

WHY IS MY POWER OUT?

When the power goes out, we work hard to resume service as quickly and safely as possible.

Here are some common reasons the power goes out:



STORMS

Mother Nature can interfere with power delivery.



VEGETATION

This is why we work hard to keep power lines clear.



ANIMALS

Curious animals can cause damage, especially squirrels.



ACCIDENTS

Run-ins with a utility pole or other equipment can cause an outage.



PUBLIC DAMAGE

Unsafe digging, equipment or line damage, vandalism or theft can all interfere.



OVERLOAD

This happens when demand spikes, like on a hot summer day.



EQUIPMENT ISSUES

We maintain and inspect equipment regularly, but sometimes malfunctions occur.

Thank you for your patience during outages.

Three DIY Efficiency Projects to Tackle

A new year brings new opportunities to save energy — and money. You may think energy efficiency upgrades require a great deal of time and expense, but that's not always the case.

If you're interested in making your home more efficient but don't want to break the bank, there are several do-it-yourself projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let's take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save energy throughout the year.

Trim Dryer Vent

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: easy

SUPPLIES NEEDED: tin snips, gloves, measuring tape and masking tape

ESTIMATED COST: about \$25 depending on the supplies you already have

If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple of feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line — it should not have a lot of slack, with twists and curves. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint buildup, which can create potential fire hazards.

Simply measure, mark and trim the hose to the desired length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent. If you're unsure about the hose length, check out YouTube.com for a quick video tutorial.

Seal Air Leaks

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: moderate

SUPPLIES NEEDED: caulk and caulk gun, weather stripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels

ESTIMATED COST: \$25-\$50 depending on the materials you purchase

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10%-20% on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing to seal in conditioned air. You should also weather-

strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Types of caulking and weatherstripping materials vary but ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need. For more information, the Department of Energy provides step-by-step instructions for caulking and weather stripping: <https://bit.ly/2Kesu6W>.

Insulate Attic Stairs Opening

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: moderate

SUPPLIES NEEDED (IF YOU BUILD THE BOX YOURSELF): rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood

ESTIMATED COST: \$50-\$100.

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home, but many homeowners don't consider insulating the attic stairs, or the opening to the attic space. Even a well-insulated attic can leak air through the stair opening, but luckily, there's an easy fix.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a local home improvement store like Home Depot or Lowe's for about \$60. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>. Please note, if your attic opening is located in a garage you do not heat and cool, this upgrade will not be as effective.

With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home.

2020 Holiday Office Closings

Jan. 1.....	New Year's Day
May 25.....	Memorial Day
July 3.....	Independence Day
Sept. 7.....	Labor Day
Nov. 26 & 27.....	Thanksgiving
Dec. 24 & 25.....	Christmas