

The Circuit!

February 2022

A publication for our Members
in the counties of
*Atoka • Bryan • Choctaw
Coal • Johnston*



Sign Up for Youth Tour or Energy Camp in 2022!

!!!ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS!!!

Are you ready for the trip of a lifetime? If you answered YES, then you need to enter SEC's Youth Tour Contest! Youth Tour is an all-expense paid, week long trip to Washington, D.C.! The contest is open to all High School Juniors in SEC's service territory. To enter, contestants will need to submit a three to four minute multi-media presentation covering the topic of "What Makes An Electric Cooperative Unique?". Video and slide presentations will be accepted and need to be submitted to the Co-op no later than **March 15, 2022**. The Co-op will choose two lucky Juniors to attend Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. from June 17-23!



!!!ATTENTION EIGHTH GRADERS!!!



Energy Camp is a FREE all-expense paid adventure to Red Rock Canyon near Hinton, OK. It's a summer camp that is designed to help develop leadership skills, have summertime fun, and at the same time be educated on one of rural America's most important industries – rural electrification. The 2022 Energy Camp is set for May 31-June 3 and open to all eighth grade students in SEC's service territory. SEC will select two students to enjoy fun filled days with activities including pizza parties, dances, volleyball, hiking, swimming, basketball, football and games all while learning about electric co-ops!

To enter, students must submit a 200-300 word essay on "How I Can Have an Impact on Energy Conservation". The essay will need to be submitted to the Co-op no later than **April, 15, 2022**.

For more information on either of these great programs, please visit our website at www.se-coop.com or call us at 580-745-9463. Also, remember to watch our Facebook for updates!

Updates for 2022 Energy Efficiency Rebates

Southeastern Electric has 2022 Energy Efficiency rebates available to our Members! These rebates are aimed at reimbursing some of the cost of replacing an HVAC unit, purchasing a new window unit, or even improving your current attic insulation! For a complete list of rebates along with any forms you will need to complete the process, visit www.se-coop.com or call 580-745-9463.

Efficiency Plan & Improvement Commitment (E.P.I.C.) Program

- A home energy efficiency assessment that is conducted for qualifying members
- Can be scheduled from March 15th thru April 30th
- Precise Building Performance LLC will conduct the assessments
- Three-stage evaluation (over \$275 value!)
- Energy Efficiency Resource Kit will go to each qualifying, participating member *while supplies last*

Air Source Heat Pump Rebate Program

- A rebate for members who install a qualifying air source heat pump during the 2022 year
- New Home Installation receive \$300
- Replacement Units will receive \$500
- A minimum of 24,000 BTUs-15 SEER-12.5 EER is REQUIRED for a system to qualify

Ductless Mini Split Heat Pump Rebate Program

- A rebate for members who install a qualifying ductless mini split heat pump unit during the 2022 year
- New Home or Replacement Installations receive \$300
- A minimum of 18,000 BTUs-16 SEER-9.0 EER is REQUIRED for a system to qualify
- This rebate is limited to one unit every three years

Window A/C Rebate Program

- A rebate for members who install a qualifying window unit during the 2022 year
- Rebate will be 30% of the net equipment cost and will not exceed \$150
- Senior Members 65+ – 50% net equipment cost not to exceed \$225
- Unit **MUST be Energy Star Certified**
- New homes do NOT qualify
- Rebate is limited to one unit every three years

Preventative Maintenance Rebate Program

- Maximum of \$70 rebate per qualifying member
- Member application limited to once every three years
- Program runs from April 1st thru June 30th

R-38 Attic Insulation Rebate Program (+ the E.P.I.C.)

- A rebate for members who bring their existing attic insulation up to R-38 during the 2022 year
- An Energy Assessment must be done on the home prior to installing the insulation
- Home must be *at least* five years old
- Rebate will be \$300 for up to R-38 insulation
- Limited to once per member, per present residence

Be sure your window unit has this **Energy Star** logo displayed!



Jason Whitaker Completes Apprenticeship Program



From left to right, Trevor Matlock-SEC Safety Coordinator, Jason Whitaker-SEC Area Serviceman, Dustin Stepp-SEC Director of Operations

SEC's Area Serviceman, Jason Whitaker, recently completed online curriculum from Northwestern Lineman College. He was enrolled in a four year program to gain his certification for the Apprenticeship Program.

On December 2, 2021, the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) hosted the ceremony at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK.

Our employees are constantly training and improving their skills in ways to better assist and serve our Members.

Have You Used Our Mobile App?



Visit your mobile device's App Store and search for SEC2Go. Once you download the app, you can use the same log-in info that you use on se-coop.com to log-in to the app! If you have trouble, please call us at 580-745-9463!



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When Space Heaters Make Sense in Your Home

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step.

Loose fill insulation typically costs \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most cur-

rent safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.

If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, contact Southeastern Electric at 580-745-9463. We're here to help you manage your energy use.

TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.



- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.

- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.

- Hang heavy curtains over windows to help keep the cold air out and warm air in.