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**Communications**

# PRESS RELEASE

## Winter Park Electric encourages energy conservation during extreme cold temperatures now through Monday

**WINTER PARK, FL (January 30, 2026)** The City of Winter Park is asking its electric utility customers and residents to prepare for an extended period of extremely cold temperatures impacting the region this weekend through Monday, February 2. Winter Park Electric (WPE) urges its customers to **conserve energy Sunday, February 1, during the peak hours of 5:30 to 10 a.m., and 6 to 9 p.m., and critically, Monday, February 2, between the peak hours of 5:30 to 10 a.m.**

The extended period of cold weather in Florida, the region and nation is placing pressure on the regional electric grid. We all want to do our part. Energy conservation during these times helps manage system demand, assists in prevention of brownouts and/or blackouts, and financially reduces overall power costs for the community.

The **city is helping reduce energy** use during peak hours by:

- Using generators for city facilities equipped with back up energy generation.
- Closing the Winter Park Community Center Pool and Cady Way Pool Sunday through Monday morning.
- Lowering thermostats at all city facilities including the Winter Park Community Center and Winter Park Farmers Market building.
- Shifting the hours of the Winter Park's Saturday Farmers' Market to 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, January 31.
- Delaying the opening of Winter Park Library until noon on Monday.
- Closing Winter Park Events Center on Monday.
- Disabling electric vehicle charging stations during Monday's peak hours.

Below are ways **residents and electric customers can help** manage energy use and cost:

- **Keep thermostats at the lowest comfortable setting.** Set heating systems at 68° or lower and your unit's fan to "auto." If you're away from home, set the temp to 65°.
- **Take advantage of natural light and the heat it brings during the day,** helping to warm your home without affecting the grid. At night and on the non-sunny side of the house, close blinds or drapes to keep the cold air out. Open them during the day to let the warm sunshine in.

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- **Turn off pool heaters** during peak hours; shift heating to daytime or wait until after the cold spell.
- **Avoid charging electric vehicles** during peak hours; charge during the day if needed.
- **Reverse ceiling fans to circulate warm air.** Fans should rotate clockwise at a low speed during winter.
- **Layer clothing.** Put on a sweater or sweatshirt, long pants and socks to stay warm instead of turning up the heat.
- **Minimize showering or use of large appliances** that require lots of hot water – such as dishwashers and washing machines – during peak hours.
- Do not use **dryers and washers** during peak hours. Electric dryers, in particular, use a lot of energy and gas dryers will impact limited supplies.
- Keep **garage doors** closed to help maintain indoor heat.
- **Pipes and pumps**
  - Cover exposed water pipes and spigots.
  - If you live in a house, allow a trickle of water to flow through exposed pipes or faucets that share an exterior wall to prevent the water inside from freezing.
  - Keep pool pumps running so their supply lines do not freeze.
  - Insulate pipes connected to solar water heating systems to prevent freezing.

WPE also urges customers to follow these **safety tips** while keeping warm:

- **Use space heaters with caution.** Plug heaters directly into wall outlets and never use extension cords. Keep heaters away from curtains, furniture, paper, rugs, and other combustible materials. Use only thermostatically controlled models and heat small areas only.
- **Plug heaters and electric blankets directly into an outlet.** Turn off and unplug both when not in use.
- **Do not tuck in** your electric blankets.
- **Never use a stove or oven to heat your home.** Open oven doors and lit burners are dangerous and ineffective as heating sources.
- **Do not use charcoal grills or propane heaters indoors.** These devices emit deadly carbon monoxide and are not safe for indoor use.
- **Fireplaces** – make sure the flue is open on your fireplace and always use a safety screen.

Small actions taken by customers during peak hours can make a difference in managing costs while keeping the community safely powered.

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