

# Watt's New July 2024



## Vernon Electric Cooperative

*"Information for our member-owners."*

## Monthly Co-op



### June Trivia:

Two-way radio systems have been the most reliable communication tool between our field personnel and our office. When did base-to-truck communication begin?

**Answer:** 1947

### July Trivia:

Electric cooperatives are guided by a set of principles. How many core principles guide the operations of cooperatives?

*(See next month's newsletter for answer.)*

## Decode Energy Efficiency

There are energy villains lurking in our homes – air conditioning, water heating, pool pumps, lighting and household appliances, to name some large culprits. Electricity is a crucial part of our daily lives and smart electricity use helps keep electricity rates stable. That's why Vernon Electric Cooperative encourages members to "Do the Summer Shift" during summer weekdays (June – August).

### What is the Summer Shift?

The Summer Shift supports stable rates by helping members use less electricity during times of high demand. Anyone can participate in the Summer Shift by "shifting" non-essential energy use to before 1 p.m. or after 7 p.m., during summer weekdays (June through August). That afternoon window of time is usually when the demand for electricity is at its peak. With a successful Summer Shift program, the cooperative's wholesale power provider – Dairyland Power Cooperative – purchases less electricity during times of peak demand and high prices. Reducing the price paid for our wholesale power contributes to stable retail electricity rates in the long-term.

Dairyland works with its 24-member cooperatives, including Vernon Electric, to cover all our electricity needs. By joining with other cooperatives, the benefit of the Summer Shift is multiplied. To be fair, just doing the Summer Shift may not mean a reduction in actual electricity used because members will still run a dishwasher or take a shower earlier or later in the day. Members looking for a few power tips can not only do the Summer Shift but, also, save energy and improve in-home comfort this summer.

### Discover Power Tips

- Cook outdoors to avoid additional heat from the oven
- Close blinds to help keep the house cool; use a ceiling or table fan to circulate air
- Shift laundry to before 1 p.m. or after 7 p.m., and air-dry clothes instead of putting them in the dryer
- Make sure chicken is the only thing crispy this summer. Use an air fryer instead of your oven
- Run the dishwasher after 7 p.m., opening the door to let dishes air dry overnight
- Bump up the thermostat setting 4 degrees on summer weekdays



DISCOVER  
POWER TIPS

Catch a summer breeze!  
Line dry your clothes.

- Standard Water Heater, 50-74 gallons ..... **\$75**
- Standard Water Heater, 75 gallons or greater..... **\$125**
- Residential High-Efficiency Water Heater, 75-99 gallons with an Energy Factor (EF) of .88 or greater ..... **\$150**
- Residential High-Efficiency Water Heater, 100 gallons or greater with an Energy Factor (EF) of .88 or greater..... **\$300**
- Commercial Water Heater, 75-99 gallons..... **\$150**
- Commercial Water Heater, 100 gallons or greater ..... **\$300**
- Heat Pump Water Heater with an Energy Factor (EF) of 2.20 or greater (load management control not required)..... **\$300**

**Eligibility and Instructions**

- The water heater must be new and purchased and/ or installed, on Vernon Electric lines, in 2024.
- A load management receiver must be installed (free of charge) by a Vernon Electric technician (heat pump water heaters exempt). A load management receiver will turn your water heater off for a few hours during periods of high demand or high market costs for electricity. During these periods, you will rely on the stored hot water in your water heater’s tank.
- Rebates are in place through December 31, 2024, or until funds are depleted.
- Submit rebate form and receipt no later than 3 months from installation.
- Rebate forms are available online at [www.vernonelectric.org](http://www.vernonelectric.org), or by contacting our office.

See Vernon Electric’s website at [www.vernonelectric.org](http://www.vernonelectric.org) for more energy efficiency rebates available, like ENERGY STAR appliances, heat pumps, LED lighting, energy audits, and electric vehicle charging stations.

**Fill the Bucket with School Supplies**

At Vernon Electric Cooperative, we believe in the power of community and the importance of supporting our local schools. This summer, we're excited to launch our "Fill the Bucket" campaign, aimed at collecting school supplies for students in need.

From now until August 31st, we invite you to drop off essential school items at our main office. We're looking for notebooks, pens, pencils, backpacks, calculators, and any other supplies that can help set our students up for success in the upcoming school year.

Our goal is simple: fill the utility bucket to the brim and ensure every child in our community has the tools they need to thrive in their education. Whether you're a member of the cooperative, a local business, or a concerned neighbor, your donation can make a significant difference.

Join us in this worthy cause and help us fill the bucket. Together, we can empower our students and foster a brighter future for our community. For more information, contact our office. Let's make this school year the best one yet for our kids!



**SIGNS OF AN**

**ENERGY SCAM**

**High-Pressure Tactics**

Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.

**Sketchy Payment Methods**

Scammers may ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it's likely a scam.

**Dodgy Communication**

Whether an email, text message or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.

