



Fall/Winter 2021

# *Ener Com*

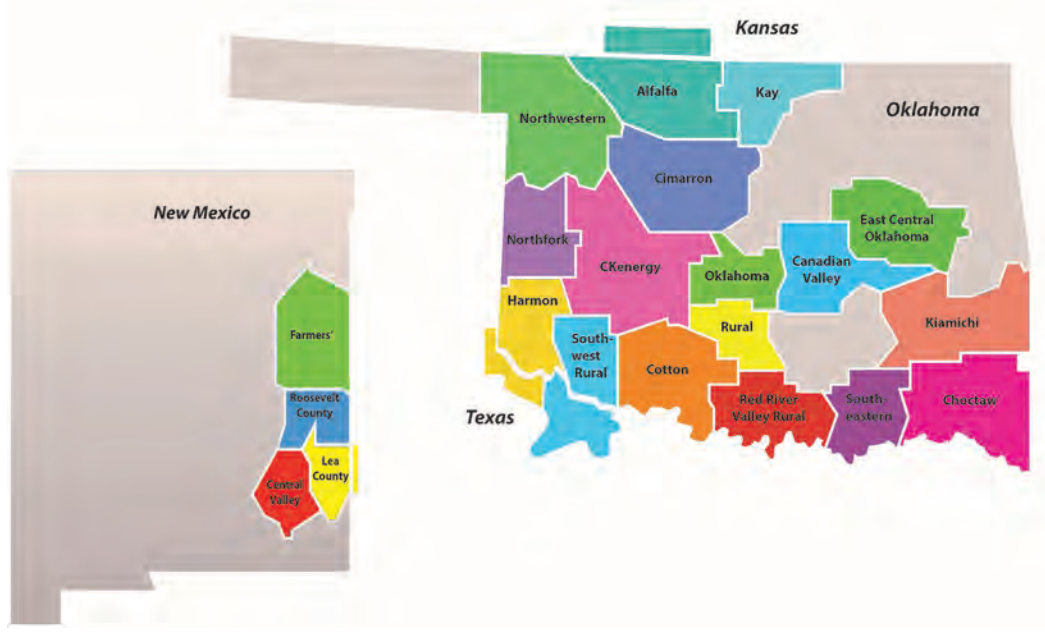
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**WFEC  
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# *WindWorks® program offers cooperative members a way to meet “green” goals*

With a growing trend of supporting environmentally friendly programs, WindWorks®, a revised renewable energy program designed to refresh a previous retail marketing program, is now available to all Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) member cooperatives.

The WindWorks program allows cooperative members to participate in Oklahoma renewables by purchasing unbundled Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) equal to a portion of their monthly energy bill. A voluntary program, WindWorks includes a portion of the renewable energy resources offered by WFEC, which at this time, includes wind and solar. However, options may change as future renewable resources come online.

This program was reinstated as WFEC saw a growing demand of the voluntary commercial market to go green, in addition to the increasing regulatory requirements, especially in New Mexico.

“With the overall growing green energy demand, the changes made with the new WindWorks program will provide members with a path to meet their voluntary green energy goals. Plus, it provides a more streamlined and cost-effective means for members and WFEC to comply with any current or future regulatory requirements,” explained WFEC’s Risk Management & Fuel Supply Analyst David Harris, who worked to implement the program.

A WindWorks REC is a tradable receipt generated when 1 megawatt (MW) of electricity from a renewable energy source, is delivered to the transmission grid. These

RECs are available on a limited basis for WFEC members to purchase, or for the member to purchase on behalf of their end-use consumer. Members can divide RECs into smaller units for their program participants.

Purchasing RECs make it possible for families and businesses that want to support renewable energy to participate in these projects by matching up some or all of their monthly electricity consumption with RECs. WindWorks is one way for residential and commercial and industrial customers, who do not want to purchase, maintain, and own wind turbines and/or solar panels, to claim all the same green benefits of renewable energy.

By purchasing unbundled RECs, consumers can tangibly prove that they are taking proactive measures to improve the environment and encourage the development of environmentally sound energy sources. Members participating in WindWorks receive the same blend of electrons that every other member on the system receives, but they become owners of the environmental benefits associated with the unbundled RECs that they have purchased.

WFEC purchases 956 megawatts (MW) of wind energy from 14 wind farm locations in Oklahoma and New Mexico. Also, some 52 MW of solar generation is available in WFEC’s fuel portfolio. A regional and national demand for RECs is driven by mandated requirements and a desire by commercial/industrial customers to support green energy and the environment.



wfec



# Oklahoma a leader in black market illegal marijuana growth, supplies

While Oklahoma may be known for many unique features, one particular designation is causing concern for many residents, law enforcement officers and lawmakers. Oklahoma is now the number one black market supplier of illegal marijuana in the country, according to the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN).

“Based on our law enforcement intelligence and conversations with agencies on the east coast, record amounts of marijuana, originating from our state, are being seen,” explained Mark Woodward, public information officer/education officer/legislative liaison with the OBN.

Some have said that the medical marijuana industry is basically changing the landscape of the entire state. There are currently approximately 8,500 licensed medical marijuana growers across Oklahoma. OBN agents estimate that some 25 percent of these are ran by criminal organizations with ties to China, Mexico, Canada, Bulgaria, Russia, Syria, Cambodia, and Laos, just to name a few.

Oklahoma also leads the country, by far, in the number of dispensaries, with some 2,300 businesses within the state. In comparison, Colorado and Oregon are the closest to Oklahoma, with an estimated 520 and 560 dispensaries, respectively. California follows with an estimated 261 dispensaries.

“The rapid expansion of this industry is making it difficult for Oklahoma agencies (state and local) to inspect and regulate those moving here,” Woodward noted. “There

*Article by Sondra Boykin*

*Photos Courtesy of Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics*



is not enough time and manpower.”

And, while the boom appears to be continuing in some areas, Woodward noted that the number of applications for a new license has eased up compared to this time last year. All growers and dispensaries are required to obtain a license through the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA) and the OBN.

## *Most growers are legal*

However, on a positive note, the majority of those involved in Oklahoma’s medical marijuana sector are going through the proper legal process of obtaining



*(Photos) OBN agents are shown destroying marijuana plants being grown at illegal marijuana farms in Oklahoma. Also shown are rows of buildings that house thousands of plants, often valued at millions of dollars, that is being sold on the black market. OBN looks for locations that are being operated by criminal organizations who operate under the appearance of a licensed medical marijuana farm. In Oklahoma, more than 80 illegal grow operations have been shut down this year, with many more under investigation.*

*Photos Courtesy of  
Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics*



a license and abiding by all industry rules and laws.

There may occasionally be small issues found during inspections at these legal operations, but, Woodward noted they are generally allowed time to correct any concerns before taking any action.



### *Electric cooperative ties*

A large majority of grower/processor operations are located in the rural areas of Oklahoma, some of which are served by WFEC's member distribution cooperatives. But, others are tucked into repurposed industrial buildings in urban areas that don't attract the attention the rural grows do.

This fast-moving industry has brought some new challenges to electric cooperatives, with some reviewing practices and policies to adjust their operations to effectively respond to the needs of this developing industry, while not negatively impacting the membership as a whole. Several cooperatives have also restructured deposit requirements and other procedures to help mitigate risks associated with some loads.

Some of the grow houses are also posing a potential risk for WFEC and its member distribution cooperatives, as expensive upgrades to facilities may be necessary. And, if this load goes away after a cooperative has made an at-risk investment, the result may potentially create a 'stranded investment' that could continue for years.

Also, a number of these new members do not know their true load, plus they have a lack of understanding service requirements, capacity restraints, the required deposits and transformer and equipment overloads. Language barriers have

also been an issue for some. Plus, the sheer volume of requests has also put pressure on manpower, as well as materials acquisition, at some cooperatives.

### *What does Oklahoma offer?*

So, why is Oklahoma a top choice for growers? Woodward said there are several factors contributing to this growth.

"The pandemic was hurting businesses all across the U.S., including the marijuana businesses. So, they were looking for ways to survive, financially," he noted.

"Oklahoma was an open state when many were still shut down due to COVID restrictions, so moving to Oklahoma last year made sense for both the legal and criminal marijuana growers. Plus, Oklahoma's land is a fraction of the cost of that on the west coast. And, Oklahoma's required licenses are \$3,000 (OMMA - \$2,500 / OBN - \$500), compared to most states that are \$100,000 or higher, allowing them to save more money moving here," Woodward explained.

Oklahoma rules are in line with other states, however, it has among the least restrictive laws, with no limits on grow sites, number of plants, etc. "So, it was the perfect storm that sent legal and criminal organizations to Oklahoma," he pointed out.

The main restrictions include having background checks for each owner; no felonies in the last two years and no violent felony in the past five years; plus, 75% of the ownership must be someone who has lived in Oklahoma for two years. Applicants must be 25 years of age, reside in Oklahoma, and the entities must be registered to conduct business in the state.

### *Criminal growers*

As far as licensing, very few of the criminal growers are unlicensed. "They typically get their license so they don't draw attention to themselves, and they



*(Continued on Page 6)*

# Medical Marijuana

will try to blend in and look legitimate on the surface,” Woodward noted. Most of these operations, consisting of large warehouses and large plastic covered outdoor grow houses, are in view of the public.

“It’s their illegal, behind the scenes, and out-of-state activity that makes them illegal,” Woodward said.

Most criminal groups try not to draw attention to themselves by getting involved in local crime, shootings, fights, etc., Woodward remarked, adding that most keep to themselves and keep quiet, especially the workers who may be in the U.S. illegally and don’t want law enforcement showing up.

Rural areas are also favored due to a larger selection of available land that is cheaper. Some buyers are supposedly paying three, four or five times the value of a tract of land to start a growing operation, with cash, he said. But, that is still a fraction of the cost of land on the west coast. So, it is still cheaper to move here.

Woodward said that many of these groups would not qualify under Oklahoma’s law that 75% of ownership must be from Oklahoma for the past two years. In this instance, he pointed out, someone is often paid to claim ownership (straw or ghost owner), which is a form of fraud and has resulted in farms being investigated and people charged.

“There are people who get paid to be listed as the owner of more than 100 farms around the state. This happened frequently in late 2020 and early 2021. We have seen a slow down because the criminals are aware that this fraud has been exposed and has resulted in criminal charges,” Woodward noted.

These ghost owners are basically helping criminal organizations, cartels and drug rings to move into the state and operate when they would not otherwise qualify for a license, Woodward explained.

The rapid expansion of this industry is making it difficult for Oklahoma agencies (state and local) to inspect and regulate those moving here.

--- Mark Woodward, public information officer/education officer/legislative liaison with the OBN

## Money leaving state

According to state laws, the marijuana grown in Oklahoma should stay in the state, but, some law enforcement officials and lawmakers contend that a large portion of the product is being illegally shipped out of state.

Some local, legal marijuana businesses have said they are struggling to survive financially because they can’t compete with the cheaper priced products from the black market, illegal businesses, Woodward remarked.

“Criminals can grow for as cheap as \$100 per pound and can sell that pound for as much as \$4,000 on the east coast - so the profit margin is astronomical for these criminals selling on the black market.” Money is being

laundered back to California, New York, Mexico, China, and other locations, by the same criminal investors who helped move their organizations to the state.

Oklahoma also has more dispensaries than California and most other west coast states, combined. “The market is saturated and hard for many to stay afloat,”

Woodward said. Around 386,000 Oklahomans (roughly 10%) have a medical marijuana card.

## Time consuming challenges

One major challenge for law enforcement involves the time and resources involved with investigations. “Long-term, deep investigations into these criminal marijuana organizations take a lot of time because they involve people far outside the borders of Oklahoma,” Woodward stated. Also, the OBN receives about 100 tips a week on operations within the state.

More than 80 illegal grow operations have been shut down in Oklahoma this year and many more are under investigation. “We have found water and power theft; human labor trafficking; sex trafficking and prostitution; ketamine and fentanyl trafficking; environmental contamination; and business fraud and money laundering, just to name a few,” he pointed out.

There have been some high-profile busts of foreign nationals running major grow operations in rural counties, in addition to raids that rounded up dozens of Chinese or Hispanic workers at large-scale grow operations tucked into rural areas. Tips have also been received about potential Russian organizations coming to Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma legislature has provided funding for OBN to hire 40 more agents and analysts as part of a full-time unit to address these organizations, which will definitely help, he said.





# *Anadarko HQ complex damaged by tornado; numerous transmission structures downed*

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) suffered damage at their headquarters complex in Anadarko during a severe thunderstorm on Oct. 10. This storm not only packed high winds and heavy rain, but also produced 10 tornadoes across the state, according to the Storm Prediction Center.

Other parts of Anadarko also suffered damage, some of which was located in the downtown area. Several buildings were heavily damaged and tree limbs were scattered across roadways throughout town.

Numerous transmission H-structures were downed or damaged by the storm, with WFEC's heaviest damage occurring in Caddo and Canadian counties.

The storm's wind coming from the west pushed the fan stacks against the fan blades on a combined cycle cooling tower, causing heavy damage. Scattered minor damage to buildings, vehicles and trees, also occurred at the Anadarko location.

Several WFEC member distribution cooperatives also had destruction from the storm.



*Photos of the supercell thunderstorm that produced a tornado in the Anadarko area, were captured from the tower cam near the Orme Plant at the Anadarko Headquarters facility on Oct. 10. Other scattered damage was also received around the headquarters complex from the strong weather system that produced several tornadoes across the state.*

# Risks, rewards involved with Bitcoin mining; Oklahoma viewed as potential site location

*Article by Sondra Boykin*

A potentially fast-growing industry in Oklahoma that is opening up a new digital threshold involves Bitcoin mining, which refers to the process of gaining cryptocurrencies by solving complex computational math problems. This process solves problems that are so complex that they cannot be solved by hand and are complicated enough to tax even incredibly powerful computers.

Some entrepreneurs see Oklahoma as an alternative and a natural location for the sustainable mining of cryptocurrencies, as opposed to China, where there is an immediate ban on cryptocurrency mining. This ban is helping to fuel further interest in other locations, such as the United States, which is believed to have a power grid that can handle their power demand.

These overseas investors believe that Oklahoma has infrastructure that was built for large oil and gas loads that are currently not being used. Plus, the state's combination of clean, low-cost power and renewable energy has triggered a land rush by energy-intensive companies, sources have said. Increasingly, the "greenness" of power sources is playing a critical role in where companies, particularly data-focused companies such as Amazon and Google, are locating their data centers.

Enormous amounts of electricity are required for Bitcoin mining operations, as they require the use of hundreds of high-powered expensive computers that run constantly. With huge power demands and a highly competitive industry, Bitcoin mining has basically become an industry of its own, leading to the requirements of specialized machines, servers, and huge data centers with enough cooling capacity to keep the computers from overheating, according to industry sources.

According to an article (How Much Energy Does Bitcoin Use?), posted on [www.nasdaq.com](http://www.nasdaq.com), Bitcoin consumes 81.51 terawatt-hours (TWh) annually. If it were a country, it would rank as number 39 for annual electricity consumption, ahead of Austria and Venezuela.

Also, the same article indicates that as of mid-July, a single Bitcoin transaction required 1,719.51 kilowatt-hours (kWh), based on a kWh being the amount of energy a 1,000-watt appliance uses in over an hour. To put that in perspective, the article states that is about 59 days' worth of power consumed by an average U.S. household. On an average day, 240,000 Bitcoin transactions are sent over the network.

With Bitcoin's price jumping in the past year, the rapid growth is apparently leading to significantly higher energy consumption for the popular cryptocurrency worldwide.

However, every story has two sides.

## *Planning challenges for some utilities*

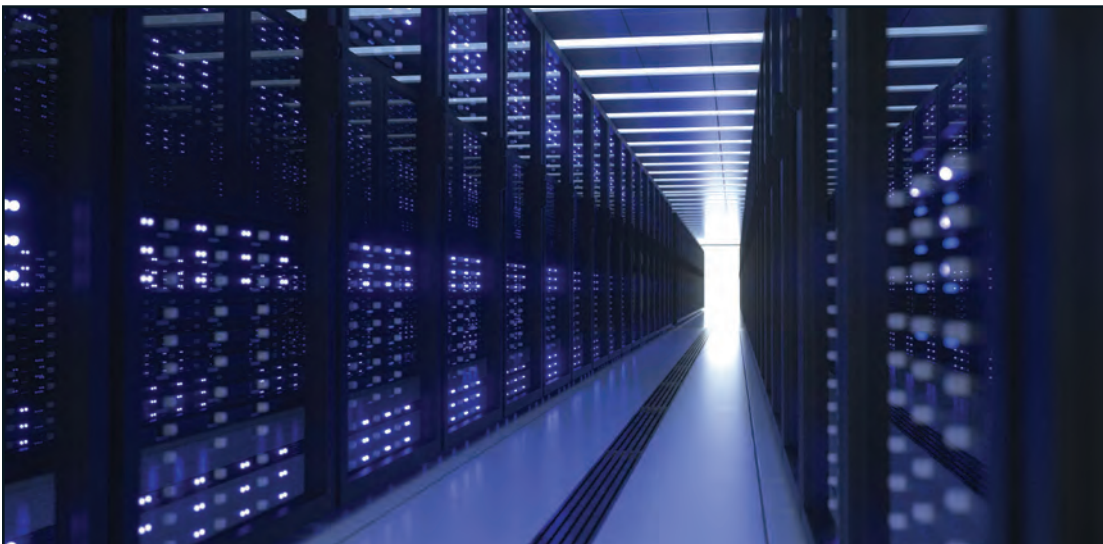
The datacenters involved in this industry have been in the forefront around the world for their rapid growth and the huge amount of energy they require. Some providers have limited power to accommodate additional load, which is a concern for electric companies in some parts of the country.

"While everyone wants to focus on selling more kWhs and making more money, Bitcoins can pose significant problems," WFECE CEO Gary Roulet pointed out.

"They use huge amounts of capacity and energy making up electricity, of which the Southwest Power

Pool and individual utilities, have limited amounts," Roulet explained. Adding capacity (kW) includes many components, such as water, transmission, fuel delivery and actual generation. "And, it takes anywhere from four to eight years to accomplish," he added.

As more kWhs are sold, the carbon footprint gets worse and worse. "That is counter intuitive to reducing carbon and



*Data center computer racks in network security server room - cryptocurrency mining. (Adobe Stock)*



improving the climate,” Roulet commented, adding that the only way to correct this is adding more renewables, which makes transmission issues much more complicated.

Roulet explained that wind energy has an approximate 20% capacity ratio to project size, while solar energy has an approximate 60% capacity ratio to project size for summer load and a near zero capacity ratio for the winter. As for batteries, they have a short duration before recharge.

Then, re-emphasizing the first statement about electricity - it takes a lot of time to add real capacity and energy.

Bitcoin mining requires a low-cost per kWh to operate and can migrate from region to region, based on price, Roulet pointed out. “Existing capacity is cheap - new capacity is expensive - new capacity requires transmission.” When these are added to serve Bitcoin mining, the cost is prohibitive and they leave for greener pastures.

“This leaves the existing load paying for all the investment, which drives up their cost exponentially. By the way, they benefited in no way from the Bitcoin.”

Ask yourself a simple question, Roulet said. “Do I want to be paid by Bitcoin and do I want my retirement based on Bitcoin. When you are 100% confident that is a good idea, then Bitcoin is a whole lot less risky.”

#### *Cooperatives approached with load requests*

Alfalfa Electric Cooperative (AEC), headquartered in Cherokee, is among the several Oklahoma electric

cooperatives being approached for Bitcoin mining operations. When AEC was first approached about providing power for a large load consisting of thousands of computers, Brandon Wright, director of engineering, thought it may have been some type of scam. But, as he listened further, he found out that they were serious about moving towards a project – and, at a pretty good rate. That was when Wright pursued a crash course on the cryptocurrency and Bitcoin mining subjects.

“In this market, they want to get hooked up to power and be operational as fast and reliable as possible, just as the oil field companies of the past - they want it quick,” Wright pointed out.

Wright said he believes that AEC was possibly approached due to the infrastructure and transformers already in place and available at some substations, which were utilized in the past when the oil and gas industry was in full swing. They also want close to a substation to eliminate any potential problems that might occur along a power line, located miles away from the substation.

WFEC’s staff and Board of Trustees have been working on a rate to be used for this type of load. “As soon as it’s implemented – it’s just a matter of time getting the paperwork signed (for a project to begin),” Wright noted.

AEC has been primarily involved in discussions with a “middleman,” who represents a group from overseas.

*(Continued on Page 18)*

*One of the real joys this holiday season  
is the opportunity to say thank you  
and wish you the very best for the new year.*

**Cooperative  
Employees  
Credit Union**



# WFEC's routine on-site blood drives helping to save lives through donations

For many years, WFEC has held on-site blood drives and encouraged employees to donate in their free time if they cannot attend an on-site drive. This has given employees, family members and even visitors the opportunity to help save lives through blood donation.

Blood needed by patients in more than 160 medical facilities in Oklahoma is provided by donors with the Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI). This includes exclusive service for every hospital in the metro-OKC area. More than 125,000 donors provide more than 250,000 gifts of blood yearly for transfusion and associated clinical

*Article, photos by Howie Jackson*



WFEC employees, including Rex Mathis, journeyman station technician (left); Scott Williams, manager, Government Relations & Communication (front); and Cindi Nichols, secretary (background), are in various stages of donating blood during a recent WFEC Blood Drive at the Anadarko Headquarters. Two WFEC locations, Hugo and Anadarko, have routine blood drives with the OBI.

## Blood donations become personal

*Boe Green, Anadarko Plant manager, shares his reasons to be a blood donor.*

“My first blood donation was in 1999. It has always been something that I felt was important but in recent years it has taken on a personal meaning for me.

My youngest son has a condition called Thalassemia which is a type of anemia. His body produces deformed hemoglobin molecules that are unable to carry oxygen to his cells. The treatment for this condition requires a blood transfusion about every three weeks. There is no cure for Thalassemia but with proper treatment he will be able to live a normal and active life. Without proper treatment his life expectancy would be about 15 years and his quality of life would be miserable.

For many of the years that I have donated blood, the benefits were always very abstract. Now, each time that I look into the eyes of my son, I understand that his life is very much dependent on the generosity of someone else.”

services. Every two seconds, someone needs blood, yet less than 10 percent of those eligible to give blood - do it. Blood donors with OBI know they are literally saving the lives of their friends, family and co-workers, some who may have no idea they will need blood in an urgent situation. One blood donation can save up to three peoples' lives.

Another thing that the OBI offers is a donor can specify a “credit to patient” donation. OBI blood donor(s) specifies a patient using blood to receive a credit by completing a patient credit form at the time of donation. These are available at donor centers and blood drives upon request. The credits can be designated for a patient in a hospital or receiving treatment in the OBI service area. The specified patient (or his/her guardian) receives notification of these credits, along with an application form for financial reimbursement. Credits may be used up to two years after given by a blood donor.

Two of WFEC's locations, Hugo and Anadarko, have routine blood drives with the OBI. Even through the pandemic, WFEC employees were gracious in donating blood. On-site employee numbers were down, but



WFEC employees were up to the task. With visitor restrictions in place from late March 2020 until mid-2021, it was obvious donor numbers would be limited.

Even Governor Kevin Stitt appealed multiple times to donors to find a drive and donate blood during the height of the pandemic. The Anadarko facility typically had at least four spouses, relatives or dependents each blood drive. That number fell to zero with visitor restrictions in place. Averages of over 28 donors fell off to averaging about 15.

Hugo was only able to host one drive during 2020 and two drives in 2021. However, the drives at Anadarko in July, September and November saw donor numbers rebound to pre-pandemic numbers.

#### **Blood drive numbers for Hugo and Anadarko combined:**

<b>2019</b>	<b>246 donations</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>150 donations</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>236 donations</b>

These totals include whole blood donations and automated red blood cell donations. Whole blood donations help anyone in need of life-saving blood due to injury or illness and can be made every 56 days. Automated red blood cell or “double red” donations help patients suffering blood loss due to trauma, surgery or anemia and donations can be made every 112 days. It takes both types to keep up with the demand for blood.

If you have questions about donating, you can contact Howie Jackson, information specialist at Anadarko or Shay Earthman, administrative assistant at Hugo, or visit the OBI.org website.

### **Blood donations bring opportunities**

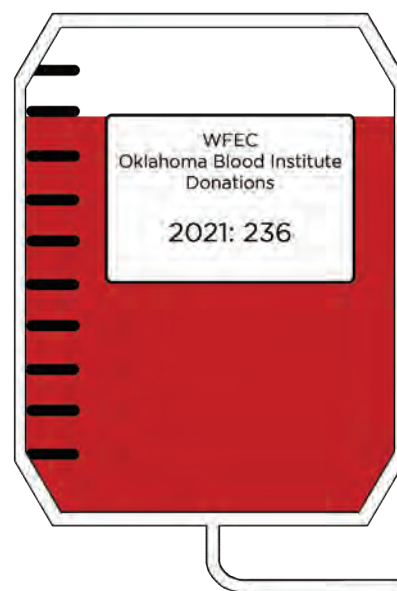
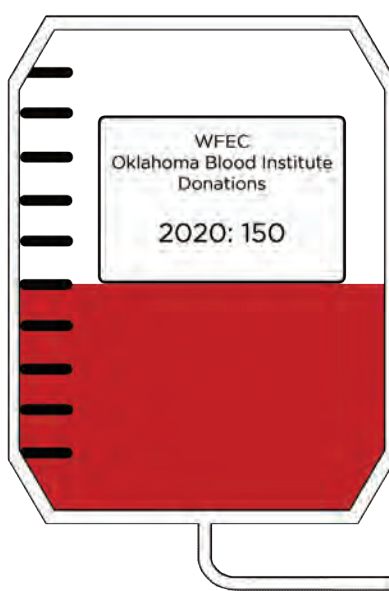
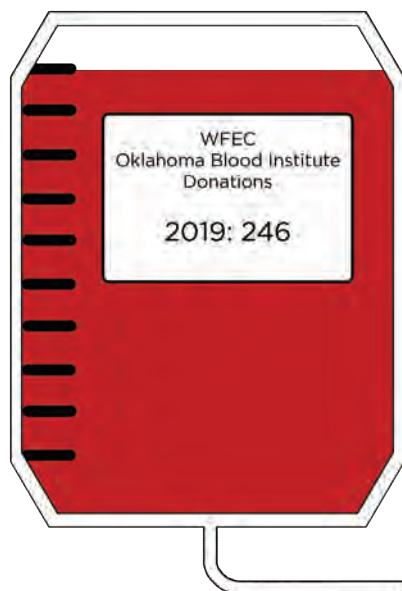
*Roy Boyer, warehouse supervisor, Anadarko, and his family have also benefited from donations.*

“ I have always thought that giving blood was a good thing, and never thought one day I would be needing blood; but over the past four years, I learned that giving blood can give someone a fighting chance. Over the past few years, I was able to donate white blood cells, red blood cells and plasma.

Our son, Justin, would not have had all the opportunities for different treatments if it were not for all the donations. WFEC held a blood drive for him, and our family was truly overwhelmed, by the outpouring and support of friends and family. It is very humbling when things are out of your hands and you see people you do not even know, support your fight. When you give blood, you do not know whose prayer you answered, but you have truly blessed a family in need that you may never know.

I give because I know firsthand the difference it can make, and the encouragement it can give. Wherever we went across the state for treatment, the one thing we needed was blood donations. My son lost his battle, but the blood given over two thousand years ago saved his life. Blood gives life! ”

(Continued on Page 12)



# Blood donations



WFEC PC Support Technician Geraldine Brady (top photo), is doing automated red cell donation. In this type of donation, only red blood cells are given, while platelets and plasma are returned to the donor. The procedure uses a smaller needle, and collects enough red blood cells to be transfused to two different patients.

Katie Lafferty (bottom photo) with OBI, checks in those taking part in the latest Anadarko WFEC Blood Drive, which was hosted in November.



## Blood donations can help many people

Don Green, senior instrument technician, Hugo Plant, has a special reason for donating blood.

“During the summer of 1972, I was in a truck accident. The truck hit a tree and I was thrown into the windshield. Due to my head and other injuries, I was in the hospital for a few days after the doctors treated my forehead wounds. I was sent home after being observed and was thought to be recovering.

The next day I fainted at home and then began to lose more blood from my injuries. My parents took me back to the hospital and I was readmitted. I was given at least two pints of blood due to the amount I had lost from the cuts on my forehead. After a few more days, I was discharged from the hospital and soon fully recovered from the accident.

After I finished high school and tech school, a blood drive came to the company where I was working in 1978. I thought about how someone had donated blood to help me, so I started donating to help others. I have donated when I was able to since that time.

For me, it is humbling to hear the messages we get from Oklahoma Blood Institute about how donating has helped those that are now telling her or his story of receiving the blood. We hope and pray we will never need blood, but it is comforting to know it is available when we do. We never know when we may need this life saving blood.”



**Oklahoma  
Blood Institute**

wfec



“We will open the book. Its pages are blank.  
We are going to put words on them ourselves.  
The book is called Opportunity and its first  
chapter is New Year's Day.”

Edith Lovejoy Pierce



# Bitcoin mining

However, Wright said they have also met with the business owners from China at their cooperative office.

The project's middleman is working in areas across the state to find places to connect to electricity and have all of the arrangements covered and ready for a project to begin. Then, trucks will start delivery on prefab buildings that will be placed next to one another, and packed full of thousands of computers.

With so many computers, which radiate a great amount of heat, large coolers are required on-site to keep the computers cool. So, access is also needed to a water source. Overall, once a location is established, very little setup is required for Bitcoin mining, Wright noted.

Some landowners have been approached by the group's middleman for the purchase of one to two areas of land to be utilized for the buildings. If looking at a site housing cryptocurrency operations, from the road, it will be a slab of gravel with large buildings close together.

These projects have a high load factor, Wright pointed out, adding that the computers run all the time and emit a great deal of heat that takes a strong cooling system to handle. Together, that equals a large amount of electricity being used. The more computers at a site, the more horsepower that is needed, and the more Bitcoins that can be mined.

Interest has also been expressed by the overseas investors for the possibility of locating a large metal warehouse in AEC's service area, possibly a 100-megawatt (MW) load that is a more permanent load. The smaller facilities, usually 15 to 20 MW per site, are often mobile, and typically provide an easier way for initial set-up in the area.

maintained by a de-centralized system using encryption rather than by a central authority, such as a central bank.

The first cryptocurrency to become fully realized and gain wide acceptance in the public is Bitcoin, an independent digital currency that exploded in popularity this year. While there were cryptocurrencies before Bitcoin, they did not become fully developed or realized, and do not have the level of acceptance as Bitcoin.

Sources have said it is difficult to understand cryptocurrency without also grasping the underlying technology of the ledger system that anchors the cryptocurrency, which is built on blockchain technology.

This technology is the groundwork of the most popular cryptocurrencies, and is the distributed ledger system that tracks, validates, and maintains every transaction that involves a cryptocurrency. The ledger system is constructed of blocks of transactions that are validated and permanently recorded through a cryptographic algorithm into the ledger.

Cryptomining is basically the equivalent of credit card transaction processing. "Miners" are financially rewarded for providing the computer power and the distributed storage and validation of the blockchain on their computer systems, according to a source explaining the process.

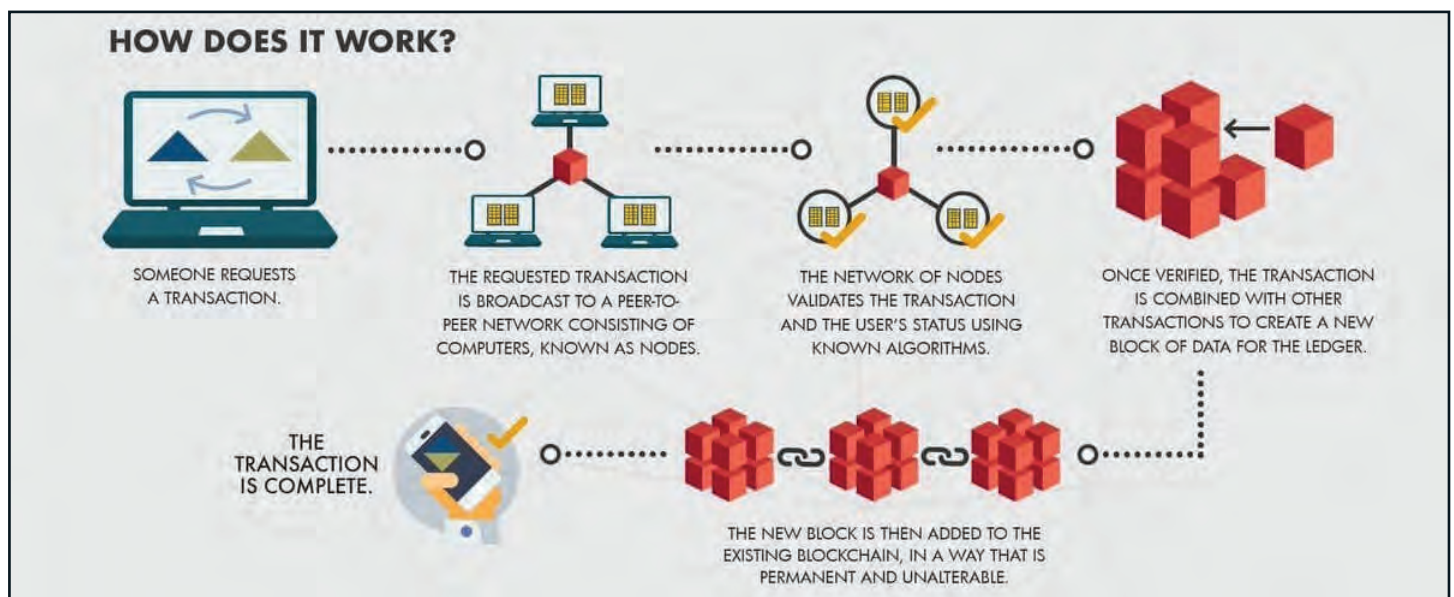
Cryptominers download blocks of transactions (usually 2,000 transactions in the case of the Bitcoin currency) and process those blocks by solving a cryptography puzzle, known as the minting process, which is how a Bitcoin is introduced into the economy.

wfec

## What is Cryptomining?

Cryptocurrency is a digital version of currency in which transactions are verified and ledger records are

## Bitcoin transaction explained





*feeling chilled?*

## HEAT YOUR SPACE SAFELY



1



Keep flammable items  
at least 3 feet away

2



Place on a flat,  
level surface

3



Make sure the cord is  
not frayed or cracked

4



Plug it directly into  
an outlet

6



Do not use an  
extension cord or  
power strip, which  
can overheat

5



Follow all instructions  
and use models  
endorsed by a  
reputable testing lab

7



Do not use around  
small children or pets

8



Do not use one with a  
damaged plug or  
prongs

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*Merry  
Christmas  
&  
Happy New  
Year*