

SWRE POWER SOURCE

A Supplement to Oklahoma Living

GROW YOUR ENERGY SAVINGS: HOW YOUR CO-OP CAN HELP YOU SAVE MONEY



By Jeff Simpson, Chief Executive Officer

One of my favorite things about summer is the opportunity for fresh, homegrown food, whether it's shopping at the local farmers' market or sharing the abundance of garden tomatoes with a neighbor. It's amazing how just a few seeds, some fertilizer and water can turn into a bounty.

When I think about energy efficiency, I think about that bounty of food, and how with just a few simple actions, you can use less electricity and reap the rewards of energy savings.

You don't need to be a farmer or botanist to know that plants need water—just like you don't have to be a lineworker or engineer to know that adjusting the thermostat or turning off lights can reduce your monthly electric bill. In fact, if you read Southwest Rural Electric's publications regularly and follow us on Facebook, you know there are a lot of things you can do at home to save electricity and money.

Summer months bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. But why? Cooling your home accounts for a large portion of your monthly energy use, and the hotter it gets, the harder (and longer) your air conditioner works to keep you cool.

I'd like to share a few ways we're here to help you save—not only during the dog days of summer but throughout the year.

(continued on next page)

GROWING ENERGY SAVINGS

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One of the great things about being part of SWRE is that we're locally owned by you, our members. So instead of making profits, we can focus on helping our community. That's why we've developed incentives and programs to help you keep your money in your wallet. Save money with these easy incentives:

- **Rebates** – SWRE offers different ways to give you money back for efficient equipment you purchase, like heat pumps and water heaters. Many of our rebates can be claimed by contacting member services at 1-800-256-7973. Find a list of all our rebates at SWRE.com/Products-Rebates.
- **Take Control of Your Use** – Use the SmartHub app to track your energy use. You can even get alerts when your use spikes so you can make changes in real time.
- **Beat the Peak** – Consider using electricity off peak hours to not only save on your summer electric bill now, but to help us keep electric rates affordable for years to come. During the summer months, energy demand is the highest across the distribution system from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. (the peak hour window). This is typically the time of day that little members are getting home from school and their parents are coming home from work, making dinner, bumping down the AC, etc. From 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. also happens to be the hottest time of the day when AC systems are working extra hard to make up the difference between the inside temperature of your home and the temperature outside. We call the spike in electricity use during this time a “peak.” To beat the peak, set large appliances (oven, dishwasher, washer and dryer) to run before or after the peak window. Switch to a crockpot, air fryer or grill for cooking. Lastly, set your thermostat higher than you're used to and utilize ceiling fans and drapes to stay cool.
- **Ways to Pay** – If you're having a difficult time paying the higher bills that come with increased use in the summer, contact us to learn about your options.

Most people don't know everything about electricity, and that's why we're here to help you. There are no investors making profits here. Just knowledgeable people with local jobs, working for our neighbors to ensure there is electricity available when you need it. Contact us, and we can work with you to find more ways to save energy—and money.

5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

1. Raise your thermostat.

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

2. Install window coverings

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.



Source: Dept. of Energy

3. **Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping** around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.

4. **Run ceiling fans** for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.

5. **Lower your water heater thermostat** to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.

SCHOOL SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

Employees from the operations and marketing departments were busy this spring visiting eighth grade classrooms throughout the service area promoting electrical safety.

Students learned about safe decisions to make during various scenarios involving electricity, the safety training and equipment that linemen use in the field, and about rewarding career opportunities as a lineworker. The linemen also facilitated a skills challenge for students to compete to be the first to disassemble and reassemble equipment while wearing a lineman's gloves.

To book a safety demonstration, contact SWRE's marketing department!



Pictured: Jeremiah Overman, journeyman lineman, engages with eighth grade students at Harrold ISD.



MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRIC SAFETY MONTH

Why does it matter? Simply put, your life matters. Electricity is a powerful force. If not used correctly, it can be life threatening. That's why Oklahoma's electric cooperatives have teamed up to make sure you are wired up for safety!

Did you know?

- 69% of all electrical workplace fatalities occur in non-electrical occupations
- Contact with overhead power lines accounts for 45% of fatalities
- Working on or near energized parts accounts for another 44%
- 39% of electrical fatalities could have been prevented by safety device controls
- 7% of all fatalities could have been prevented by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)

(Source: Electrical Safety Foundation)

WHEN POWER LINES FALL, STAY AWAY & CALL

Electricity is a powerful force and should be respected. More often than we would care to admit, we don't pay enough attention to it, unless we're impacted by it.

Keeping you safe is one of SWRE's top priorities. When it comes to electrical safety, remember:

- It takes 50 volts or more of electricity to penetrate human skin.
- Contact of 600 volts or more punctures human skin at both the entrance and exit points.
- Electricity travels at the speed of light: 186,000 miles per second.
- When power lines fall, stay away and call! (Call 911 or SWRE)
- Downed cable/phone lines could also be energized if a power line is in contact with the cable/phone lines due to damages to the pole.
- If a vehicle or equipment strikes a padmount transformer, handle it the same way you would a downed power line.
- Do not pull electric meters. Contact SWRE to disconnect the service. Meters can explode in extreme conditions.

Stay tuned for more important electrical safety messages this month!

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PROUD TO
POWER YOU.**