

Member Contact



Boone Electric Cooperative's Monthly Newsletter

December 2014

Unwrap Winter Energy Savings

With winter temperatures creeping downward, Boone Electric members are encouraged to turn to efficiency to save dollars and stay warm.

"The most efficient thing to do is invest in weather stripping and insulation," said Chris Rohlring, Manager of Member Services. "Caulking and plastic sheeting around windows will create more comfort in the home and that's a project most people can complete for \$50 to \$100. Boone Electric's Home Performance with Energy Star® program can help you pinpoint trouble spots."

Space heaters, on the other hand, are often marketed as an efficient, money-saving option, but we urge members to think before they push in the plug.

Often people who use space heaters don't read the fine print with regard to their use and their energy savings. Are space heaters too good to be true? Yes and no. Most space heaters that plug in the wall produce about the same number of Watts as a coffee maker or hair dryer. That's OK for heating a room, but not an entire house.

"Electric heaters are useful for spot heating," continued Rohlring. "If you have a room that is cold or drafty, you could use a heater to warm that room. But it would be better to invest in some caulk, weather stripping and insulation than an overpriced space heater."

You can save money using a space heater only if you use it to heat a single room after turning down the heat in the rest of the house. Without turning down your thermostat, all you are doing by plugging in a space heater is adding to your energy load. The heating unit is still working the same as before.

If you do use a space heater, use it safely:

- Don't place the heater near flammable materials.
- Don't use the heater with an extension cord.
- Make sure the heater has a safety switch that turns the device off if it tips over or gets too hot.
- Use only UL-listed products.
- Don't use the heater outdoors or in wet areas.
- Keep the heater away from small children.
- Be sure to turn the heater off and unplug it when you leave the house.



If you use a space heater this winter, be sure to turn down the home thermostat. Otherwise the heater increases your energy bill, not decreases it like the advertisements claim.

Boone Electric goes back to the hardwood

Boone Electric Cooperative celebrates the 11th season of Touchstone Energy Night at the Basketball Game at several area schools this month.

Join us for a chance to win money in a halftime shootout.

Tuesday, December 16

Centralia High School
Southern Boone High School

Friday, December 19

Hallsville High School

Energy Tip of the Month



Adding insulation to your home? An R-value indicates insulation's resistance to heat flow -- a higher R-value means more heat is held in the insulated area. Every type of insulation has a unique R-value depending on material, thickness and density. Consider the Home Performance with Energy Star® program to find out your home's ideal R-value.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Office Closing:

Boone Electric Cooperative will be closed:

Thursday, January 1 -- in celebration of New Year's Day.

Monday, January 19 -- for an all-employee training day.

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Save at the Pharmacy

Did you realize there is a pharmacy component to the Co-op Connections Card program? Since Boone Electric enrolled in the program in 1997, member-owners have saved more than \$80,000 on prescription drug costs alone.

This plan is not insurance; it is a pharmacy discount offer. Simply present your card to the pharmacist. In many instances, the price is cheaper than the price offered by your insurance. There are no forms to fill out and no limit to the number of times you can use the card. Use your card to purchase prescriptions not covered by your insurance plan.

If you have questions about the program, please call Boone Electric at (573) 449-4181.



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Capital Credit Retirement this Month

Boone Electric Cooperative members and former members who are eligible to receive a capital credit retirement should see those payments this month. The Cooperative's Board of Directors has retired slightly more than \$2 million, to be paid to those people who were members in 1995 and/or 2013.

The amount of the return each member receives is based on their energy usage in those particular years. If the return is less than \$20, that total is not returned, but rather held until the capital credit return exceeds \$20.

Each member was given the option earlier this fall of how to receive their allotment. If you chose to receive a credit to your electric account, look for that credit on the bill with this newsletter. Those members who are receiving a check should see those checks by late December.

As a Cooperative member, you share in the margins (profit) generated by the Cooperative. Boone Electric returns those margins in the form of capital credits. Since the Cooperative began returning capital credits in the mid 1950s, Boone Electric has returned more than \$60 million to members. Nationwide, electric cooperatives have returned \$12 billion to members -- \$814 million in 2013 alone.

Retirement of capital credits is just another great advantage of membership in a rural electric cooperative.

Bundle Up for Winter Storms

Snow and ice are inevitable when dealing with winter storms, but being prepared can make a world of difference. Boone Electric Cooperative recommends the following tips to help you prepare for wintry blasts:

Winterize your home

- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to make the most of your heating system.
- Remember to maintain and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year to ensure they're working safely and properly.
- Insulate water pipes with insulation. Allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to avoid frozen pipes.
- Consider installing storm windows for better insulation and less air leakage. You can also cover the windows with plastic from the inside to keep the cold drafts out.

Prepare a winter survival kit

- Food: Store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand.
- Medication: Be sure to refill all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.
- Identification: Keep all forms of identification handy, such as driver's licenses, photo ID's and social security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.
- Other items: First aid kit, blankets, flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.

Stay warm and safe

If an outage does occur and you use an alternate heating source, practice extreme caution. Fuel and wood-burning heating sources should always be vented, and make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.

If you use a portable generator during an outage, make sure it is placed outside the home for proper ventilation. Be careful not to overload the generator and never plug it directly into your home wiring. Use appropriate extension cords that can handle the electric load.

Follow these tips to help stay warm and safe over the winter. For more information on preparing for winter storms, visit www.ready.gov.