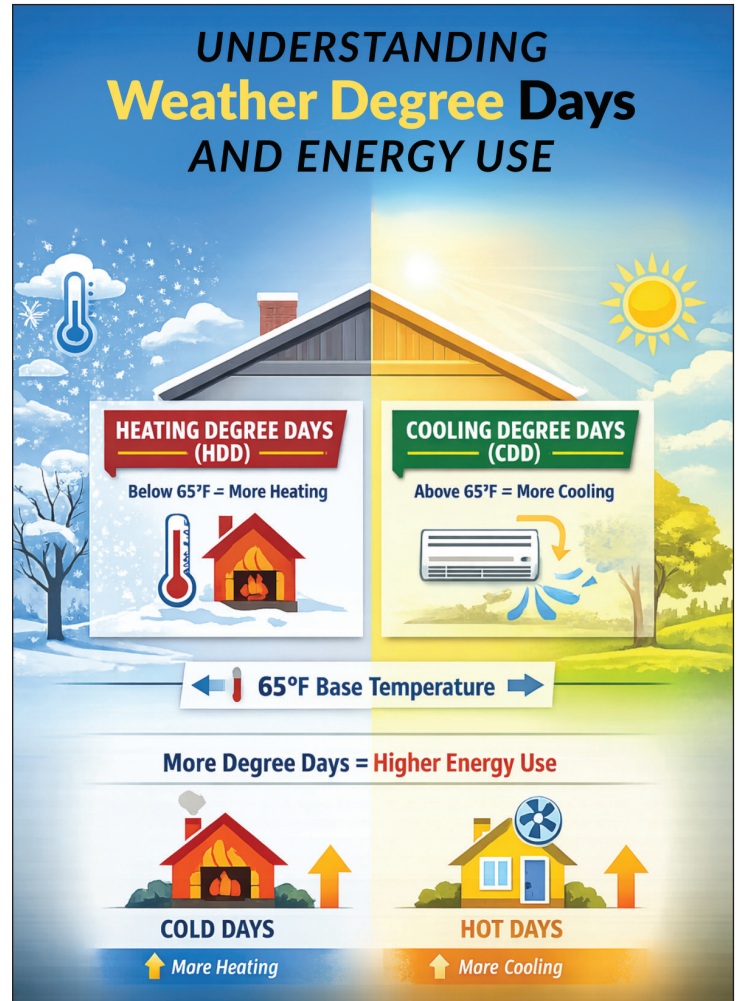
- Air conditioners run longer
- Fans and dehumidifiers run more
- Refrigerators work harder
- Homes gain heat faster, especially with sun exposure or poor ventilation

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR YOUR BILL

The weather has a big impact on how much electricity you use—and what you see on your energy bill. The more degree days, the harder heating or cooling systems have to work to keep your home comfortable. When those systems run more often, energy use typically goes up as well.

WHAT IS HAPPENING THIS WINTER?

December 2025 was about 70% colder than November and 18% colder than December 2024, based on HDD. During that colder period, our billing department received more calls from members concerned about higher energy use.



By contrast, February 2026 had 33% less HDD “milder” than January 2026, and our billing department received far fewer calls about high usage.

TIPS TO REDUCE WEATHER-DRIVEN ENERGY USE

While we can't control outdoor temperatures, small efficiency steps – like sealing air leaks, maintaining HVAC systems, and adjusting thermostats – can help manage weather-related energy use.

Understanding degree days can help you better interpret seasonal changes in your energy bill and make informed decisions about home energy use.

Source: www.degree-days.net

COMING IN MAY: Next month, we'll share weather degree day information specific to our area and explain how local weather patterns can impact your home's energy use. Watch for more details in the May newsletter.

WHEN THE STORMS ROLL IN, LINEWORKERS ROLL OUT

#ThankALineworker



Photo credit: Safe Electricity

On April 13, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day to honor those who power life! Rain or shine, day or night, lineworkers brave challenging conditions to make sure we have electricity when we need it. They take pride in powering the places we call home. Today and every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and commitment.



Easter Pancake Casserole

- 2 cups baking mix (such as Bisquick)
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese, divided
- 1 cup milk
- 5 tablespoons maple syrup
- 2 large eggs
- 1 ½ tablespoons white sugar
- 12 slices cooked bacon, crumbled

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x13-inch baking pan. Mix baking mix, 1 cup Cheddar cheese, milk, maple syrup, eggs, and sugar together in a bowl; pour into prepared pan. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 20 to 25 minutes. Sprinkle bacon and remaining 1 cup Cheddar cheese over casserole; return to oven until cheese is melted, about 5 more minutes.

Plug Into Savings with Smart Plugs

Smart plugs offer an easy way to control when devices in your home use electricity. Just plug one into a standard outlet and connect it to a smartphone app – then you can turn devices on or off, or set schedules that fit your lifestyle. With prices ranging from \$8 to \$25, smart plugs are a great option for lamps, dehumidifiers, window air conditioners, and other small appliances.

By scheduling your devices to run outside Corridor Energy Cooperative’s peak hours (4:01 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.), you can help reduce your energy costs.

Example: Let’s say you have a dehumidifier that runs around the clock. That could cost up to \$46.41 per month. But if you use a smart plug to operate it for just 12 hours a day, and only during off-peak times, you could save about half that amount.

Smart Plug Rebate

Corridor Energy Cooperative offers a rebate to help members get started with smart plugs.

- \$10 per smart plug, up to 50% of the total purchase cost
- The maximum rebate is \$40 per account
- Rebates under \$500 will be applied as a bill credit

Take control of your energy use and savings today. Visit www.corridorenergy.coop to learn more about this rebate and discover additional ways to save energy.



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