
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1511 14,000 Road, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
*www.twinvalleyelectric.coop*

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP
NEWS



FROM THE CEO

# Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future

As we close another year, I want to pause and express gratitude — for you, the members of Twin Valley Electric — for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision, whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies that impact our local community, comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit the members we serve?

This past year has been marked by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability, affordability and resilience. While the details of federal regulations may seem distant, they significantly impact our daily operations here at home.


Angie Erickson

Over the past year, electric cooperatives across the country came together for advocacy efforts on the EPA's Power Plant Rule. As originally written, the rule would have forced a rapid shift away from always-available power generation resources, threatening the accessibility of a diverse fuel supply that keeps electricity reliable. Renewable energy sources are an essential and growing part of our energy future. However, we also recognize that the demand for electricity

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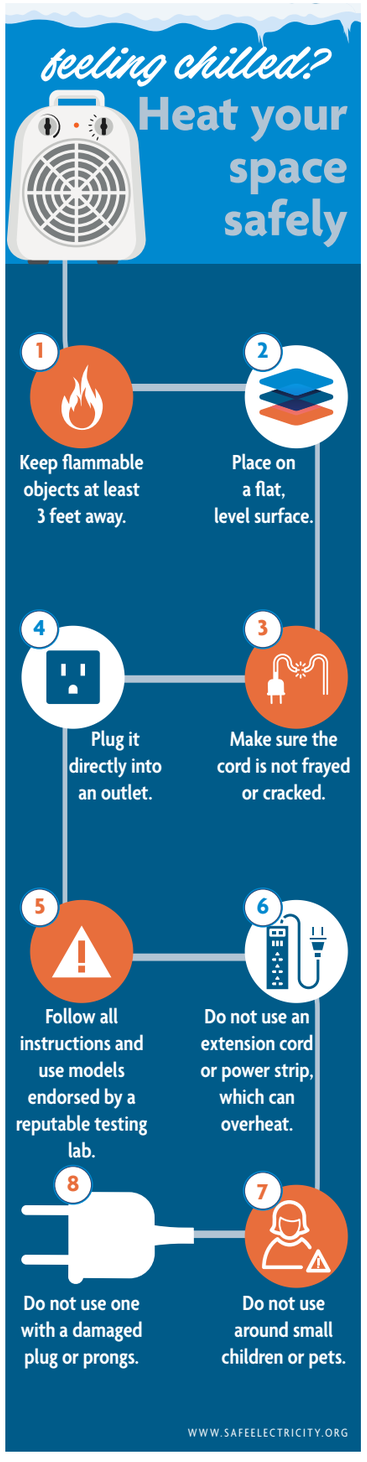
## Our Promise to You

As the demand for electricity continues to grow, our commitment to providing you with reliable power remains steadfast. Looking ahead, we are dedicated to:

- Advocating for energy policies that support our local communities.
- Leveraging innovative technologies to strengthen our grid.
- Listening to your feedback to enhance co-op programs and services.




## Should I Use a Space Heater or Turn up the Heat?

Drafty room? Before reaching for your space heater, consider whether it's better to plug it in or simply turn up the thermostat.

Space heaters are designed to warm small, targeted spaces — not your entire home. If you find yourself relying on one often, it may be time to address your home's energy efficiency.

### FIX EFFICIENCY FIRST, THEN SUPPLEMENT WITH A SPACE HEATER

Improving your home's efficiency helps it retain heat, reduces drafts and reduces your energy use. Many solutions are affordable and do-it-yourself friendly, such as:

- Seal air leaks. Use caulk and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors to prevent drafts.
- Add insulation where it matters. Attic insulation has the biggest return on investment, and loose-fill insulation is an affordable option.
- Check your heating system. Schedule regular service for your furnace or heat pump. If it's outdated or struggling, it could be time for an upgrade. Check with your utility for potential rebates and incentives.
- Use programmable thermostats. These can help reduce energy waste by heating only when and where needed.

Once your home is sealed and insulated, a space heater can be used to increase comfort and warm specific rooms, like a home office or bedroom, without turning up the heat for the whole house.

A space heater is like a ceiling fan; it can improve comfort in a small area, but it's not a whole-house solution.

### USE SPACE HEATERS EFFICIENTLY:

- Heat only the room you're currently in.
- Close doors to keep heat contained.
- Choose the right size — too small and it won't warm you; too big and it wastes energy. Check manufacturer sizing guides.
- Use a heater with a thermostat and timer to avoid overheating the room or wasting electricity.

### STAY SAFE WHILE STAYING WARM:

- Place the heater on a solid, flat, nonflammable surface — never on carpets or rugs.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use extension cords or power strips.
- Keep children, pets and anything flammable, such as curtains or bedding, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- Choose a heater with built-in safety features, including:
  - Overheat sensor.
  - Tip-over shutoff switch.
  - UL, ETL or CSA International certification label.
- Never leave a space heater unattended, especially around children or pets.
- Turn off the heater when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Unplug it when not in use to prevent electrical hazards.


# Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future

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is rising rapidly, and natural gas, coal, and nuclear power remain essential for ensuring power is available around the clock. As we collaborated and engaged with policymakers, we pressed for a more balanced approach to generating power — one that supports clean energy innovation while still recognizing the role of traditional resources. Our efforts are helping to shape a more workable path forward that better protects reliability and keeps costs in check for Twin Valley members.

Another area of ongoing progress came through advocacy work on federal permitting reform. For too long, outdated rules and lengthy delays have stood in the way of building critical infrastructure, including new transmission lines and generation projects. Modernizing this process is essential if we are going to strengthen the electric grid and keep pace with growing demand. This year, electric co-ops helped move the needle on permitting reform, advocating for policies that make the process faster, more predictable and more efficient. Investments we make in infrastructure will reach communities sooner, improving reliability and preparing us for the future.

We're also seeing progress with bipartisan support for the FEMA Act of 2025, which would expedite the disaster recovery process for electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. Severe storms are a fact of life, and their impact on the electric system can be devastating.

FEMA is a crucial partner for electric co-ops in efforts to restore power after disaster strikes, but currently, the federal reimbursement process after a major storm is slow and full of red tape. If passed, the bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency to help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster.

Achievements like these are not just wins in Washington — they are wins for Twin Valley members like you.

As we look ahead to a new year, I see both challenges and opportunities on the horizon. The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by the rising need for more electricity, new tools and technologies, and federal energy policies.

The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. I'm confident that with the dedication of Twin Valley employees and the continued support of our members, we are well-positioned to adapt and meet challenges head-on. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable power for today — and tomorrow.


# EV Winter Driving Guide

## How to keep your electric vehicle running in cold weather

With winter storms brewing, you might be wondering: Will my electric car handle the snow and cold? The answer is yes — if you prepare.

EVs can be affected by extreme temperatures, especially the cold, but they're built to handle winter conditions like any other vehicle. In fact, countries with harsh winters — like Norway — have some of the highest EV ownership rates in the world.

### HOW DOES COLD WEATHER AFFECT EVS?

Just like gas-powered cars, EVs lose some efficiency when temperatures drop.

Battery performance: EVs use lithium-ion batteries. These store and release energy by moving lithium ions through a liquid electrolyte between the battery's two main parts: the anode (negative side) and the cathode (positive side), as follows:

- **CHARGING:** Ions move from the anode to the cathode.
- **DRIVING:** Ions move back from the cathode to the anode to power the car.

Cold weather thickens this "liquid highway," slowing the ions. As a result, batteries take longer to charge and can drain faster.

Cabin heating: Gas vehicles produce waste heat that can be redirected to warm the cabin. EVs don't. Instead, the battery powers the heater, defrosters and extras like seat warmers — draining more energy. This extra demand can significantly reduce the car's range.

For example, tests show that, at 20 degrees, using the heater can cut your driving range by more than 40% compared to a mild 75-degree day. Without using the heater, the drop is closer to 12%. That's an extra 28% loss just from using the heater.

### HOW TO BOOST EV EFFICIENCY IN COLD WEATHER

Cold weather doesn't have to leave you stranded. These simple tips can preserve your range and ensure that your EV gets you where you need to go this winter.

1. **KEEP IT PLUGGED IN OVERNIGHT.** Park in your garage or carport if possible and keep your EV plugged in during cold spells to maintain battery warmth and a full charge.
2. **PRECONDITION BEFORE DRIVING.** Many EVs let you warm the cabin and battery while plugged in. Schedule this to finish right before you leave.
3. **INSTALL A LEVEL 2 CHARGER.** These charge fast and work well for scheduled charging and preheating — especially on freezing nights.
4. **PRIORITIZE HEATED SURFACES.** Heated seats and steering wheels use far less power than blasting the cabin heat. And remember to wear layers to stay comfortable.
5. **CHECK TIRE PRESSURE.** Cold air lowers tire pressure, reducing traction and efficiency. Keep tires at recommended PSI levels.
6. **DRIVE GENTLY.** Avoid rapid acceleration, reduce speed, and use regenerative braking when you can.
7. **PROTECT OUTDOOR CHARGING GEAR.** While charging connectors are waterproof, heavy snow or ice can cause them to freeze. Use a magnetic connector cover or bag to prevent freezing.

### PREPARING FOR A WINTER OUTAGE

About 23% of weather-related outages in the U.S. are caused by winter storms. Before the storm hits:

- **KEEP YOUR EV CHARGED.** Plug in every night leading up to a storm. Even if outages are short, a full battery provides peace of mind.
- **KNOW YOUR CHARGING OPTIONS.** Map public Level 2 or DC fast chargers within a 50-mile radius. Some may have backup power or be in less outage-prone areas.
- **REMEMBER: GAS PUMPS NEED POWER TOO.** During outages, gas stations may not operate — so your EV's stored power could be the more reliable option.
- **CONSIDER SOLAR PLUS BATTERY STORAGE.** A solar power system with battery backup can charge your EV (and run your home) during extended outages.

### BOTTOM LINE

Like any vehicle, EVs need a little extra attention in the winter. With preparation — from charging habits to smart driving — EVs can handle even the coldest days and keep you moving when it matters most.

### CHARGE YOUR *ELECTRIC VEHICLE SAFELY*

**PLUG DIRECTLY INTO AN OUTLET**
Never use an extension cord or multi-plug adapter with a charging cord. Instead, plug directly into an appropriate outlet.

**USE NAME-BRAND CHARGERS**
Charging equipment should be sold or endorsed by the EV manufacturer. This is not the time to bargain hunt!

**USE A LICENSED CONTRACTOR**
Have a Level 2 charger installed on its own circuit by a professional who will assess if your home can handle the load.

**LOOK FOR WEAR AND TEAR**
Frequently check for wear and damage to charging cords, plugs and ports, which could present a shock hazard.

**FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS**
Manufacturers provide important instructions for charging your vehicle. Follow these closely.

**KEEP OUT OF REACH**
Make it a habit to place all charging components out of children's reach when not in use.

**CHECK PUBLIC STATIONS**
When using a public charging station, look for excessive wear and damage to the equipment first.

**REMEMBER**
The biggest difference between Level 1 and a Level 2 charging is the amount of time it takes to charge a vehicle.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG