

## Dear Santa:

I know you have not heard from me in a while, but you know better than anyone that life gets busy. I know many people do not believe in you or think you are real, but I believe that you will help me with my real requisite. This year for Christmas I want to make my house an energy efficient home. Now, I am not throwing this whole project on you, I know you are a busy man and I know there are steps I can take on my own. Although, I will be needing some assistance from you and your elves with the complex parts of the project.

As I stated earlier, there are many beneficial actions I can do on my own to help my home to be more energy efficient. I am already proficient at using the microwave instead of the stove. When I use the oven, I rarely peek inside because every peek causes the temperature to drop 25° Fahrenheit. Having said that, if your Christmas cookies are burned, I am sorry in advance. I need to have a talk with my mom about cranking the thermostat, just put it on the desired temperature and be patient. Does Mrs. Claus ever do that? I am sure she gets chilly at times up there at the North Pole.

It gets a little drafty in my house because I live in an older home. However, I believe my house has great potential to be an energy efficient home. I have an attic with nothing in it. It would be perfect to lay insulation on the floor which would help muffle the draft. My family has two refrigerators, an older one in the garage and a newer one in the house. I recently learned that having an old fridge in the garage, as well as one in the house also plugged in, can lessen the energy efficiency dramatically. It would be a win-win scenario if we used one refrigerator because a fridge works best when it is full.

I informed you earlier that I would need your assistance with the more elaborate parts of my scheme. This is my energy efficient wish list: double glazed windows, a large amount of

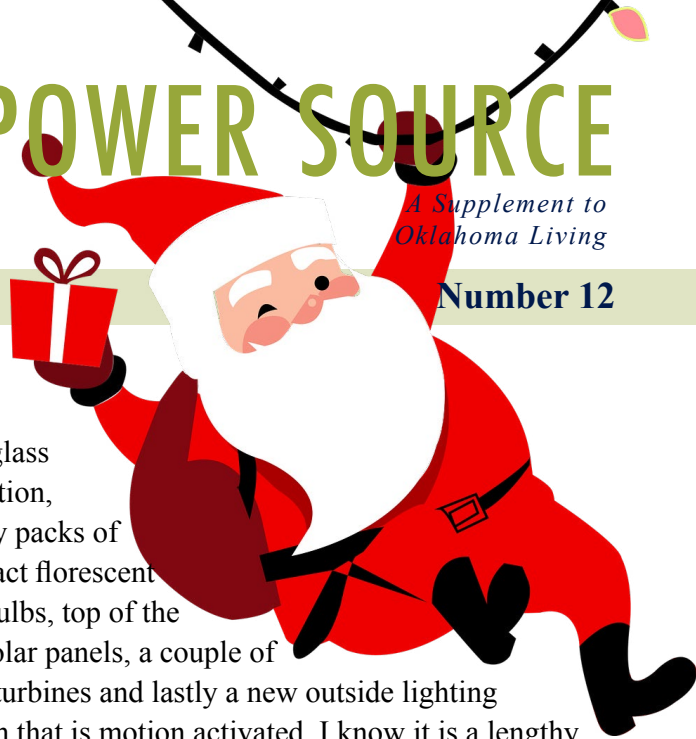
fiber glass insulation, twenty packs of compact florescent lightbulbs, top of the line solar panels, a couple of wind turbines and lastly a new outside lighting system that is motion activated. I know it is a lengthy list but honestly, this is the revised and shortened version. My home is in desperate need of an energy efficient Christmas miracle. I whole heartedly believe that no task is too large for you and your team.

I know you have a lot of letters to read so I am going to wrap this up. Speaking of wrapping things up, you do not have to worry about gift wrapping my energy efficient presents. I would hate to be a bother. Also, do not feel as if you have to check every item off my list, but if you could, that would be phenomenal. Anyway, I know you and your elves keep up with the trends, so I am sure your workshop is extremely high tech, as well as highly energy efficient. Therefore, I have full confidence in the production, but when it comes to the shipping, could you try and take smoother turns with the sleigh? I do not want my energy efficient presents to get tattered or dented. I heard this horrible rumor that one of your reindeer ran over someone's grandma. Is there any truth to that? Even if there is, try not to run over anyone with my presents on board please. I believe in you Santa, please do not let me down. Thank you in advance, Jolly Old Saint Nicholas!

Frugally yours,

*Paige Orr*

*SWRE 2020 Youth Tour Winner | Frederick High School*



## CEO's Message



CEO, Jeff Simpson

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Rebecca Chambless, *Power Source* editor

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SWRE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Bill Pay Options:

SmartHub App  
[SWRE.com](http://SWRE.com)

833-890-9510, *Automated Bill-Pay Line*

### Outage Reports:

833-590-0353  
SmartHub App

# THE HISTORIC OCTOBER 2020 ICE STORM

// I'd like to say 'thank you' to all our members affected by the historic ice storm that hit SWRE service territory in October. The ice storm is considered 'historic' because it occurred so early in the fall/winter season and resulted in multi-day outages for many co-op members. You were so patient with us as our linemen and employees worked day and night to get your power restored. We can truly say that SWRE has the BEST members!

A special appreciation goes out to the SWRE linemen who sacrificed time with their families and worked long hours in difficult conditions until power was restored to every member. We are so thankful for the assistance we received from the following sister co-ops and contractors:

**Arkansas Valley Electric Co-op** - Pocola, OK  
**Red River Valley Rural Electric Association** - Marietta, OK  
**Southeastern Electric Cooperative** - Durant, OK  
**Sooner Powerline Construction** - Idabel, OK  
**Ark Valley Electric Co-op** - South Hutchinson, KS  
**PenTex Energy** - Muenster, TX  
**Scott Pole Line** - Stephenville, TX

On Monday, October 26, Governor Kevin Stitt issued an Emergency Declaration for 47 Oklahoma counties due to severe winter weather, freezing rain and ice accumulations. Western Farmers, our power supplier, estimated 173+ transmission structures were downed. At the peak of the ice storm damage, electric co-ops across Oklahoma were tracking 76,300+ outages. Collectively, co-ops across the state estimated nearly \$26 million in damages.

Damage from the ice was extensive all across SWRE territory. Locally, SWRE estimated 5,400+ meters were affected (69%) system-wide with over **535 cases\*** reported in our outage system from October 26 - November 11, 2020. **\*A case involves multiple outages on a specific circuit within a county, involving anywhere from 1 - 1,200 members.**

This year has certainly had its challenges from the global COVID-19 pandemic to the historic October ice storm that greatly affected our membership. Nevertheless, your local co-op is always here for you and we will #PowerOn.

I wish you and yours many blessings this holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

//  
Jeff Simpson  
CEO



**WIN THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!**  
**2021 YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS**  
**OPEN FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS**  
**ESSAY & APP DEADLINE: DEC. 15, 2020**



# 4 WAYS SANTA SAVES ENERGY IN HIS WORKSHOP



The holiday season is finally upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

It's no secret that Santa is known for running an efficient workshop— how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures.

Here are four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop.

**1.** Santa leaves his decorations up year-round, so by using LED holiday light strands, he's able to save on his monthly energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.

**2.** Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved—that's equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!

**3.** Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.

**4.** Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics that are plugged into the power strip.

This holiday season, let's take a page from Santa's book and remember to save energy when possible. With these four tips, you'll be well on your way to savings (and hopefully, Santa's "nice" list!).



MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM  
YOUR CO-OP FAMILY!

THE SWRE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>  
& JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> FOR THE HOLIDAYS.



## CROCKPOT HOT CHOCOLATE

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Stir together the whipping cream, milk, vanilla, and chocolate chips in a 5 quart crock pot (if doubling, use a 6-7 quart slow cooker/crockpot).
2. Cover and cook on low for 2 hours, stirring occasionally with whisk, until mixture is hot and chocolate chips are melted.
3. Once it is heated through and chocolate is melted, switch the slow cooker to the warm setting. Stir again before serving. (If you have trouble getting the chocolate to melt, turn to high temporarily).
4. Garnish individual cups of hot chocolate with whipped cream or marshmallows.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1.5 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 14oz can sweetened condensed milk
- 6 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups of milk chocolate chips (can also use half semi-sweet)

Source: Visit <https://wishesndishes.com/creamy-crock-pot-hot-chocolate/> for the full recipe.

## Trading Post

**For Sale:** Various reproduction tins with vintage advertisements (eg. Oreos, Wheaties, Ritz Crackers, etc.). If interested, please call 940-552-2010 or write to 13272 S CR 107, Vernon, TX 73684.

**For Sale:** Steel fence posts, brand new, \$3 each. Great for pasture fencing or gardens. Located in Altus, OK. Call 580-471-5304.

**For Sale:** 24" glass shower door, asking \$100 or best offer. Milk glass chandelier, asking \$75. Items located in Snyder, OK. Call 580-512-6674 and leave a message.

**For Sale:** Certified seed wheat. Green Hammer, Smith's Gold, SY Razor (awnless), SY Rugged, Bentley, and Iba in bulk. OK Seed License 08005320. Call 580-465-0564 or 580-482-4607.

*FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Ads are also posted on [SWRE.com](http://SWRE.com).*

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