Use the article below to explain some often-overlooked reasons why electric bills go up in winter.

**Why Higher Electric Bills in Winter?**

Monthly electricity bills are typically higher in winter months, even if you don’t have electric heating in your home. Little things that are unique to the winter season can add up. Listed below are a few items that might contribute to your increased electric usage this time of year:

1. Even non-electric heating systems require electricity to power blowers or circulation pumps. These devices will operate more hours as outside temperatures drop. In extremely cold weather, some systems run almost constantly to keep up.

2. During the darker days of winter, we turn on more lighting, plus lamps stay on longer due to shorter daylight hours.

3. Some folks add a bit more warmth with electric fireplaces or space heaters in living areas, garages or workshops. Engine heaters for cars, trucks and tractors will also add their share to the monthly bill.

4. With visiting family over holidays, hot water use for showers, dish washing and clothes washing multiplies. This has a surprising effect on electricity consumption if you have an electric water heater. Also, clothes dryers will typically run more often in winter months.

5. Outdoor lighting and holiday displays contribute their share, along with extra baking and cooking during holidays.

6. We all tend to watch more TV in winter, and often leave TVs on as background noise. Today’s new large-screen models consume more electricity than conventional televisions.

7. In some households, electric blankets and heating pads are put into service to increase comfort.

So during the heating months or holiday season, consider how any of these factors have affected your monthly bill. Weigh the cost of electricity against the value received, and make adjustments as needed.

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**Developed by:**

[Image: Rural Electricity Resource Council](www.rerc.org)

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