



## Autumn Savings, Safety, and Fun

As the leaves turn and the holidays draw near, it's a season full of warm gatherings and meaningful traditions. Whether you're stringing up lights or layering up indoors, a little extra planning can go a long way in keeping your home comfortable and your energy use down.

This season, we're sharing a few timely tips, festive ideas, and smart ways to save—all designed to help you make the most of the season ahead.

### Seasonal Energy Conservation & Safety Tips

Shorter days and cooler temperatures mean it's time to prepare your home for winter efficiency. Here are a few simple steps to stay safe and save energy:

<b>Set Your Thermostat Wisely</b>  Set your thermostat no higher than 68° and add layers for extra warmth. A cozy sweater and blanket can keep you comfortable without the extra energy use.	<b>Change HVAC Filters Regularly</b>  A clean filter improves airflow and helps your system run more efficiently. This is especially important when it's working overtime in colder weather.
<b>Use LED Holiday Lights</b>  LED strands use up to 80% less energy than traditional bulbs and stay cooler, reducing fire risk while keeping your home festive.	<b>Use Timers for Light Displays</b>  By using smart outlets, photoelectric timers, or smartphone apps, you can set your lights to turn on and off automatically to help conserve energy.
<b>Check Smoke &amp; Carbon Monoxide Detectors</b>  With windows closed and heat on, it's essential to stay safe. Test alarms monthly, change batteries as needed, and replace units older than 10 years.	<b>Inspect Extension Cords &amp; Outlets</b>  Before you plug in decorations, check cords for damage and avoid overloading outlets.

### Save & Earn: Energy Rebates for the Holidays

If you're shopping for new appliances this season, don't miss out on our Energy Save & Earn Rebate Program.

Qualified Energy Star appliances, like refrigerators, washers, and water heaters, not only help lower your electricity use but also make you eligible for cash-back rebates from HEC.



Think of it as the gift that keeps on giving—lower energy bills and a little extra in your pocket this holiday season.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

### Light Up the Season: DIY Mason Jar Lanterns

Looking to add a warm, energy-efficient touch to your holiday decor? DIY Mason Jar Lanterns are an easy, family-friendly craft that can be customized for any season and reused year after year.

**Bonus:** Using battery-powered lights means less seasonal strain on your electricity bill.



**What You'll Need:**

- Clean mason jars (any size)
- Battery-powered LED tealights or fairy lights
- Decorative filler (like leaves, pinecones, mini pumpkins, or snowflakes)
- Ribbon, twine, or burlap
- Glass paint or stickers (optional)
- Hot glue gun (optional, for securing items)

**Steps:**

- Clean the Jar:** Remove any labels or residue. A quick soak in warm, soapy water should do the trick.
- Add Your Filler:** Place faux snow, small ornaments, dried leaves, or seasonal items inside the jar.
- Insert LED Lights:** Tuck a battery-powered tealight or a string of fairy lights into the center.
- Decorate the Outside:** Wrap the top of the jar with ribbon, twine, or burlap. Add seasonal touches like leaf cutouts for fall or snowflake stickers for winter.
- Display & Enjoy:** Place on porches, windowsills, or as a holiday table centerpiece for a cozy glow.



### Seasonal Fun Fact: Did You Know...

Many households see an increase in electricity use in the winter from lighting up decorations, extra time indoors, and holiday cooking, which can amount to extra energy use. For example, Christmas lights alone often add around 65 kWh\* to December's monthly energy use.



> **65 kWh is equivalent** to running 3 loads of laundry every week for one month.

> **Tip:** Choosing energy-efficient decorations (such as LED lights), plus unplugging displays overnight and powering them down when you're not home, can help reduce your usage without dimming the holiday cheer.

\*Data from [Anata Energy Source](#)

*From all of us at HEC, thank you for allowing us to power your homes, your businesses, and your holiday traditions. We're proud to serve Harrisonburg—and we wish you a safe, joyful, and energy-smart season.*

## Mark Your Calendar

**October 25** - Harrisonburg Skeleton Fest

**November 9** - Harrisonburg Veterans Parade

**November 11** - Closed for Veterans Day

**November 27 & 28** - Closed for Thanksgiving

**December 6** - Holiday Parade & Winter Wonderfest

**December 24** - Closing Early

**December 25 & 26** - Closed for Christmas

**January 1, 2026** - Closed for New Year's Day

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