Smart Plugs Offer Energy Savings and Convenience

Smart plugs are devices that help automate your home by allowing you to turn on and off and/or set scheduled items through an app on your phone or tablet. Indoor lighting (including lamps), outdoor lighting (including holiday lights), and appliances

are all examples of ways smart plugs will help simplify your life and even make it seem like someone is home, even when the house is empty.

While smart plugs have become more popular over the past few years, many have yet to learn that besides convenience, they can help save you money. For example, being able to schedule when lights and appliances turn on and off will help reduce your electric bill.

> For example, if you have a dehumidifier plugged in, it could run all day, every day, costing up to $46.41 a month. However, using a smart plug to schedule the dehumidifier to run for only 12 hours could cut your cost in half.

The daily hours of 4 pm – 9 pm are Linn County REC's peak hours. Where power costs are more expensive, using smart plugs for items such as lighting and appliances allows you to schedule the smart plug to turn off at 4 pm and turn back on at 9 pm will often help reduce costs for the membership as a whole.

Once purchased, it's as simple as downloading the app to your phone or tablet, connecting the device to your Wi-Fi or Bluetooth, setting the schedule, and plugging in your device (lamp, dehumidifier, window AC, etc.), and enjoying the benefits. Also, consider smart switches (beneficial for ceiling/hard-wired lighting) and motion switches (will turn on/off lighting by detecting movement in a room) to complete your home automation.