



TIPS FOR MANAGING ENERGY USE DURING COVID-19

As American families and businesses transition to remote-work, they may see a surge in home energy use – and in upcoming electric bills. Simple money-saving steps can help lower monthly electric bills without jeopardizing safety or comfort.

“America’s electric cooperatives understand the increased financial hardships facing families and businesses due to the economic impact of COVID-19,” said Keith Bonham, SWRE’s interim CEO. “It’s important for families to be mindful of their energy use and consider adjusting certain habits to avoid higher costs later on.”

Recommended energy-saving tips include:

- **Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings.** Setting your thermostat one degree lower when heating or one degree higher when cooling can reduce energy use by up to 5 percent.
- **Do full loads of laundry and wash with cold water.** Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load’s energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more.
- **Air dry dishes.** This step can cut your dishwasher’s energy use by up to 50 percent.
- **Substitute LEDs for conventional light bulbs.** Lighting can amount to up to 12% of monthly energy use. LED bulbs can cut lighting costs by 75%.
- **Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use.** Small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in use. When powered on, game consoles, televisions and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12 percent of energy use.

SWRE members who have questions about their energy bills should call 1-800-256-7973.

CO-OP PRINCIPLE # 5

EDUCATION, TRAINING & INFORMATION

CEO's Message



Interim CEO, Keith Bonham

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SWRE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Bill Pay Options:

SmartHub App
SWRE.com
833-890-9510, *Automated Bill-Pay Line*

Outage Reports:

1-800-256-7973
SmartHub App

COVID-19 & THE COOPERATIVE WAY

// Dear Members,

As we all deal with the new realities brought on by the coronavirus, I want to assure you that your local electric cooperative is here to help you. We have always had an Emergency Plan that has served us well in a variety of circumstances, from ice storms to tornadoes to flash floods. Early in this crisis, our staff updated that plan with a special emphasis on ensuring we can continue to provide the reliable electric service you have come to expect from your electric cooperative.

So far, that is exactly what has happened. We know that after a sufficient supply of food and water, electricity is the No. 1 thing you need to maintain some sense of normalcy as we hunker down in our homes. With that in mind, keeping the power flowing is Job 1 for everyone involved in maintaining the electric cooperative system.

That starts with our generation cooperative, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, which has taken extreme measures to ensure its workforce is healthy and its power plants are functioning as needed. It extends to many cooperatives that wheel that electricity across Oklahoma and Texas, and it includes SWRE where business may be a bit unusual, but our service remains the same.

We thought you might want to know some of the steps we have taken in order to keep your power flowing. We've closed our lobbies to prevent the spread of germs. Instead, we are encouraging members to use our outdoor dropbox, online and phone payment options and the "good old" U.S. Postal Service to pay bills.

Many of our employees are working from home. We've divided departments into shifts so that they can practice social distancing even when in the office. If you call, the phones will be answered as always. We have separated our line crews from other employees and even from each other to limit possible spread of the virus. Trucks are being relocated so that lineworkers can head to the job site without coming to the office. New routines are in place for contractors working on our system in order to keep them away from employees. Deliveries are being quarantined.

Our management team and board are meeting constantly to fine-tune this plan. We are in constant contact with the other electric cooperatives in Oklahoma and Texas and with our statewide and national associations, the state legislatures, governors, etc.

So far, it is working well and everyone has adapted to the new norm. That's because we've done this before. Nothing brings out the best in our employees better than a crisis situation. It's kind of like gold that has been tested in fire... stronger and more beautiful!

Our focus here is on doing our part to keep your life as normal as possible through this situation and beyond. The cooperative way of doing business has brought us this far, and the cooperative way will help us through this crisis.

All the best to everyone. Stay healthy, stay home and we will get through this together the cooperative way!

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Keith Bonham
Interim CEO

ENERGY CAMP CONTEST WINNERS

Each year, 8th grade students who attend school or reside in Southwest Rural Electric's service territory are invited to write an essay on a topic provided by the cooperative. This year, the cooperative chose to focus on ways to improve energy efficiency. The essays were submitted to an independent judge for scoring. All finalists received a \$50 cash prize for participating, and the two winners—one from Texas and one from Oklahoma—earned a sponsored trip to Energy Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma, this summer. Congratulations to all!

WINNERS

Kierra Stolle, Vernon Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Misti Dickerson

Cameron Ramirez, Tipton Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Marisa White

FINALISTS

Jevon Fanner, Vernon Middle School
Alex Rivera, Vernon Middle School
Alyssa Horne, Northside Middle School
Brayden Fancher, Tipton Middle School
Alexus Amaya, Tipton Middle School
Danyelle Chavez, Tipton Middle School

WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

Our lobby is currently closed to the public. Please use one of these secure, convenient ways to pay your bill! If you need to speak to a member service representative, call 1-800-256-7973.

1. Phone or Tablet: SmartHub app
2. Desktop: SWRE.com
3. 24/7 Phone Line: 1-833-890-9510
4. Mail: P.O. Box 310, Tipton, OK 73570
5. Dropbox: 700 N. Broadway St., Tipton, OK 73570

SAVE THE DATES

MAY 1 – OPERATION ROUND UP GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN ONLINE

MAY 5 – CINCO DE MAYO

MAY 10 – MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 25 – MEMORIAL DAY
OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 25TH IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY.



CAMPFIRE CONES

INGREDIENTS:

Waffle Ice Cream Cones
Desired Toppings:
Marshmallows
Bananas / Raspberries / Strawberries
Pieces of Your Favorite Chocolate Candy

DIRECTIONS:

1. Fill a cone with the desired amount of marshmallow and toppings.
2. Cover the cone with foil. Place over the campfire (3-5 minutes), on a heated grill (5-6 minutes) or in the oven at 375 degrees (5-8 minutes) until the toppings are melted.
3. Enjoy the warm, gooey, melted deliciousness!

Source: This fun and easy summer treat is sure to be a hit with the kids and comes from <https://hip2save.com/recipes/campfire-cones-fun-easy-summer-dessert/>.

Trading Post

For Sale: Premium horse hay, OSU Midland 99 Bermuda, small bales (35-40 pounds each), \$7 each. Call 580-471-7284.

For Sale: Chord of very seasoned firewood. Asking \$85. Call 580-471-7284.

For Sale: Craftsman 42" riding lawnmower, 20 horsepower, good condition (stored indoors), does not run. Asking \$125. Call 580-512-6674.

For Sale: Head-in wheat hay and Sudan hay. Last year's baling. 60 bales of each available at \$55/bale. Located in Mountain Park. Call 580-301-3952.

FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Ads are also posted on SWRE.com.

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