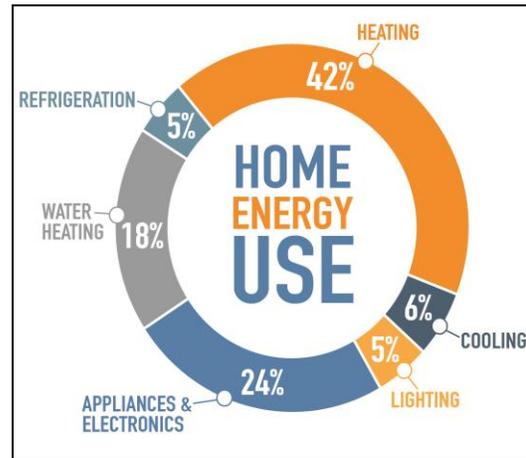


## Cold temperatures could cause a spike in local energy use

The unusually cold start to 2018 has resulted in higher than normal energy use by members of Shelby Energy and other utilities across the region.

Shelby Energy is encouraging members to be aware of their energy use and take steps to help manage electric bills, which are also expected to be higher than usual as a result of increased usage.



- Weather, especially cold weather, affects residential energy bills more than any other factor. Heating claims about a 42 percent share of overall energy use in U.S. homes.
- The temperature difference between the inside of your home and the air temperature outside is greater during the winter than in the summer.
- The greater the temperature difference, the harder your heating system has to work to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature.
- Shelby Energy offers multiple types of payment programs to help members manage their bill.
  - **We offer both levelized and fixed budget billing.** On the levelized program, members can pay a 12-month averaged bill, and on the fixed program, members pay a fixed monthly amount with a review/catch-up bill at the end of 12 months.
  - **Another alternative to traditional billing is our Prepay service.** This is a pay-as-you-go account that really allows our members to track what they use each day, and does not require a deposit.

### **8 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills**

Winter is a tough time on our wallets with higher heating bills, especially after the long cold snap we experienced in early January. Here are some ways to cut back on energy usage:

- Find and seal all air leaks. Check for cracks near doors and windows, gaps around pipes and chimneys, and any unfinished areas. Plug leaks with weather-stripping, caulk, or expandable foam.
- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees, or install a programmable thermostat.
- Close blinds and curtains at night; if sunny, open them during the day.
- Cover drafty windows yourself with easy, effective, and inexpensive shrink-to-fit plastic.
- Turn off lights when not in use. Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.
- Lower your water heater temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
- Keep your garage door closed for a warmer garage in winter, and cooler garage in summer.

Call Shelby Energy at 1-800-292-6585 if you have questions.