

## Here's How to Save Energy, Be Wise This Winter



After the holidays, winter weather can catch us off guard. Freezing temperatures, snow-laden streets and short daylight hours keep many of us inside and bundled up to stay warm.

These long hours indoors with the heat cranked up can mean higher energy bills. Idaho Power has many tips, tools and even incentives to help you stay on top of your energy use and avoid surprises. Use the following checklists to help keep your winter energy use down.

### Check the Basics

Here are some easy ways to make sure your home uses energy wisely this winter:

- Replace your furnace filter regularly to help your heating system run efficiently.
- Adjust your ceiling fans to run clockwise, pushing warm air up toward the ceiling and down the walls into the living area.
- Seal air leaks around windows and doors to trap warm air inside and keep out cold air.
- Take advantage of after-Christmas sales to replace old holiday lights with LED strands — they use 75 percent less energy!

### Practice Efficiency

Winter energy bills are usually higher than spring and fall bills because of colder temperatures and shorter daylight hours. To save energy:

- Wear warm layers and keep your thermostat at 68 degrees, or as low as comfort and safety allow. Turn it down even lower at night and while you're away. If you have a heat pump, lower the temperature by only two to three degrees.
- Use small appliances, like a slow cooker, microwave or pressure cooker, to make warm winter dishes.
- Turn off lights when not in use.
- Open curtains and blinds on south-facing windows to let the sun warm your home. Close curtains at night to trap heat inside.
- Encourage your family to practice a "low-power hour" — switch off gaming systems, appliances and extra lights to save energy.

### Increase Your Knowledge

Staying on top of your energy use can help you keep costs down and avoid surprises. Idaho Power offers several

free, convenient tools to help you stay in the know:

- **My Account:** Use our online account portal to monitor your daily and hourly energy use, see how the weather impacts your bills and compare your bill to previous years or months.
- **Account Alerts:** Sign up for text or email alerts when your home's bill has reached a given amount or when your bill is past due.
- **Paperless Billing:** We'll deliver your monthly bill directly to your email inbox so you always know where to find it.

Sign up for My Account at [idahopower.com/myaccount](https://idahopower.com/myaccount).

In addition to these easy-to-use tools, Idaho Power offers incentives to help customers save money on certain energy-saving home improvements. Visit [idahopower.com/save](https://idahopower.com/save) to learn more.

If you have questions about your bill, ways to save energy or tips for winterizing your home, call our Customer Care team at 1-800-488-6151.

# Snow Patrol: Idaho Power Crews are Ready for Winter



When winter weather hits, Idaho Power crews are ready to battle the elements and ensure safe, reliable service for our customers.

In mountainous areas like McCall, linemen face some of Idaho's toughest weather. Heavy snow and high winds require crews to use snow cats, snowmobiles and snowshoes to clear snow off lines and repair equipment damaged by wind and fallen trees.

"We've had some nights where the wind is blowing, it's negative 10 and you can't see in front you," said Lineman Luke Quinn. "It makes things a little more difficult, but you just have to take your time and bear through the elements and make sure to stay safe."

Safety is one of Idaho Power's top priorities. Reliability is another — on

average, our customers are without power for less than two hours each year. Our crews work around the clock to keep outages to a minimum, especially during winter. In addition to patrolling and repairing lines, our linemen note problem areas so they can work on lines during the summer to prevent future outages.

While most careers don't require packing avalanche survival gear or climbing power poles in a snowstorm, Idaho Power's crews embrace the challenge of keeping their communities safe and energized.

"I have a great group of employees, and they love what they do," said Steve Moser, manager for the Long Valley area near McCall. "It's a challenge for them, but that's what they live for."

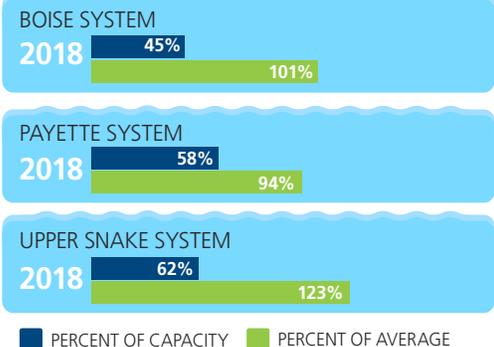
# Snake River Reservoirs Enter Winter near Normal Levels

Water stored in Snake River Basin reservoirs is an important driver of Idaho Power's hydroelectric system, which provided nearly half of the energy we delivered to customers last year. Water levels at those reservoirs entered the winter near normal levels.

Winter snowpack and "carryover water" held in reservoirs throughout the Snake River system over the winter largely determine how much water will be available for hydro generation, irrigation and other uses in 2019. The stream flows that generate Idaho Power's lowest-cost energy are also affected by the timing of spring runoff and irrigation needs.

It's too soon to say how the winter snowpack will play out, but key reservoirs in the Boise, Payette and Upper Snake system contained water volumes that are near the average for the first week of December.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation manages water levels in most of those reservoirs. They keep an eye on the weather to strike a balance between holding water in storage and ensuring there's room to absorb water from winter rains or spring runoff.



## From The Electric Kitchen

January 2019

### Beef with Broccoli

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 2 Tbsp corn starch                                     | Sauce:                             |
| 2 Tbsp water   | ¼ cup low-sodium soy sauce         |
| ½ tsp garlic powder                                    | 3 Tbsp packed brown sugar          |
| 3 Tbsp olive oil, divided                              | 3 garlic cloves, minced            |
| 1 med onion, quartered and sliced                      | 1 Tbsp grated fresh ginger         |
| 1 Tbsp sesame oil                                      | 3 Tbsp vegetable or beef broth     |
| 3 cups broccoli florets of uniform size                | Dash red pepper flakes, if desired |
| 1 lb flank steak, cut into ½" thick, bite-sized pieces |                                    |

In a small bowl, whisk corn starch, water and garlic powder. Pour over beef and combine. In another bowl, mix all ingredients for the sauce; set aside. In a large, heavy-bottom skillet, heat 2 Tbsp oil over medium-high heat. Add the beef, turning until browned, approx. 5–7 min. Remove beef and heat remaining Tbsp olive oil in skillet. Add the onion, sauté until softened. Remove onions and set aside with cooked beef. Heat sesame oil in same pan, add broccoli and half of the sauce. Stir and cook until broccoli becomes tender and bright green, approx. 4–5 min. Return beef and onion back to in the pan with the remaining sauce. Cook and stir until just heated through, 1–2 min. Serve with steamed rice if desired. Makes 6 servings.

### Dinner

#### Dietary information per ½-cup serving:

Calories: 265  
 Fat: 14g  
 Carbohydrate: 17.5g  
 Protein: 18g  
 Sodium: 472 mg  
 Fiber: 2g  
 Sugars: 8.6g

*Recipes are selected for nutritional value and low energy use in preparation. They are approved by Registered Dietitian Erin Green from the Central District Health Department in Boise.*