



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Firelands Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
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**LOAD MANAGEMENT 'PEAKBUSTER' PROGRAM & INCENTIVES**  
*Load management efforts help to reduce costs for all co-op members!*

When peak energy alerts are announced and energy conservation is critical, updates will be posted on the cooperative's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/FirelandsElectric](http://www.facebook.com/FirelandsElectric), and Twitter newsfeed, [twitter.com/Firelands](http://twitter.com/Firelands). Firelands Electric also provides notifications through the cooperative's SmartHub application, which sends alerts to your mobile device or e-mail. For more information, visit [www.firelandsec.com/content/smarthub-101](http://www.firelandsec.com/content/smarthub-101).

**LOAD MANAGEMENT 'PEAKBUSTER' AGREEMENT**

During periods of peak electric usage, load management programs allow Firelands Electric Cooperative (FEC) to reduce demand across its distribution system, which can ultimately reduce power supply costs. FEC's load management programs are voluntary and incentives are provided to those members who choose to participate. To be eligible for the cooperative's incentives, members must agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. Member agrees to have a cooperative-owned load management device installed by FEC, and thereafter to permit the cooperative to interrupt electric service to the heating, air-conditioning system, and/or electric water heater during periods of high demand. The cooperative's load management device will interrupt power to the electric appliance only during periods of peak load conditions experienced by FEC and/or its power supplier. Peak load conditions typically result during extreme weather conditions, between 2-6 p.m. and 6-9 a.m. Most interruptions occur on weekdays but can also happen on weekends and holidays if necessary. If an emergency is declared by the regional transmission operator, which threatens the stability and integrity of the cooperative's electric distribution system, FEC may utilize its load management system to control load as necessary until the emergency no longer exists.
2. Member agrees to permit FEC to periodically inspect all associated load management equipment upon request to ensure that the heating, air-conditioning system, and/or electric water heater equipment is installed and operating in accordance with this agreement.
3. Member agrees that all installed remote-control devices and switches shall remain installed for a minimum period of one year from the date of this agreement. All cooperative-owned equipment must be installed or removed only by authorized FEC representatives. Any tampering with or removal of the load management equipment by unauthorized persons is prohibited and can result in termination of this agreement. If the agreement is terminated, any reoccurring incentives from the cooperative will cease.
4. Member agrees to continue to assume full responsibility for the installation, maintenance, repair, and operability cost efficiency of the heating, air-conditioning system, and/or electric water heater. Member fully releases the cooperative from any liability for any damages resulting from any malfunction of the load management equipment, including but not necessarily limited to property damage to buildings, furnishings, equipment, appliances, or other household appurtenances.
5. This agreement shall become effective on the date the controlling load management device is activated and shall remain in effect thereafter until terminated by either party. The cooperative shall be entitled to terminate any incentive discounts if member fails to uphold this agreement. In the event this agreement is terminated, member must return all FEC installed load management equipment or reimburse the cooperative for the cost of said device if damaged. If member requests termination of this agreement, it is at FEC's discretion whether to re-enroll the member at a later date.

Member has read all of the foregoing and agrees to participate in the cooperative's load management program, within the guidelines set out above. Member will permit the installation of a cooperative-owned load management device on the heating, air-conditioning system, and/or electric water heater equipment.

Cooperative Representative	Date	Member's Signature	Date
		Account Number	Line Loc.

# **EXTREME TEMPERATURES BRING PEAK ELECTRIC USE**

***Cooperative load management efforts help to reduce costs for all co-op members!***

## **WHY IS LOAD MANAGEMENT NECESSARY?**

During peak demand times, it costs more for Firelands Electric Co-op's power supplier, Buckeye Power, to generate and/or buy the large amounts of electricity being consumed across the PJM Interconnection. To meet the demand, Buckeye Power's large 'base load' coal power plants are running at full capacity and additional peaking plants are fired up and brought on line to help supply enough electricity.

Higher demand for electricity and higher peak electric loads mean higher costs for all consumers. A peak of electrical demand is set when consumers of a particular electric utility use more electricity than at any other time in the past. When a new peak is set, each of the 24 distribution electric cooperatives in Ohio, including Firelands Electric, is assigned a new demand charge on their bill from Buckeye Power, Inc.

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?**

A member-consumer's power bill is directly affected by this demand charge. If a distribution cooperative is paying more for power, it's very likely that the co-op will have to adjust its rates at some point to cover increased costs.

Peak demand ONLY occurs during extreme weather conditions and temperatures — the hottest days during the summer and coldest days in the winter — and can result in a Peak Alert. During these Peak Alerts, Firelands Electric's voluntary load management program may be implemented. Load management participants agree to have a PeakBuster device installed in their home or business. These devices are connected to electric water heater circuits and HVAC systems, and are only implemented on the hottest and coldest days of the year — typically less than 10 times per year.

Summer load management efforts typically take place on very hot and humid days between 2 and 6 p.m. Winter load control occurs on bitter cold mornings between 6 and 10 a.m., and frigid evenings from 5 to 9 p.m. The time and duration of load management efforts may be adjusted, depending upon weather conditions and power loads.

Because of the large geographic area served by the PJM Interconnection utility group, there is potential for wintertime demand peaks to occur involving Buckeye Power and Firelands Electric. Cooperative members may be affected by load management efforts in order to reduce high demand across the PJM territory, and keep power costs as low as possible for all consumers in the 13-state group.

## **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

During extreme weather, please help lower demand by reducing your use of electricity wherever you can. Avoid using major appliances during high demand times and adjust your heating or air-conditioning thermostat by four degrees. If members can reduce the demand for electricity — even a little — during peak demand periods we will all benefit and enjoy lower electric bills in the future. With everyone helping, we can control or even reduce the peak, and stabilize the cost of our electricity for all Firelands Electric Co-op members!

During peak weather conditions, please cut back electricity use wherever possible:

- Postpone laundry, dishwashing and bathing until later
- Temporarily adjust your thermostat four degrees — higher in the summer and lower in the winter
- Close all draperies and window blinds to reduce energy loss
- Turn off unneeded lights and appliances
- Avoid use of large electrical items, including clothes washers and dryers, during peak alert conditions
- Put your pool pump on a timer and have the pump "off" during summer peak time, between 2 - 6 p.m.
- Join the nearly 4,900 Firelands Electric members who have a PeakBuster control installed in their home



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