



REPLACE HVAC AIR FILTERS

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: energy.gov

Daylight Saving Time Ends Nov. 6

CONTACT US

26198 Craigs Creek Rd., P.O. Box 265
New Castle, VA 24127-0265

Phone

540-864-5121 • 800-760-2232

Email

craigbot@cbec.coop

Website

cbec.coop



Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

President

Frank Garman

CEO

Jeff M. Ahearn

Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



Co-ops Host Rural Fiber Expo

In mid-September, the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Broadband Cooperatives hosted its second Rural Fiber Expo and association annual meeting. The event, held in Norfolk, Va., attracted industry professionals and legislators from across Virginia, Maryland and neighboring states.

A variety of topics were covered during several sessions. I was fortunate to participate on a panel of Virginia and Maryland electric cooperative CEOs to discuss challenges, best practices and the future.

Thanks to the leadership of VMDABC, Virginia is set to become one of the first large states in the country to deliver total broadband access statewide. Since 2017, cooperatives have worked to connect more than 30,000 Virginians. In just



Manager's Message

Jeff Ahearn, CEO

the last year, they've also established plans for approximately 210,000 homes to receive fiber over the next three to five years.

Despite tremendous success in closing the digital divide, much work is left to be done to deliver broadband to the remaining 200,000 Virginians.

Rest assured, your electric cooperative team is working hard to find ways to connect every home and business throughout our service area. Similar to rural electrification in the 1930s, this unmet need must be fulfilled.

CBEC Offices Closed for Holidays

Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative offices will be closed for the following holidays:

- Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday;
- Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, in observance of the Christmas holiday; and
- Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of the New Year's holiday.

CBEC directors and employees wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



Keeping Pets and Energy Bills Comfortable

During the winter months, make sure your whole family, including your four-legged members, is cozy without taking a big “bite” out of your budget.

Many people consider their four-legged companions to be part of the family and can't imagine life without them. During the winter months, make sure your whole family, including your four-legged members, is cozy — without taking a big “bite” out of your budget.

Following are a few simple ways you can make your home more comfortable this winter, which can ultimately help you save on energy bills.

At the onset of the cold weather season, replace the HVAC filter for better air quality and to help the unit operate more efficiently. You can also keep your home cozier by replacing caulk and weatherstripping around windows and doors. If your home is particularly chilly, you can tape or affix heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against the cold. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

Winter can be “ruff,” so consider setting your thermostat at 68 degrees or as low as comfortably possible, a “purr-fect” temperature for people and pets. This is especially important for smaller, short hair and older pets — not just for warmth, but for their general health. Puppies, kittens and older pets with arthritis or other ailments may have a harder time controlling their body heat and need the additional warmth when it's chilly out.

Pets that sleep close to the floor can be subject to cold drafts that enter your home through windows and exterior doors. If your pet's bed is near a window or door that feels drafty, tightly roll up a towel and place it near the bottom of the door or window to eliminate the draft. Cutting down on cold drafts helps everyone feel more comfortable during colder months.

If possible, elevate your pet's bed so it's not placed directly on a cold floor. An old chair or sofa cushion works well. If you don't use a dog bed, take some old blankets and create a donut shape on the cushion so the dog can snuggle and “nest” within the blanket. You can do the same for cats but on a smaller scale. Blankets enable pets to nestle into them, even when they aren't tired, and provide a comfortable place for dogs and cats to curl up.

During the day, open your blinds and curtains to allow sunlight to warm your home. Close window coverings at night for an added layer of insulation.

At Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative, we want to help you save energy and money. Check out the Energy Solutions tab at the brand new cbec.coop.

We can't control the weather, but we can provide advice to help you save energy and keep your family and furry friends more comfortable during the winter season.

