

## ROOFTOP SOLAR FAQs

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU SIGN

Adding rooftop solar to your house is an investment of time and money comparable to the commitment you made when purchasing the property. Think back to that time: You looked for the right place at the right price. You found out as much about it as you could. You sought a trusted source to lend their expertise in matters they understood. You had a thorough understanding before you signed the mortgage papers. You should do the same before signing a solar contract.

To help determine whether rooftop solar is right for you, consider this:

- Overall energy efficiency of your home/building
- Orientation of the sun in relation to the home/building
- Tree coverage near the home
- Weather patterns for the region
- Return on investment

Questions you should ask a salesperson before you sign anything:

- What is the proposed electric rate? What is the inflation rate used? How do these compare with my current electric rate?
- What estimated cost is used for the excess energy produced? SWRE purchases energy supplied by the member at the cooperative's current avoided energy cost.
- Is there a large upfront payment required or are fees spread out over time?
- Will I own the panels or will they be leased?
- Are there any hidden costs like replacing the roof before installation? What about marketing, advertising or research fees?
- Are there ongoing maintenance fees?
- Are there rebates or other financial incentives available?
- Are the estimated energy savings worth the investment?
- Is it more cost effective to invest in other energy-saving measures?



We encourage SWRE members to do research on solar providers and request several quotes before signing a contract to install rooftop solar panels on your home.

Keep in mind that proposals that claim that your electric bill will equal \$0 after installing solar panels are incorrect. All members of Southwest Rural Electric pay a monthly fee to help cover fixed costs like poles, wires and transformers -- all equipment that is required to provide power whenever you need it.

We know our members are very interested in green energy sources and renewables. If you'd like to explore solar energy without the hassle of equipment and maintenance, ask us about SWRE's Community Solar Project.

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), Southwest Rural Electric's wholesale power supplier, is a leader in the integration of renewable energy that benefits all of our members. Most recently, 250 MW of wind energy from the Skeleton Creek project was added with an additional 250 MW of solar energy and 200 MW of battery storage to be completed by 2023. After the next phases are complete, WFEC's planned generation portfolio will consist of 623 MW of solar generation, 957 MW of wind generation and 268 MW of hydro-electric generation.

As your trusted energy provider, SWRE is here to help you determine what option is best for you and we welcome your questions. Give us a call at 1-800-256-7973.

## CEO's Message



CEO, Jeff Simpson

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### Southwest Rural Electric

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700 North Broadway  
Tipton, OK 73570-0310

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)

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

### Outage Reports:

1-833-590-0353  
SmartHub App



## 5 REASONS WE LOVE SERVING OUR MEMBERS

// As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive. So, in that vein, we've created our list of top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Southwest Rural Electric.

**1. We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.** Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, SWRE exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1937—to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.

**2. You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back.** A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we're able to help the most vulnerable members of our community through Operation Round Up which distributes grants to our local food pantries and clothing closets, volunteer fire departments, schools, etc.

**3. Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors.** They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger

community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

**4. You help us get it right.** SWRE members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees. We also appreciate your feedback on co-op programs and services. Your opinions are critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for that.

**5. You and other SWRE members make up the community we serve—and for us, it's all about community.** Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. //

*Jeff Simpson*  
CEO



FIGURES ARE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.

# FlexPay

## BY SWRE

*Plug in to the benefits of the FlexPay prepaid program!*

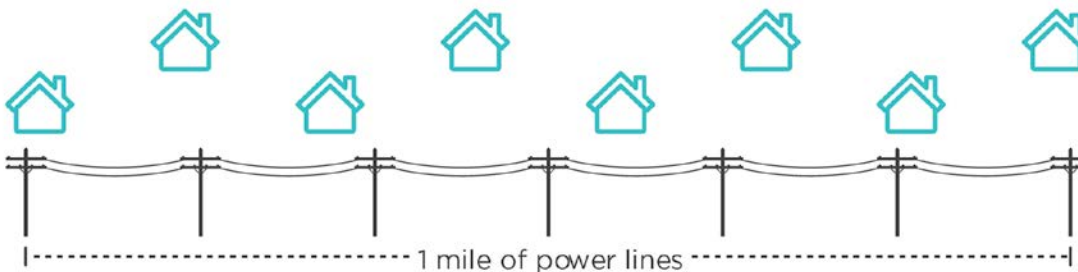
- >> NO MORE MONTHLY BILLS
- >> CONVENIENTLY PURCHASE ELECTRICITY UPFRONT
- >> MONITOR YOUR ENERGY USAGE
- >> 24/7 ACCOUNT ACCESS
- >> NEW USERS HAVE NO UPFRONT DEPOSIT
- >> ESTABLISHED MEMBERS CAN USE THEIR EXISTING DEPOSIT TO PAY THEIR BILL

## GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Electric co-ops maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other electric utilities. Even though we power fewer consumers on our lines compared to other utilities, we'll always go the extra mile for you, the consumer-members we proudly serve.

### ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Serve 8 consumer-members per mile of line



### OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES

Serve 32 consumers per mile of line



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## Trading Post

**For Sale:** Case three-bottom moldboard plow. Asking \$250, cash sale only. Buyer must load. Request pictures by emailing [hwcs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hwcs@sbcglobal.net). For more information, call (940) 552-7402.

**For Sale:** King-size pillow top mattress and foundation. Legacy Aloe Vera brand. Pristine condition. Includes two new king-size pillows and one set of like-new king sheets. Asking \$500 or best offer. Also, one semi-circular TV table with opaque glass and mahogany wood. Asking \$25. Call (580) 569-4550.

**ISO:** Looking for old advertising signs and gas pumps. Call (580) 318-2850.

*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](http://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](mailto:marketing@swre.com)

PHONE: 1-800-256-7973



## UNDERWOOD'S CAFETERIA CHERRY COBLER

SERVING SIZE: 12

### INGREDIENTS:

#### Cobbler Crust

1 cup shortening  
2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour  
½ teaspoon salt  
cold water  
½ cup butter

#### Cherry Filling

1 ¼ cup sugar  
1 pinch salt  
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
1 can cherries, undrained  
1 cup water  
4 teaspoons red food coloring

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. Crust: Combine shortening and flour in a bowl and mix well. Add salt and enough cold water to make ingredients cling together. Roll the dough until it is very thin.
3. Cut up butter and place in a 9 x 13 inch pan.
4. Filling: Combine in bowl the sugar, salt and flour. Mix well. Add the cherries, water and food coloring. Mix well and pour over butter in pan. Top with rolled out crust.
5. Bake at 350° F until brown (a little less than one hour).

*Source: This recipe by TwylaRenee can be found at <https://www.cdktichen.com/recipes/recs/357/underwoods-cafeteria-cherry-154127.shtml>. It was originally from a wonderful Texas-based cafeteria specializing in delicious slow-smoked barbecued steak.*

# SWRE

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