



# PowerLines

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Coming Soon: *The Peak Project*

Kootenai Electric members interested in helping the Cooperative lead the way in managing energy consumption will soon be able to sign up for the Peak Project, an innovative new collaboration between KEC and the Bonneville Power Administration.

### THE Peak Project

Here's how it works: KEC will recruit members from specific geographic areas who might be interested in participating in the pilot; the program is voluntary. Each participating member will receive a free home-energy audit and a programmable thermostat (a \$200 value).

Then, a few times per year, when energy consumption reaches temporary peaks on the hottest and coldest days, your thermostat would power down subtly (2-4 degrees), resulting in a small temperature change for a few hours. Also, your water heater might cycle off for a short interval, still keeping the water hot by virtue of its insulation. [1566236]

Any differences would likely go unnoticed.

The benefits, though, are easily measurable. With enough community participation, we are making sure there's enough affordable power for everyone, now and in the future.

To find out more about the Peak Project, visit [www.kec.com/peak\\_project.php](http://www.kec.com/peak_project.php) or call 208.765.1200.



## KEC Warns of Phone Scams

Kootenai Electric Cooperative (KEC) has issued a warning of local and nationwide scams that have specifically targeted electric cooperative members and other energy customers.

There have been reports of electric customers receiving telephone calls from scam artists demanding immediate credit card payment to avoid disconnection of service. In one instance, a KEC member received a call from someone claiming to be from KEC. The caller told the member that his payment did not go through and that his power was going to be disconnected. When the member asked the caller how he could keep the power on, he was told he could pay with a credit card. When the member questioned the caller further the line went dead.

KEC recommends the following tips to members who are approached or contacted by someone claiming to be a KEC employee:

1. Always ask for company identification or an employee identification number. [1734350]
2. If you are not certain a telephone call is coming from KEC, do not provide any personal or banking information. KEC recommends asking the caller to provide their employee number or simply hang up and call KEC at 208.765.1200.
3. KEC employees may, on occasion, be dispatched to a member's home for unscheduled routine maintenance. If a visitor or caller is unable or unwilling to provide their name or employee identification card, please call KEC at 208.765.1200 and report it to local law enforcement authorities.



## Save Using Your Co-Op Connections® Card!

Don't forget to use your KEC Co-Op Connections® card. This card is free and another benefit of being a member of KEC. Be

sure to look at all the discounts by visiting our web site at [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com). It's a good idea to know the discount of the business you are visiting. If you don't have internet access, call us at 208.292.3270 and we will send you a listing of all discounts. If you are a business owner or manager and would like to offer a discount to our members, call 208.292.3270 for more information. [1668651]

### Outback Steakhouse Holiday Offer

Show your Co-Op Connections® Card and receive a Seared Ahi Tuna appetizer free with a \$50 or more gift card purchase. Purchase a \$100 gift card and get a \$20 gift card for use in January or February. Purchase \$500 or more in gift cards and receive 10 percent in in-store gift cards.

*Offer good through January 1, 2010, at the Coeur d'Alene restaurant.*

## Invest in Safety with Tamper-Resistant Outlets

Each year, approximately 2,400 children—an average of seven a day—receive emergency room treatment for injuries caused by inserting conductive material into electrical outlets.

Hairpins are involved 32 percent of the time, followed by keys, 17 percent, and fingers, 12 percent. Other common culprits include pins, screws, nails, twist ties and paper clips.

The end result? About 95 percent of the time children receive a burn, according to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Though ranging in severity, a significant number of serious and fatal burns occur, and even minor injuries can leave emotional trauma. Pediatric burns can be particularly serious, because a child's skin is thin and offers little resistance to electric flow or heat.

The danger of electrical outlets isn't new; parents often use plastic outlet caps to cover outlets when "childproofing" a home. Unfortunately, the Electrical Safety Foundation, Inc. (ESFI) claims plastic caps are not the safest option since they can easily be removed by a young child. Instead, ESFI suggests installing tamper-resistant outlets.

Although normal looking, these types of outlets include a shutter mechanism to protect against harm from inserting foreign objects. The spring-loaded system only allows electricity to flow when you apply equal pressure to both sides of the outlet, as happens when you plug in an electrical device. During unused conditions, both shutters are closed.

For co-op consumers with brand new homes, tamper-resistant outlets may already have been installed; the 2008 National Electrical Code requires them. However, these outlets are cheap—costing as little as \$2 at some retailers—and can easily be incorporated into older homes.

*Source: Electrical Safety Foundation, Inc., U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission*

### KEC Holiday Office Hours

The KEC office will be closed on November 26 and 27 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. For the Christmas holiday, KEC will close at 3 p.m. on December 24 and will be closed on December 25. KEC will also close at 3 p.m. on December 31 and will be closed on January 1 for the New Year.

### B&B Winter Tour

The North Idaho Bed & Breakfast Association presents the Annual Winter Tour on Sunday, December 13, from 12-5 p.m. [1525462]

This tour is free and open to the public with the donation of canned food items for each B&B visited, which will benefit area food banks. Visit [www.nibba.com](http://www.nibba.com) or call 208.457.9519 for details.

### Win a \$50 Energy Credit

Four KEC account numbers are hidden in this newsletter. If one of these numbers is yours, contact us at 208.765.1200 and receive a \$50 credit on your bill!

### Board of Directors Meeting

The next KEC Board meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday, December 17. The meeting date is subject to change. Confirm with Terry Brown at 208.292.3211 if you'd like to attend.

Outage to report: **877.744.1055**  
Business line: **208.765.1200**  
Call before you dig: **811**  
Web: **[www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com)**  
E-mail: **[kec@kec.com](mailto:kec@kec.com)**