

Co-op Comments

July 2017

Rounding up your monthly bill to help others in the community

Using seven guiding principles to define how Rural Electric Cooperative conducts business within the communities it serves, not only benefits REC's members, but everyone in the community. One of the seven principles is concern for community.

One of the ways REC shows concern for community is offering a program called Operation Round-Up. This program allows REC to help others in need by having the members round up their bill.

The Operation Round-Up program is
REC's office will be closed on July 4th



Rural Electric's office will be closed Tuesday, July 4th, for the observance of Independence Day so our employees can spend the holiday with their families. Please call 855-399-2683 to report an outage.

voluntary for REC members who desire to round up their monthly bill to the next dollar amount. The difference between the actual bill and the next dollar amount is "ear-marked" for use by the Operation Round-Up Board to assist those who qualify according to the rules and regulations of the program.

Operation Round-Up has provided thousands of dollars in assistance to individuals and organizations throughout this area. People with medical needs, those who have lost homes to fires and natural disasters and non-profit organizations have benefited from this program.

Donations can be made from one account or multiple accounts. The average yearly contribution from each participating cooperative member is about \$6. The most a member would contribute each year is less than \$12 per year per account and the least is zero cents. In addition to the members rounding their bill up to the next dollar amount, REC also applies for grants given by Wal-Mart to add to the money designated for Operation Round-Up.

Since starting in 1999, the funds donated for Operation Round-Up have helped more than 110 families in our area.

The Operation Round-Up Board consists of five individuals who reside in REC's service territory and have a desire to help others. The Board evaluates each application and determines the need for the applicants.

REC cares about helping others in their time of need throughout our service area. By providing the Operation Round-Up program, REC is able to specifically help



area residents who have suffered some type of catastrophe and have no insurance or inadequate coverage. In addition to helping individuals, Operation Round-Up also provides funds to non-profit organizations throughout its service territory to assist with special projects to benefit the area.

In the past, Operation Round-Up has helped an area family who had lost their home and all of its contents. Because the family was not adequately insured, the Board of Operation Round-Up approved \$1,000 to help this family purchase household items and clothing. Also, they have assisted several senior citizen centers by helping purchase necessary food needed to help those who rely on their services.

If you are not participating in this worthwhile program, you are encouraged to sign up now to help your neighbors and local organizations in their time of need. All the contributions are tax deductible and participation is voluntary.

Anyone needing additional information about this program may contact REC's Member Services Department at 1-800-259-3504 or 756-3104, extension 238.

The path to efficiency independence



While fireworks and Independence Day parades are synonymous with the Fourth of July, no such fanfare comes to mind when discussing energy efficiency. Perhaps it should. If you think about it, energy efficiency not only benefits individuals and families, but the country as a whole. Energy efficiency combined with energy conservation and advances in technology in the utility industry, ultimately help our country on a path toward greater energy independence.

At its essence, greater efficiency means less energy is used for the production of goods and services. For individual consumers, a reduction in energy use usually translates to a tangible financial benefit – more money in your wallet at the end of the month. If your co-op neighbors are also using less energy, collectively, it means the overall cost of providing electricity could be lower and may result in reduced costs for co-op members. For many, this is reason enough to strive for greater energy efficiency. On a national level, energy efficiency, sometimes called the “fifth fuel,” has a more profound impact. It can potentially

boost the economy by allowing consumers and businesses to invest in other areas. As importantly, greater energy efficiency may slow the rate at which domestic energy is depleted, and therefore reduce or diminish the need for foreign energy.

There's no need to wait for the first exploding burst of fireworks in the night sky to start your energy efficiency efforts. Every American can take charge of their own energy use, regardless of the date on the calendar. Small steps can lead to a big difference for you and your neighbors, whether across the road or across the country.

Energy efficiency can generally be achieved two ways. The first is with mechanical change, such as replacing an older HVAC unit or less efficient appliance with a new ENERGY STAR model or upgrading to new, insulated windows. Less expensive actions include improving the seal of your home's “envelope” by caulking exterior windows and doors and sealing openings where pipes and ductwork meet the outside. Swapping out the last incandescent bulbs (inside and outside) with LEDs also makes a noticeable difference.

The second way to realize energy efficiency is through smarter management of your energy use. Leveraging smart thermostat technology is a good place to start. Most smart thermostats contain an app allowing remote control by mobile phone or tablet. Program your thermostat to reflect your family's schedule. Many thermostat programs allow you to view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor the amount of energy used. Sometimes, however, energy efficiency is simply a matter of changing old habits such as washing clothes in cold water instead of hot or running the dishwasher during off-peak times.

Regardless of the path you take on the road to energy efficiency and independence, Rural Electric can help you on the journey.

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July 2017

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Contact Information

Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 609
Lindsay, OK 73052

Physical Address
13942 Highway 76
Lindsay, OK 73052

405-756-3104 or 1-800-259-3504
To report an outage call
1-800-259-3504 or 1-855-399-2683
Visit REC at www.recok.coop
and like us on facebook



NRECA International facts

On July 1, co-ops across the globe will celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives, which recognizes and reaffirms the role of co-ops in economic, social and cultural development.

NRECA International was established in November 1962 to bring electricity to rural communities in developing countries and share lessons learned in the electrification of the rural United States. Working with various funding agencies and international partners, NRECA International has pioneered low-cost rural electrification in countries by designing distribution grids, constructing lines and creating community-owned and operated sustainable utilities.

Last year REC's lineman Jason Brown, went to Bolivia to help bring electricity to two remote villages. Brown joined other linemen from across Oklahoma and they joined lineman from Missouri to accomplish this task in two weeks time.

Over the last 50 years, programs designed by NRECA International have provided more than 126 million people in 43 countries with access to safe, affordable and reliable electricity.

- Over the last 50 years, NRECA International has helped establish 250 rural utilities around the world.

- Currently, NRECA International is involved in projects in Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Liberia, Haiti, Bolivia, Guatemala, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

- NRECA International's work is supported by many partners. Electrification programs have been made possible with funding support from America's electric cooperatives, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, bilateral donors and multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

- NRECA International provides oppor-

tunities for America's electric cooperatives to share their expertise and help expand electricity access in rural communities around the world. Today, more than 300 electric cooperatives support the work through monetary contributions, material donations and sending hundreds of electric co-op linemen and employees abroad as volunteers. They continue to help bring first-time access to electricity, and train local partners to help utilities be sustainable in their own communities.

- Over the last three years, NRECA International has helped electrification planners in African governments to set out their rural electrification strategies and investment plans in Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

- In 2014, NRECA International established a new electric co-op in Haiti with funding from the United Nations Environmental Program, USAID and the Inter-American Bank. Twelve electric cooperatives answered the call to help by sending 40 volunteer linemen to complete the job.

- Witnessed by President John F. Kennedy in 1962, NRECA's first signed inaugural cooperative agreement with USAID led to the creation of a small electric co-op in

Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Today, CRE (Cooperativa Rural de Electrificación) is the world's largest electric co-op in the world with 600,000 members.

- Nearly 50 years ago, NRECA International helped establish a small electrification program in the Philippines funded by USAID. In 2015, the Philippines reached a milestone when the country's 119 electric co-ops brought electricity to 50 million people in 36,000 rural villages and rural towns. 1518100

- NRECA International is implementing the USAID-funded Pilot Project for Sustainable Electricity Distribution (PPSELD) in Caracol, Haiti. PPSELD's service territory is the only region that receives reliable electricity 24 hours a day providing more than 9,000 consumers with power.

- In 1983, about 13,000 Bangladesh citizens living in rural areas had access to electricity. That number is now almost 68 million. This growth came as a result of the creation of 79 electric cooperatives started with the help of NRECA International through a USAID program.

To learn more about NRECA International, visit www.nrecainternational.coop.



Children in Dos de Junio, Bolivia play soccer at dusk after volunteer linemen from Missouri and Oklahoma finish their work for the day installing power lines in their village.

Photo credit: Noah Friedman-Rudovsky

Classified Advertisement

AUTOMOTIVE-

FOR SALE: 2005 Honda "Elite" 80cc scooter, 100 mpg, 200,500 gentle miles by adult owner, always garaged, excellent condition, \$1,300. PH: 580-223-2988.

RECREATIONAL-

FOR SALE: 2011 Keystone Avalanche M-290RL fifth wheel RV. 34 ft with 3 slides, smoke free, clean and well maintained. Has luxury interior with all expected features, \$29,800. PH: 405-331-9808.

REAL ESTATE-

FOR SALE: 4 bdrm, 2 bath home with remodeled kitchen, large center island and XL laundry room. Remodeled bathrooms, New windows, HVAC, doors, hot water tank and insulation in attic. Newly added game room with wet bar and HVAC unit. Attached 3 car carport and wrap around porch, detached 18x25 garage with carport and older barn. Property includes operational well for water and rural water. PH:405-623-5991.

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.

Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Let the sun work for you. Consider solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity which can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge during the day.

Learn more at www.energy.gov

MISCELLANEOUS-

FOR SALE: 2 corrugated half-moon style tin horns, 11.5 ft. x 16 in., southwest of Ardmore, make reasonable offer. PH: 580-223-2988.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS-

Employees volunteer at Special Olympics



District Lineman, Randy McAlister, recently volunteered at Oklahoma's Special Olympics.

Annual Hughes Bulldog Alumni and Friends Gathering, June 25, 2017 doors open at 4:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6 p.m. REC's Multi-Purpose Building, North Highway 76 in Lindsay, \$15 a person. RSVP to Linda Helms 405-227-3452.

Local Co-op Connection Card Deals

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 (\$25 Minimum)

The Leopard Lasso, Wynnewood -

10% Off Purchase

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.