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IEC
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Sealing cracks and gaps around doors and windows is a great way to keep winter drafts at bay; use the nice fall temperatures to prepare your home for the cold winter ahead. Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Take the Chill Out of Winter Bills

By Amber Bentley

Between holiday houseguests and shorter, colder days, electric bills tend to climb in the winter — and, yes, cold weather is approaching! Read on for ways to save energy when the temperature drops.

Lower your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower)**:** If you decrease the temperature by just one degree, you can save up to 5 percent on heating costs. Consider a programmable thermostat that you can set to lower the temperature when away from home and increase before you come back.

Adjust blinds and curtains: Keep them open to let in sunlight during the day, and close at night to keep heat inside and protect from drafts.

Reduce hot water temperatures: Heating water accounts for 12 percent of the average home's energy use. Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees or lower—that's usually sufficient for a household's hot-water needs. Also, if you've had your water heater for more than 12 years, you might want to consider replacing it with a more energy-efficient model.

Seal and insulate: This is the best way to keep heat in and air out. Areas that may need sealing include corners, cracks, door frames, and windows. Keep wintery drafts out of your home by sealing cracks and gaps. Weather stripping around doors and windows works well when you can see daylight between the frame and the wall or floor. Use caulk to seal around the frames where you see gaps.

Consider replacing old appliances, doors, and windows with ENERGY STAR-rated models: You can save about 15 percent of your normal energy use with these appliances and get better insulation on doors and windows for the price you pay. ENERGY STAR-rated items meet special efficiency standards set by the federal government.

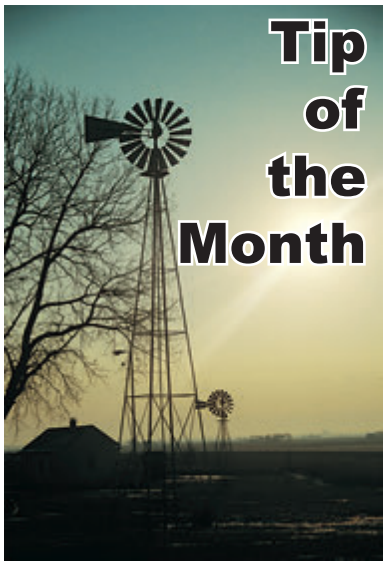
Free your vents: HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems will have to work twice as hard if vents are blocked by rugs, furniture, or doors. Keep vents clear for proper air flow.

Keep food cool: Don't make your fridge work too hard. A temperature set between 34 and 37 degrees Fahrenheit is usually sufficient.

A special holiday tip: Use LED lights to decorate. They're up to 75 percent more energy efficient than traditional incandescent lights and last much longer—but check for an ENERGY-STAR rating before you buy. Cheaper LEDs tend not to last as long or be as durable.

Visit EnergySavers.gov or TogetherWeSave.com or iecok.com for more ways to save.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY



• Like homes and other businesses, farms of all types can lower their electricity bills by turning off or lowering lights and small equipment in outbuildings.

Timers and sensors can help, too. Regular cleaning, maintenance, and seasonal tune-ups help keep larger equipment running at top efficiency.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR 'JEWELS' OF THE COMMUNITY - See page 2 for what we found in Cleveland.

Historic Library Exists Thanks To Dedicated Volunteers

Jewels of the Community

Is there anything better than seeing a lot of hard work and hours of volunteer commitment end up paying off big time?

That's exactly what happened in Cleveland when the board of directors of the Cleveland Public Library decided it was time for something new.

Funny thing is, however, they ended up with something old. Long deserted as an elementary school building, the quaint brick building they claimed as a new home for the public library was constructed in 1930 as a WPA project and had sat empty for years as a storage facility for the school until the school handed over the property to the City.

"Board members had a vision for this place...and look at it now," said Michelle Miller, director of the Jay C. Byers Library.

The library is named in honor of its largest benefactor, the late Jay C. Byers, who grew up in Cleveland and was an attorney. The generous gift made by the Byers Estate enabled the project — which began with community fund raisers and grant applications — to be completed and occupied in July 2002. The library continues to benefit from the Byers Estate through an ongoing endowment.

The library, renovated (thanks to the help of another Cleveland native, architect Jack McSorley) and decorated following regulations set forth by Oklahoma's Register of Historical Places, maintained the historic look of an old school building.

However, today everything's up-to-date inside those brick walls.

"It's important to stay viable to the community...to this fast moving society," Miller said.

The high-speed Internet offered at the library is popular, whether patrons use one of the library's computers or bring in one of their own electronic devices. Ebooks are now available for check-out using a Kindle, Ipad or some other electronic device. The library's website offers a wealth of information (jcbyerslibrary.okpls.org).And, yes, the old-fashioned book continues to be checked out over the counter! Over 15,000 books fill the shelves and more than 6,950 library cards are active as the library offers its services to residents within a 20 mile radius.

Weekly story times for children, summer reading clubs, a Friends of the Library organization, and involvement in the annual high school Senior Girls' Tea are just a few other ways the library stays an active part of the community.

When considering a move to Cleveland, those in-the-know routinely suggest a visit to the local library as it's sure to leave a positive impression...after all, *it's a jewel of the community!*

The library is located at 215 E. Wichita

Round-Up® Grants making a difference

Using the tag line, "When you add it up, it makes more than cents!" By contributing pennies, Operation Round-Up® participants realize they make the difference for a family or non-profit organization in real need.

Participants voluntarily allow IEC to "round up" their electric bill to the next dollar. These pennies collectively fund the Operation Round-Up® grants. The average "rounding" is 50 cents and never more than 99 cents per month. The maximum rounding per year is $11.88.

Grants are awarded by board decisions generated by a separate eight-member IEC Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees. Each applicant completes an interview.

Operation Round-Up® contributions have assisted individuals in need of clothing, food, housing and medical care, to name a few of the needs. Non-profit organizations are also eligible to apply.

For more information contact the IEC office at 918-295-9500 or Clara Eulert at 918-295-9558.

In July the IEC Foundation, Inc. made a $500 donation to Prevent Blindness Oklahoma (PBO). Donna Rutherford, Vice President, IEC Foundation Board of Trustee, District 4 (left) presented the check to Dianna Bonfiglio, PBO President/CEO. The organization strives to bring awareness to efforts being made to preserve sight and prevent blindness. Many children in our area live in families without health insurance to cover a vision exam. PBO has provided vouchers for free exams and glasses for those children in need for 47 years.

In August, IEC Foundation, Inc. made a $250 donation to the Sand Springs Chamber of Commerce (SSCC). The presentation was made by Anna Harris, IEC Foundation Board of Trustees Secretary, District 7 (right) to Jason Charles, SSCC Board Chairman, Mary Eubanks, SSCC President, and Tammy Moss, SSCC Administrator. The funds will be used to assist with the Chamber Operations Fundraiser Event "Chillin & Grillin BBQ Festival" set for Oct. 11-12 in Sand Springs' River City Park. Kansas City Barbeque Society rules and regulations apply for competition.

Celebrate National Cooperative Month with IEC

October set aside to honor co-ops in Oklahoma

Join Indian Electric Cooperative Inc. (IEC) in celebrating cooperatives in Oklahoma and across America during National Cooperative Month.

Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique: local democratic control, commitment to supporting the communities they serve and improving quality of life, special benefits and services, and the return of margins (the co-op term for profits) back to members in the form of capital credits.

"Cooperatives are special," says Jack Clinkscale, IEC General Manager. "We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but we take that a step further. We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and enhance our communities."

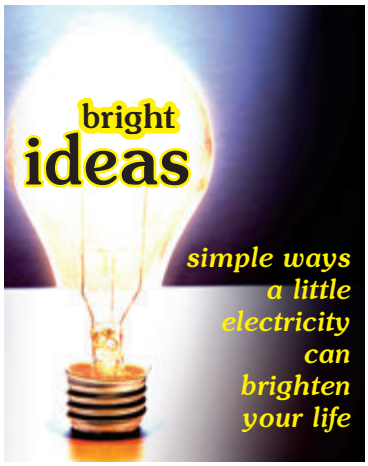
IEC is proud to be part of America's cooperative network, which employs more than 850,000 people. Across the nation, 29,000 co-ops and credit unions generate $74 billion in annual wages and nearly $500 billion in revenue.

Cooperation thrives in Oklahoma, with more than 214 co-ops serving 1,455,680 members, notes the University of Wisconsin's Center for Cooperation. Oklahoma's co-op economy employs 6,960 Oklahomans, and nationally more than 2.1 million jobs are supported by co-ops.

IEC is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts and public power districts serving 42 million people in 47 states.

"Electric cooperatives were formed because rural communities were struggling from lack of investment," Clinkscale explains. "Neighbors banded together and lit up the countryside when no one else would. That's what we celebrate each October."

In addition to cooperative utilities, Oklahoma residents are served cooperatively by credit unions, food co-ops, agricultural co-ops, and more! To learn more about IEC go to www.iecok.com or for more information about the 28 electric cooperatives serving Oklahoma go to www.oaec.coop.



This hula-hoop project comes from Pinterest. The originator said she went to the dollar store and bought a hula hoop for a $1 then to another discount store for some romantic lace that she found at bargain prices and used to cover the hula hoop (she also used it for the hanging pieces). She had "icicle" white lights in a Christmas bin in her basement so she pulled those out and with her hot glue gun she wrapped the lights around the hula hoop and covered up the purple and pink hula hoop with the lace! The "Hula Hoop Chandelier" could add festive spirit to a fall outdoor party, be part of your Christmas lighting scape or provide for a romantic setting!

Just a Pinch

Sharing Hometown Recipes, Cooking Tips and Coupons

By Janet Tharpe

Go Nutty for Sweet Alabama Pecan Bread

"My famliy really likes these!"

Amy Borne
Clio, AL
(pop. 1,399)

Is it a cake? Is it a cookie? However you look at it, Amy Borne's Sweet Alabama Pecan Bread is good! With the perfect amount of sweetness, these treats are perfect alongside your morning coffee or a scrumptious ending to a meal. The smells that came out of my oven while these baked were divine!

See step-by-step photos of Amy's recipe plus thousands more from home cooks nationwide at:

www.justapinch.com/pecanbread

You'll also find a meal planner, coupons and chances to win! Enjoy and remember to use "just a pinch"...

- Janet

Sweet Alabama Pecan Bread

What You Need

1 c sugar
1 c brown sugar
4 eggs beaten
1 c oil
1 1/2 c self-rising flour
1 tsp vanilla
2 c pecans, finely chopped

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Lightly grease and flour a 9x13 inch baking dish.
- Using a wooden spoon, stir together sugar, brown sugar, eggs and oil in a medium bowl until smooth.
- Stir in flour and vanilla. Add pecans, then stir until evenly mixed.
- Spoon into prepared pan and bake for 30-35 minutes.

Submitted by: Amy Borne, Clio, AL (pop. 1,399)
www.justapinch.com/pecanbread

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