

HOLIDAY DÉCOR TIPS FOR THE ENERGY-WISE HOME

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

Before you string your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking—and they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased through online retailers like Amazon or at big box stores like Lowe's or Wal-Mart. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

In case Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers like Lowe's and Home Depot, give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (essentially free!) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30—and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. Visit SWRE's website for additional energy-saving tips.



CEO's Message



CEO, Jeff Simpson

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Bill Pay Options:

SmartHub App

SWRE.com

1-833-890-9510 (*Automated Line*)

Outage Reports:

1-833-590-0353

SmartHub App

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM SWRE

// The holidays – I love everything about this time of year. Just the thought of the holiday season brings a smile to my face and evokes a sense of comfort and nostalgia. Recalling family gatherings and traditions warms my heart and fills my senses.

It's a time of reflection. I'm grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family. At Southwest Rural Electric, we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members, because we live here too.

While many of our community-focused programs and activities such as Operation Round Up grant disbursements and the youth essay contests ramp up this time of year, we have several programs and services in place to help our members year-round. I'd like to remind you about some of these offerings in hopes you'll find them beneficial.

We hope you'll take advantage of SmartHub, an app that empowers you to monitor, manage and pay your energy bill conveniently through your phone. Another service we offer is FlexPay, our flexible prepaid program, which is intended to help budget your monthly energy costs. SWRE members can pay for electricity before it's used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. During the time period paid for, you'll receive regular feedback on your balance and can check your energy usage in SmartHub 24/7.

SWRE also offers rebates to members for the installation of electric water heaters, electric heat pumps and geothermal heat pumps. We are no longer selling electric water heaters at

the co-op because our local hardware stores can give members a much better price than we are able to.

Our Operation Round Up program allows SWRE members to help their neighbors. By simply choosing to "round up" your electric bills to the next whole dollar amount each month, you can help other SWRE members, nonprofits and civic organizations right here in our communities. Through members' generous donations since 2018, we've been able to give \$114,050 to those in need. Even more grants are being disbursed this winter, so stay tuned for that announcement. If you'd like to enroll your account(s) in our Operation Round Up program, please give us a call at 1-800-256-7973.

The most important investment we make is in our local youth. Each year, through our Youth Tour program, we send high school juniors to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. We also sponsor two deserving eighth grade students to represent us at Energy Camp where they learn about cooperatives and the electric industry.

At the heart of all of these programs is you—the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make. This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our team at SWRE, I know the future will be bright, because of you. //

Jeff Simpson
CEO

PRODUCTS & REBATES

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER REBATES

- Installing an electric water heater in new homes: \$200.00 per water heater
- Converting an existing gas water heater to electric water heater: \$200.00 per water heater
- Replacing existing electric unit with electric water heater: \$25.00 per water heater

ELECTRIC HEAT PUMP REBATES

- Installing an electric heat pump in a new home: \$200.00 per heat pump
- Converting an existing gas heat to electric heat pump: \$200.00 per heat pump
- Replacing an existing electric unit with electric heat pump: \$100.00 per heat pump

GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP REBATES

Homeowners that change to a geothermal heat pump can save about 25-40% on their energy costs. Geothermal heat pumps can be used on any size home and can replace any type of unit that a home may currently have. Geothermal heat pumps are the most cost effective, energy efficient way to heat and cool a home. Contact Member Services at 1-800-256-7973 for more information about rebates on geothermal heat pumps.

SEER rating required on all new installs to qualify. All SWRE rebate programs have limited availability.

COMMUNITY SOLAR

Do you want to utilize solar energy at your home or business, but avoid the expense of installation and maintenance of unsightly solar panels on your property? SWRE has two community solar fields in Frederick and Vernon and invites you to “go green” without the hassle! Any SWRE member at any location in the co-op’s service territory may participate.

SWRE members who opt to participate may purchase a “share” in the field equivalent to one solar panel and lock in a guaranteed rate through 2041. Shares purchased in 2021 cost \$309.66 each, payable at the time of purchase. The purchase price per share is reduced by 4% each calendar year. Shares may be purchased in quantities ranging from 1 to 25 in Frederick or Vernon (or both).

After the share purchase, members will be credited on their monthly SWRE bill based on their portion of the fields’ production. Participants will not own any of the panels or infrastructure. It is estimated that the payback period for members who choose to buy shares is approximately 15 years. Contact Member Services at 1-800-256-7973 to sign up for Community Solar.



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

**FROM OUR CO-OP FAMILY TO YOURS,
WISHING YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY
SEASON AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR.**

**SWRE WILL BE CLOSED DEC. 23 AND 24
FOR CHRISTMAS, AND DEC. 31 FOR NEW
YEAR’S EVE.**

Trading Post

For Sale: Church pews (26), hymnals (2 sets), dining tables (8), folding chairs (40), altars, organ, and piano. For more information, call (580) 305-2194.

For Sale: 1952 Ford 8N Tractor, 2012 Massimo ATV, 3-point post hole digger, brush hog, grader, and rake. Call (580) 954-5466 and make an offer.

For Sale: Reclining wheelchair and patient lift. Like-new condition. Call (580) 954-5466.

FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Submissions must include the account holder's name and account number to be eligible. Ads are also posted on SWRE.com.

Send your ad to the marketing department by mail, e-mail or phone!

MAIL: P.O. Box 310, Tipton, OK 73570

E-MAIL: marketing@swre.com

PHONE: 1-800-256-7973



CHRISTMAS PUNCH

SERVING SIZE: 12-16 CUPS

INGREDIENTS:

64 oz cranberry 100% juice blend, chilled For the garnish: 5 star anise, fresh or
32 oz pineapple juice, chilled frozen cranberries, rosemary sprigs
32 oz ginger ale, chilled
1 orange
1 lemon

DIRECTIONS:

1. Chill the liquids in advance. Adding ice waters it down too much, so chill everything prior to mixing.
2. Slice the citrus and assemble the garnishes. Make sure you've got everything on hand. Refrigerate the citrus until serving.
3. Add the cranberry juice blend, pineapple juice, and ginger ale to a punch bowl. Add the ginger ale right before serving to get the best bubbles!
4. Garnish with orange and lemon slices, and if desired, cranberries, star anise and rosemary sprigs.

Source: You can find this festive drink and its variations at <https://www.acouplecooks.com/christmas-punch/>.

SWRE

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