

# Energy Lines

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## CEO Column

### Investing in your future

By Jeremy Nelms, Flint Energies President & CEO

**As your local power provider, Flint Energies' mission has always been simple: exceeding the expectations of those we serve at every opportunity.** We know our Members expect and deserve quality service and reliability when it comes to a vital component of our daily lives, electricity.

But behind every switch, every warm home and every business that opens its doors is a complex system that requires constant care. Reliable electricity doesn't happen by accident. It requires ongoing investment in our local grid—through system repairs, maintenance, upgrades and the integration of new technologies that help us operate smarter and more efficiently.

Much of the energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve us well, age alone means that components must be repaired or replaced to maintain performance and safety. From poles and wires to transformers and substations, every part of the grid has a lifespan. Routine maintenance helps extend that lifespan, but eventually equipment must be updated to meet modern standards. These proactive investments reduce the likelihood of outages, shorten restoration times when disruptions do occur and create a stronger backbone for our growing community.

The demands on the electric grid are also evolving. Homes and businesses today use more electricity than ever, and that trend will only continue. Electric vehicles, advanced HVAC systems, data centers, new commercial/industrial facilities, and even continued residential growth add load to the local distribution system. As these technologies take hold, the grid must be able to support increased demand while maintaining the reliability our Members expect.



Strategic upgrades such as the new substation constructed near Woodard Road in Kathleen, are essential to ensuring we can meet these needs both today and in the decades ahead. At the same time, new technologies are reshaping how we operate. Tools such as automated switching devices and smart metering systems allow us to detect problems faster and respond more effectively. These technologies can isolate problems, reroute power to minimize outages and provide real-time data that helps us plan and maintain equipment more efficiently.

Implementing innovative technologies into the grid is not just a convenience—it is a necessity for ensuring reliability in an increasingly complex energy landscape.

While these improvements require thoughtful planning and financial investment, the return is significant. A stronger grid supports economic growth, improves service quality and enhances safety for our crews and community. Most importantly, it ensures that the essential power you rely on is available whenever you need it.

Our commitment to reliability runs deeper than infrastructure alone. It reflects our responsibility to the people and communities we serve. Every upgrade, every repair and every technology we deploy is an investment in your quality of life—from the comfort of your home to the success of local businesses and schools.

We know that powering our community means preparing for the future, not just maintaining the present. By investing in our local grid today, we are building the foundation for a brighter, more resilient tomorrow.

# BEST BETS FOR Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

## UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

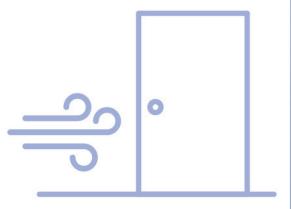
## MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT



Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

## ELIMINATE DRASTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



## USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER



Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.

## LOWER THE THERMOSTAT



Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).

## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Beware of "winter bill relief" energy scams. Scammers often exploit high winter bills by offering fake discount or relief programs to unsuspecting consumers. They may ask for upfront payments or personal details to lower your rate. Legitimate utilities never demand gift cards, wire transfers or payment through apps like PayPal or Venmo. Always verify offers directly by calling Flint Energies at 1.800.342.3616. Do not call any phone numbers provided in a suspicious email or text.

Remember to take time to confirm before you pay; real savings programs won't pressure you for immediate action.

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# Keeping pets and energy bills comfortable

I don't know about you, but we consider our four-legged companion(s) part of the family. That's why during the winter months, we make sure our whole family, including our four-legged members, is cozy—without taking a big "bite" out of our budget.

This month, we'd like to share 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 caulking and weatherstripping 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.

We know winter can be "ruff", so we recommend setting your thermostat at 68 degrees, a "purr-fect" temperature for people and pets. This is especially important for smaller, short hair and senior dogs—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 Flint Energies, we want to help you save energy and money. Check out our website at [flintenergies.com](http://flintenergies.com) for additional energy-saving tips.

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.



## CALL US

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## REPORT AN OUTAGE

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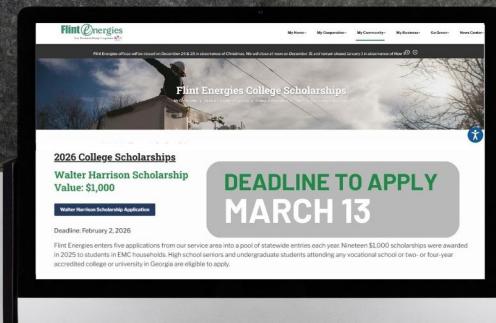
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# Searching for college scholarships?

- Walter Harrison Scholarship (Deadline: February 2)
- General Foundation Scholarship
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