



HALEY'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Electricity is everywhere. It is used in homes, on the streets, and even in schools. Technological advancements have enabled humanity to connect in a way that has never been done before. Even though electronics are very useful, when it comes down to it, whether it is gaming systems or everyday appliances, they use a lot of power. Power plants emit a lot of carbon dioxide and a huge part of the electricity they generate is consumed by electronic devices that are plugged in and powered off. That is why when dealing with energy conservation, our focus should be on the energy consumption of electronic devices.

Electronic devices drain unnecessary amounts of power while they are powered off. According to an article from the New York Times written by Tatiana Schlossberg, about 25% of the energy used to power household electronics is used when they are powered off. For example, if you had a cable box plugged in but you never used it, it would drain about 227 kilowatt-hours a year, which is more than some people use annually in developing countries. This much-wasted energy costs about \$19 billion in electricity bills every year. Not only does it impact our wallets, but it also impacts our environment as well. About 37% of all carbon dioxide emissions come from electricity production. This is because most people in the United States have some sort of electronic device.

Although electronics waste large amounts of power, we do not have to cut them out of our lives completely. There are many

ways to monitor and cut down our energy use. You can ask your electric provider for information or have a small meter installed that tells you and your utility provider how much energy your home consumes. You can make your home more energy efficient just by unplugging devices like phone chargers and toasters while you are not using them so they cannot drain any power. You can also unplug your Wi-Fi router whenever you leave your house or before you go to bed so it does not waste unnecessary amounts of power.

Doing things like this can save about as much energy as 50 large power plants can generate. These things will save us money on electricity bills and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emissions that are harming our atmosphere. Overall, technology is a great tool for various reasons, but it uses more power than many developing countries would in a year. The main reason our devices use as much power as they do is that we leave them plugged into a power source when we are not using them. The easiest way to prevent our devices from using as much energy as they do is to unplug them while we are not using them and to be informed about how much energy our homes consume. Doing this will not only save your wallets, but it will save the world too.

Haley Spurr

SWRE 2020 Youth Tour Winner | Electra 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

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

Outage Reports:

833-590-0353
SmartHub App

LET'S CONNECT.

// When we say that we live in a “connected” world, most of us think about technology, like our smart phones and other devices and gadgets. But when you’re a member of an electric co-op (that’s you!), there’s so much more to being part of our connected co-op community.

As member of Southwest Rural Electric Association, you help to power good in our local community through initiatives like Operation Round Up, food and toy drives and other initiatives that help the most vulnerable in our community.

We depend on you because you power our success, and when SWRE does well, the community thrives because we’re all connected.

We greatly value our connection to you, the members we serve. And we’d like to help you maximize the value you can get from SWRE through a variety of programs, products and services that we offer our members. For example, reach out to us for energy tips on how to save money on your monthly electricity bill. When you download the SmartHub app, you can monitor and manage your home energy use, pay your bill online and easily contacts us during an outage.

When you follow Southwest Rural Electric on social media, you can stay up to date on power restoration efforts, youth programs, community outreach, Operation Round Up grants, etc. You’ll also see photos of our line crews and employees in action.

We offer a couple of automated phone services that are available to you 24/7. Securely pay your bill over the phone by calling 1-833-890-9510. Report an outage anytime by calling 1-833-590-0353. We also understand that sometimes it’s nice to hear a human voice on the other end of the line, so give us a call during SWRE

office hours at 1-800-256-7973 and a member service representative will be happy to assist you.

By connecting with us, you can get real-time updates from your co-op. That’s why we want to make sure we have your most current contact information on hand. If we can’t connect with you on these platforms or in person, you could miss out on updates and important information. SWRE relies on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, and up-to-date contact information from our members helps ensure that we can provide the highest level of service that you expect and deserve.

Updated contact information can even speed up the power restoration process during an outage. Accurate information helps our crews to be able to reach you if a problem can’t be resolved right away or if they need more information on your account or location.

We hope you will connect with us whenever and wherever you can—whether that means attending our annual meeting, providing feedback on a recent visit or call with our employees, or simply downloading the SmartHub app.

SWRE exists to serve our members, and when we’re better connected to you and our local community, we’re better prepared to answer the call.

To update your contact information or to learn more about co-op products and services, visit SWRE.com or call 1-800-256-7973.

We look forward to connecting with you!

Jeff Simpson
CEO

OPERATION ROUND UP GRANTS \$49,050 TO SWRE COMMUNITIES IN 2020

The Operation Round Up Board of Directors recently awarded \$49,050 to 18 organizations in SWRE territory! These donations are made possible by SWRE members who “round up” their electric bills to the nearest whole dollar each month and contribute to SWRE’s charitable foundation, Operation Round Up. Benefitting organizations included:

Tipton Public Schools

SWOK Community Action Group Head Start

Altus Public Schools Child Nutrition

Tipton Volunteer Fire Department

Boys & Girls Club of Vernon

Salvation Army of Altus

Southwest Baptist Churches Assembly

Great Plains Literacy Council

Tipton FFA Booster Club

Tillman County EMS District

Tipton Chamber of Commerce

Cupboard by Grace *Vernon, TX*

Tillman County Historical Society

Salvation Army of Vernon

Northside FFA

Warren Senior Citizens

Operation C.A.R.E. *Jackson County*

Friends of Snyder Public Library

If you would like to enroll your account(s) in Operation Round Up or increase your monthly contribution, give us a call at 1-800-256-7973. SWRE members and non-members can also make one-time donations through Operation Round Up PLUS. Thank you for helping us give back to our communities!



2021 YOUTH TOUR CONTEST DEADLINE EXTENDED



OPEN FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

ESSAY & APP DEADLINE: **JAN. 15, 2021** • APPLY AT [SWRE.COM/YOUTH TOUR](https://www.swre.com/youth-tour)

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Write an essay (750-word max, double-spaced) on this topic: “You are in charge of the energy efficiency of your home. Describe ways you would recommend making your home more energy efficient.”
2. Submit your entry form and essay at [SWRE.com/YouthTour](https://www.swre.com/youth-tour). If you are not able to apply online, please contact marketing@swre.com.
3. Finalists will be selected by Feb. 22, 2021 and be required to present their essay as a speech to a panel of judges (in person or via live video conference) on March 11, 2021.
4. Finalists who deliver their speeches are eligible to win some cash prizes as well as SWRE’s Youth Tour grand prizes!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they’re not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source:
www.nrel.gov





INGREDIENTS:

- 2½ pounds roma tomatoes, halved
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- ⅓ cup chopped carrots
- 4 garlic cloves, chopped
- 3 cups vegetable broth
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon thyme leaves
- 1 loose-packed cup basil leaves, more for garnish
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

TOMATO BASIL SOUP

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Place the tomatoes cut-side up on the baking sheet, drizzle with 2 tablespoons of the olive oil, and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Roast for 1 hour or until the edges just start to shrivel and the insides are still juicy.
2. Heat the remaining 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onions, carrots, garlic, and ½ teaspoon salt and cook until soft, about 8 minutes. Stir in the tomatoes, vegetable broth, vinegar, and thyme leaves and simmer for 20 minutes.
3. Let cool slightly and pour the soup into a blender, working in batches if necessary. Blend until smooth. Add the basil and pulse until combined.
4. Garnish the soup with basil leaves and serve with crusty bread or a warm grilled cheese!

Source: <https://www.loveandlemons.com/tomato-basil-soup-recipe/>

Trading Post

For Sale: 3 registered Red Angus bulls. Call W5 Farms at (940) 839-5467 for pictures and details.

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.

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

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SWRE

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