

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, and that's worth celebrating.

BENEFITS OF EFFICIENCY

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 that 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.

STRIKE UP THE BAND

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.

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**THE PATH TO
EFFICIENCY
INDEPENDENCE**

CO-OP PRINCIPLE # 2

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

CEO's Message



Interim CEO, Keith Bonham

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ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED

// After much consideration for the health and safety of our membership, the SWRE Board of Directors has voted to postpone the 83rd Annual Meeting indefinitely. The meeting was scheduled to be held on August 20, 2020.

Annual Meeting is one of SWRE's most anticipated events of the year and 2020 was slated to be no different, but because of the

uncertainty of these times, we believe the best decision is to wait to gather. We are looking forward to the next time we can all safely meet together!

Stay informed on the new Annual Meeting date coming in future publications of *Oklahoma Living*, *Texas Co-op Power*, on social media and SWRE.com.

//
 Keith Bonham
 Interim CEO

FEATURE ARTICLE CONTINUED...

SMART CONTROL

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, SWRE can help you on the journey. For information about energy efficiency, contact us at 1-800-256-7973.

NEW WAY TO REPORT AN OUTAGE:

833-590-0353

For the convenience of our members, SWRE is excited to introduce a new way to report outages. Call 833-590-0353 anytime, 24/7, to report a power outage, get updates on an existing outage or update your phone number on file.

You can also report outages through your online account at SWRE.com or the SmartHub App. Contact a member service representative to set up your online account today!



ENERGY CAMP: VIRTUAL EDITION

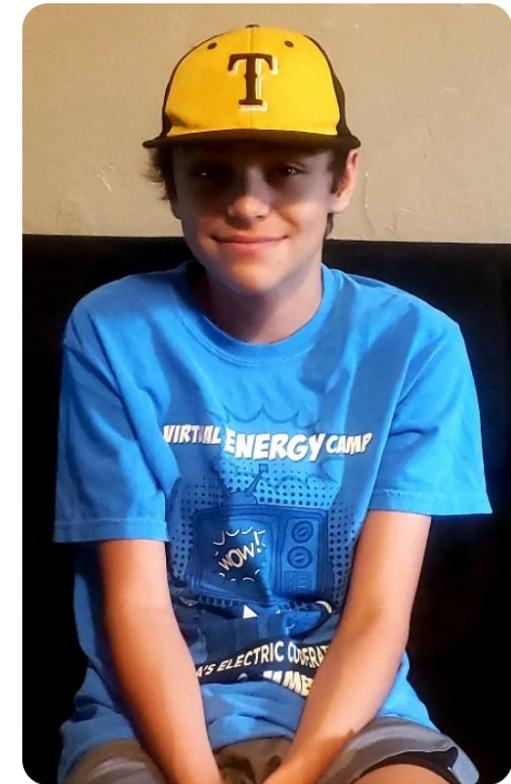
// As with many events in 2020, this year's Energy Camp looked a little different from the traditional camp experience. More than 50 Energy Campers, selected by Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives, enjoyed a "virtual" version of Energy Camp the week of May 26-29. Virtual camp included live social media broadcasts each morning, daily activities and challenges and more than 100 resources and materials for campers to explore online.

Each day, educational videos and projects were provided to campers digitally. Campers were able to navigate materials at their own pace and participate in activities throughout each day of camp. Daily activities and challenges provided opportunities for campers to share their progress and skills with camp staff and on social media.

Throughout the week, campers learned about the cooperative business model, the electric industry, career readiness, interview tips and tricks, personal financial responsibility, electric cooperative career opportunities, electric safety, the "life of a lineworker" and received words of inspiration from two motivational guest speakers. Camp counselors and coordinators also recorded personal videos to share about their role at the cooperative, how they interact with the membership, what they enjoy most about working for a cooperative and how the pandemic has affected their typical job duties and daily lives.

Congratulations to the 2020 Energy Campers on a successful virtual experience and making the best of an extraordinary circumstance. The leadership and adaptability displayed by everyone involved throughout this experience was impressive. Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives are proud of these future community leaders. Keep up the great work!

//
 Stacy Howeth
 Energy Camp Director



SWRE'S ENERGY CAMP WINNERS

Cameron Ramirez
 Tipton

Kierra Stolle
 Vernon

Pictured: One of SWRE's Energy Campers, Cameron Ramirez from Tipton, in his camp t-shirt.

2020 ENERGY CAMP FUN FACTS

ATTENDEES:

54 campers, representing 18 of Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives

RESOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS:

22 co-op employees, from 12 of Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives & OAEC
 2 professional speakers

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:

Oklahoma State Department of Education
 Credit Union (WEOKIE)

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH:

5,000+ people reached via Virtual EC video
 ~1,150 people reached organically daily
 218 Energy Camp page likes generated
 1,825 minutes of video views

Recipe



RED, WHITE & BLUE FROYO POPS

DIRECTIONS:

1. Fill popsicle mold or muffin tin with a thick layer of Greek yogurt.
2. Add in strawberries and blueberries. You can either layer them or mix them around to distribute the fruit throughout.
3. Cover with top layer of Greek yogurt and use a spatula or a spoon to flatten the surface.
4. Place popsicle sticks in the center of the molds or muffin tin and place in the freezer for 2 hours or until frozen to your liking. If using a muffin tin, you might want to let the froyo freeze before placing in popsicle sticks so that they don't fall over.
5. Remove from popsicle molds or muffin tin & enjoy!

INGREDIENTS:

Popsicle mold or muffin tin
Popsicle sticks
Greek yogurt of choice
Strawberries, quartered
Blueberries

Source: Happy Fourth of July! You can find this patriotic recipe at <https://tasty.co/recipe/red-white-and-blue-froyo-pops>.

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: Cord of very seasoned firewood. Asking \$85. Call 580-471-7284.

For Sale: Head-in wheat hay and Sudan hay. Last year's baling. 60 bales of each available at \$35/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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