



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Air Conditioner & Water Heater Load Control Switches

What is “The Switch” and where is it installed?

The “switch” is a radio receiver mounted on an outside wall of your house, and connected to either the outdoor section of your central air conditioner, your electric water heater or both.

During the months of June through September when peak energy usage could occur, First Electric transmits radio signals to the switch and it automatically turns off your air conditioner compressor in cycles of 10 minutes off and 20 minutes on. Your water heater will be turned off for the length of the control period, but usually not more than four hours.

Will I notice a difference when “The Switch” is operating?

Your house temperature may possibly increase, but by no more than two or three degrees because we cycle only the air conditioner compressor. The indoor fan section will continue to operate to provide air circulation and comfort. Some two story homes and mobile homes do not tolerate the air conditioner load control very well. Electric water heaters can be turned off for longer periods without significantly affecting water temperature.

How much is the credit?

By volunteering for “The Switch,” a credit will be applied to your July through October electric bills. On an electric water heater, the credit is \$5.34 per month. The water heater must have a 4,000 watt element or larger. The amount of credit for an air conditioner switch is \$1.23 per kVa of connected compressor capacity, which means the credit will be based on the size of your air conditioner. For example, an average three ton air conditioner would receive approximately \$6.00 per month.

What do the lights on the switch indicate?

Each switch has 2 red lights and 1 green light. When either of the red lights are on, this indicates the switch is operating and your air conditioner and/or water heater are off. The green light is used for our testing purposes and does not affect the switch operation. The switch may routinely have its green light on; however, it only means the switch has at one time received a test signal from First Electric.

If either the red or green lights are flashing, a probable malfunction of the switch has occurred. Please call First Electric Cooperative at 1-800-489-7405.

My house is getting too hot! Is it the switch or my air conditioner?

First Electric’s control times will usually be during the afternoons on the hottest days of the summer. If your home is getting too hot, it may not be the switch. Make sure your unit has recently been serviced, and has an adequate refrigerant charge and a clean air filter. If you are not sure we are controlling, you can look for the red light on the switch or call your local First Electric Cooperative office.

Anything Else?

Please be reminded that we cannot install a load control switch on a window air conditioner. It must be a central, ducted system. Also, water heater switches must be installed on an outside wall and be done in conjunction with an air conditioner switch installation.

If your load control switch is damaged in any way or you are replacing your air conditioner or water heater, please call First Electric Cooperative at 1-800-489-7405.