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Co-op Comments

REC recognizes two employees for Employees of the Year in 2018

Every year REC recognizes employees who exceed in their defined job description, achieve outstanding results in certain areas and demonstrate loyalty to the Cooperative, and 2018 wasn't any different. Since 1994, REC has honored these employees as its Employees of the Year. Beginning in 2010, REC started recognizing two employees – one from administration and one from operations.

Both the 2018 Employees of the Year are loyal and dedicated employees who are active in their community and strive to make REC a better workplace.

Tony Staggs was named the 2018 Administrative Employee of the Year. He was hired in October 2012 as a Customer Service Representative. He moved into the Member Services and Marketing Department in June 2018 as the Member Services and Marketing Assistant.

Staggs is always willing to help wherever he is needed. He takes time to dig deeper to answer questions for his fellow coworkers and address any of REC's members' concerns. His helpful suggestions improve current ways of doing everyday tasks and his suggestions provide additional alternatives.

He is from Lindsay and continues to live north of Lindsay. He enjoys spending time with his family and his dog, playing the piano and reading.

"Having grown up in Lindsay, I have known a lot of the employees since I was a kid, so I feel blessed just to get to come

work at REC every day," Staggs says. "Being chosen as Administrative Employee of the Year is very special to me, I feel very honored and flattered my work family thinks I am doing a good job."

Just like the Administrative Employee of the Year, REC's 2018 Operations Employee of the Year, Keith Hailey is committed to helping REC members and provide suggestions on how to improve everyday tasks.

Hailey was hired in October 2013 as a Groundman and then promoted to a Apprentice Lineman. He recently completed his Journeyman Lineman certificate in January 2017.

He takes his job seriously and commits

himself to do whatever is asked of him. He is professional and respectable when at work and out in the community.

Hailey is from Maysville and now lives northeast of Lindsay with his wife Mariah and their two children Jhett and Brittyn. He attends the First Baptist Church of Maysville and he enjoys spending time with his family, hunting and fishing.

"It was an honor to be named the Operations Employee of the Year, considering the group of men I work with in the field everyday," Hailey says. "I am thankful to be considered and it means a lot to me to receive recognition for my work. I look forward to the years ahead at REC."



REC named Keith Hailey (left) and Tony Staggs (right) Employees of the Year. Hailey was named REC's 2018 Operations Employee of the Year and Staggs as REC's 2018 Administrative Employee of the Year.

Post-election priorities



With the midterm elections in the rearview mirror, Rural Electric is looking ahead at the impact and opportunities for rural America and electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperatives across the nation played an active role in the midterm election and worked to get to know each candidate running for federal office. This was particularly important since more than 60 members of Congress decided to retire or run for other offices.

Through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan political engagement effort led by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, more than 100 candidates attended electric cooperative functions or met with co-op staff. Several statewide co-op associations sponsored or hosted a debate or forum for gubernatorial candidates, while more than 30 local electric cooperatives participated in National Voter Registration Day activities.

As we continue getting to know our new elected officials, Rural Electric will continue advocating for policies protecting local business interests and advance the quality of life in south central Oklahoma.

There are several opportunities for our

elected leaders to find common ground and advance legislation to benefit our community.

Improving our nation's aging infrastructure is a great place to start. Congress and the White House should explore an infrastructure package to benefit all Americans, especially those at risk of being left behind in rural America. And this investment in critical infrastructure needs to go beyond roads and bridges. Congress should leverage an infrastructure package to help maintain and modernize the electric grid and connect rural communities to the modern economy.

The new Congress also presents an opportunity to expand access to high-speed internet service in rural communities which currently lack it. According to the FCC, 23 million rural Americans lack access to broadband internet—most of them are members of an electric co-op.

Despite the progress, an expanded combination of grants and loans is necessary to continue providing rural communities with the wherewithal for education, telemedicine and a 21st century economy. Everyone—the Trump administration and both Democrats and Republicans in Congress—agrees on the need to bolster rural broadband.

A third area of possible bipartisan agreement lies in the need to produce a new farm bill. The farm bill, which authorizes numerous rural economic development programs, traditionally has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress. Although the House and Senate have passed very different versions of a farm bill this year, we're hopeful that lawmakers can come to an agreement on a compromise bill promoting rural economic development and protects Rural Utilities Service electric loan funding on which electric co-ops depend.

Electric cooperatives like Rural Electric are engines of economic development in south central Oklahoma. We are proud to continue working towards a brighter and more prosperous rural America.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Co-op Comments

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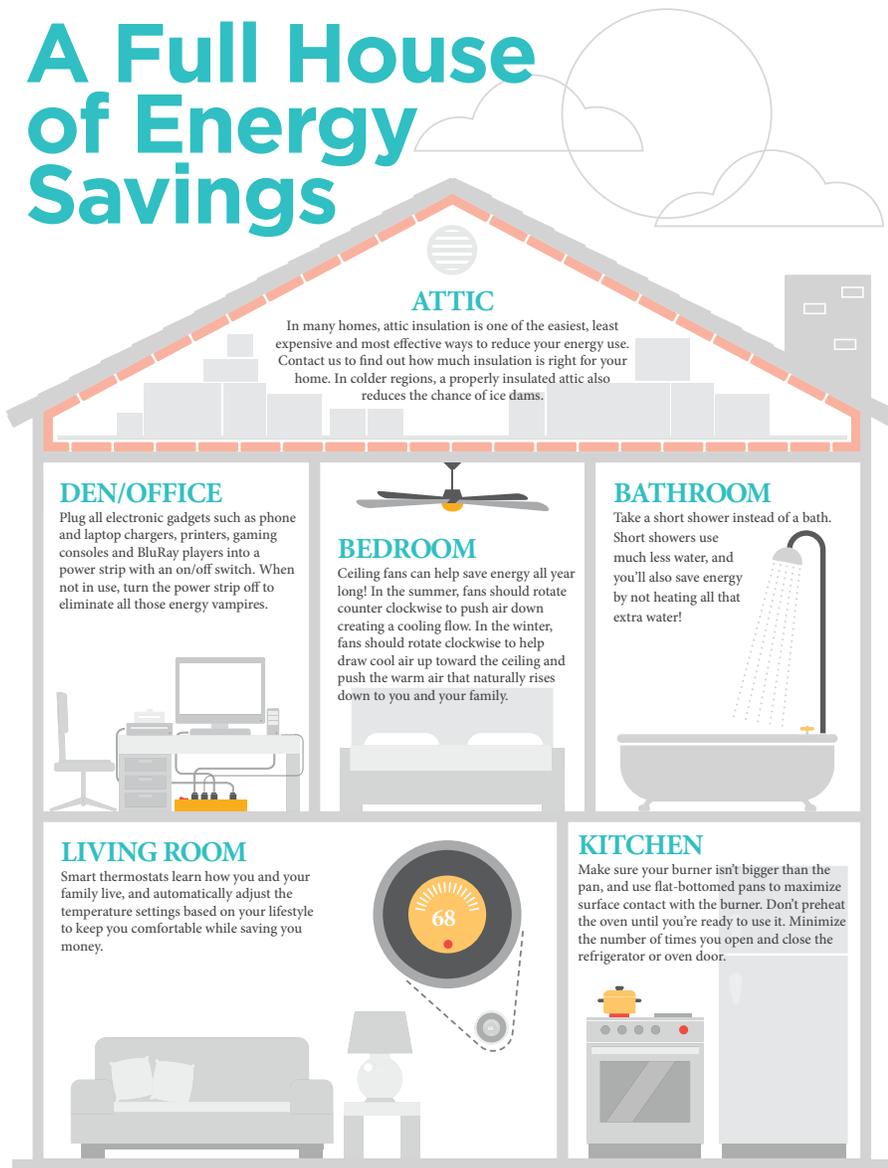
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A Full House of Energy Savings



ATTIC

In many homes, attic insulation is one of the easiest, least expensive and most effective ways to reduce your energy use. Contact us to find out how much insulation is right for your home. In colder regions, a properly insulated attic also reduces the chance of ice dams.

DEN/OFFICE

Plug all electronic gadgets such as phone and laptop chargers, printers, gaming consoles and BluRay players into a power strip with an on/off switch. When not in use, turn the power strip off to eliminate all those energy vampires.

BEDROOM

Ceiling fans can help save energy all year long! In the summer, fans should rotate counter clockwise to push air down creating a cooling flow. In the winter, fans should rotate clockwise to help draw cool air up toward the ceiling and push the warm air that naturally rises down to you and your family.

BATHROOM

Take a short shower instead of a bath. Short showers use much less water, and you'll also save energy by not heating all that extra water!

LIVING ROOM

Smart thermostats learn how you and your family live, and automatically adjust the temperature settings based on your lifestyle to keep you comfortable while saving you money.

KITCHEN

Make sure your burner isn't bigger than the pan, and use flat-bottomed pans to maximize surface contact with the burner. Don't preheat the oven until you're ready to use it. Minimize the number of times you open and close the refrigerator or oven door.

Volunteering: a healthy New Year's resolution

Most New Year's resolutions benefit us. If we quit smoking, lose weight or exercise more, for example, we get healthier and happier. This year, add a resolution to benefit others: volunteer in your community.

Did you know REC's Board of Trustees are made up of volunteers from the community? A cooperative is different from other kinds of organizations because it's owned by the consumers it serves. 1376700

As an owner—and a member—you're qualified to run for a seat on the Board of Trustees if you want to. It's a volunteer job helping your community because it ensures the utility's policies are consumer-friendly and locally controlled.

If being a Board of Trustees member is more than you can commit to, consider volunteering for a committee. REC needs committee members throughout the year and if you have interest in learning more about the different committees or serving your Cooperative, call our office at 800-259-3504 ext. 238.

Volunteering benefits your community, but you'll also get something in return.

Volunteers gain leadership experience, learn new skills and make new friends. Plus, the sense of satisfaction gained from serving others—and affecting lives—can reduce stress, lift depression and make you feel productive and happy.

Frequently Asked Questions of REC

Q: *If I use a space heater to heat a room in my house, will this help lower my electric bill this winter?*

While electric heaters, do provide an alternative heat source, they are not recommended to heat your entire house. Space heaters are designed to continually run while they are plugged into the wall so it can actually cause your bill to go up as it is running the whole time it is plugged in. It is better to use a space heater while you are in that room to help warm up the room and then unplug it.

Q: *I have a space heater in my well house, should I keep the space heater plugged in and running during all the winter months?*

REC would recommend you monitor the weather during the winter months. When the weather is above freezing you may not need to have the space heater in your well house running every day. Any days you can unplug and not use this heater will reduce your kilowatt usage and help keep your bill lower.

Q: *Is there anything I can do this winter to help keep my electric bill to a minimum?*

REC recommends you check your house for anywhere there are cracks or air is escaping and fix those areas as needed. Remember to insulate your house, re-caulk your windows or even replace your windows if necessary to keep your house comfortable and efficient. Also to keep checking our newsletter and Facebook page for more energy efficiency tips.

Classified Advertisement

MISCELLANEOUS-

FOR SALE: Honda Elite Scooter, 2005,

*Has it been awhile
since you have
updated your
account
information?*

Call our office so we have up-to-date phone numbers and email address.

**Account number
worth \$10 bill credit**

Locate your account number in an article of this issue; it will be good for a \$10 credit on your electric bill. To claim the prize, you must locate the account number - if the number is yours, contact REC by the 10th of the month and we will credit your account. Only the member assigned that number is eligible for the prize. If you don't know your account number, it can be located on your electric bill.

Co-op Connections

Use your Co-op Connections Card to save you money on lodging, photographs, oil changes and other items. You can also save on prescriptions, dental, vision, hearing, lab work and imaging and chiropractor services at participating locations. Your card is a discount card. If you have misplaced your card, contact REC for a replacement card and use it to save yourself some money.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save seven to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Learn more at www.energy.gov

adult owned and driven, 2600 miles, always garaged. Very nice, \$1,300. PH: 580-223-2988 or 580-224-2988.

FOR SALE: Invacare Tracer LT wheel chair, excellent condition. PH: 405-351-0878.

FOR SALE: Ultra Pro - 16-gallon shop vac

\$35.00. PH: 405-351-0878.

FOR SALE: Large toy collection of Allis Chalmers tractors and farm equipment, including other models of tractors, banks, planes, etc. New in boxes. Items from past Oklahoma Farm Shows.

PH: 405-320-0028.



Local Co-op Connection Card Deals

A-U-Store It, Purcell -

\$5 off first month rent

Backroads Boutique, Lindsay -

5% off everything excluding special order and sale items

Best Western, Chickasha -

15% Off Regular Room Rate

Blue Moose Outdoor

Portable Rentals, Elmore City -

5% Off Septic Tank Pumping, Tent Rental and Special Event Toilet Rentals

Chickasha Diesel Services, Chickasha -

\$50 off any big diesel oil change

Edwards Canvas, Pauls Valley - 5% Off

Jenny's Pics Photography, Lindsay -

10% Off \$50 or More Purchase of Pictures

Lindsay Tire and Lube, Lindsay -

\$5 Off Any Full Service Oil Change

M & M Furniture, Chickasha -

10% Off Any Purchase

Mazzio's Italian Eatery, Purcell -

10% Off Purchase

Photos by Ginger, Pauls Valley -

1 Free 8x10 Print With First Order of \$25

4 Seat Saddles, Boots and Hats -

10% Off \$100 or More, or 5% Off Repairs

Western Fuel Co., Maysville -

2 Cents Off Per Gallon of Propane on a Minimum of 125 Gallons. Cash Sales Only. (No Other Discounts Allowed)

Pharmacy Discounts -

Check out the discounts available using your Co-op Connections Card at participating pharmacies throughout our area. For a complete list of pharmacies, visit REC's website to see if your pharmacy is offering discounts to Co-op Connections Card holders.

