



Michael and Anita Yates of Camp stand beside their heat pump purchased with financing through North Arkansas Electric Cooperative's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Loan Program.

## Co-op's loan program helps members make their homes more energy efficient, comfortable

Summer nights were anything but comfortable for the Rev. Michael Yates, his wife and two teenage daughters.

"We were just using fans," said Yates in mid-July. "Inside, the house temperatures were between 80 and 85 degrees. We were sleeping on top of the covers with fans blowing over us, and it was hot."

Replacing a broken compressor on his aging central air unit would have cost Yates \$2,000. With the heat of August looming, he turned to NAEC's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Loan Program.

Since 2015, NAEC has loaned members more than \$1 million for approved energy-efficiency projects, including insulation, new windows and energy efficient heat pumps and lighting.

"The wise and efficient use of energy saves our members money," CEO Mel Coleman said. "That gives them a better quality of life, more comfort in their homes and more spending money in their pockets."

A high-efficiency heat pump, installed less than a week after Yates filled out the EECLP application, works better than the balky air conditioner it replaced.

"It's been a little cold in the house, and we have the thermostat set on 74 degrees," Yates said, who added that he was pleased with the financing he got through the co-op program.

"I would have paid a higher interest rate through a bank and likely would not have gotten as many months to pay off the loan," Yates said. "A lot of people don't have \$5,000 to \$7,000 in the bank they can spend to handle emergencies like this."

For more information on EECLP, please call the co-op at 870-895-3221.

— Derril Holly/NRECA

## Ten NAEC members win LED bulbs in makeover contest

Ten NAEC members can light their homes more efficiently thanks to the LED kits they won in the Energy Efficiency Makeover Contest. The annual contest is in its 10th year and is sponsored by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

Each winner received 72 General Electric energy-efficient LED general purpose, recessed, outdoor flood and decorative candelabra bulbs. The energy-savings potential when replacing inefficient incandescent bulbs could result in a 3,724-watt reduction for the home.

Almost 1,400 NAEC members entered the contest either through [www.ecahomemakeover.com](http://www.ecahomemakeover.com) or entry forms in *Arkansas Living*.

NAEC's 10 randomly selected winners were:

- Pete Landrum of Horseshoe Bend
- Linda Dempsey of Mammoth Spring
- Alan Whitely of Midway
- Beverly Arrowood of Mountain Home
- Chris and Brandy Proctor of Mountain Home
- Fred Bach of Mountain Home
- Heather McCurley of Mountain Home
- John Ruff of Mountain Home
- Joyce Sturms of Mountain Home
- Sandra Olson of Mountain Home



Beverly Arrowood, right, receives her LED kit from co-op employee Connie Coleman.



Fred Bach receives his LED kit from co-op employee Amy Barnett.



Linda Dempsey, left, receives her LED kit from co-op employee Debbie Martin.



Pete Landrum receives his LED kit from co-op employee Holly Pate.



Heather McCurley, right, receives her LED kit from co-op employee Chelsea Brickley.



Sandra Olson, left, receives her LED kit from co-op employee Kelli Anderson.



Brandy Proctor, left, receives her LED kit from co-op employee Diane Walker.



John Ruff, left, receives his LED kit from co-op employee Wayne Winter.



Joyce Sturms receives her LED kit from co-op employee Chris Hickman.



Alan and Linda Whitely receive their LED kit from co-op employee Becki Griffin.



**Save money by replacing 5 most-used bulbs**

Replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency and is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bill. Known for their longevity and efficiency, LED bulbs have an estimated operational life span of typically 10,000 to 20,000 hours compared to 1,000 hours of a typical incandescent. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, by replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating, you can save \$75 each year.