

Consider steps to reduce usage during cold weather

The cold weather that entered our area at the end of December and into January caused heating systems to run longer and more often as members tried to stay warm.

“Space heating accounts for about half of a home’s energy costs, so the below-average weather we’ve had can have a dramatic effect on bills due to increased usage,” said CEO Mel Coleman. “We encourage members to monitor their usage and contact the co-op with any questions or concerns.”

Here are steps NAEC’s energy advisers suggest you take to ensure you are heating your home efficiently:

- Make sure your heat pump’s thermostat is not set on emergency heat. This can also be referred to as “E Heat,” “EM Heat” or “Supplemental Heat.” This setting uses the heat strips of your unit, which will cost you more than twice as much as the “Heat” setting.
- Avoid adjusting nonprogrammable thermostats more than two degrees at a time. If you increase the set temperature by more than two degrees, the auxiliary heat strips will kick on to get to the desired temperature quicker.
- Limit the use of space heaters. Most space heaters use



NAEC recommends limiting use of space heaters due to their high cost of operation.

1,500 watts and are not designed to heat a large room. Continually operating one 1,500-watt space heater can increase your bill by approximately \$120 a month. For those using space heaters in their well houses, NAEC’s energy advisers suggest heat tape and insulation if possible. (Safety is key if using a space heater. We recommend you never leave one unattended.)

- Schedule a checkup of your heating system by a licensed heating and air dealer. They can ensure your unit is operating at its most efficient. This can extend the life of your unit as well.

Energy efficiency upgrades to a home, such as added insulation or replacing an electric furnace with a high-efficiency heat pump, can be costly in the short term, but they will lead to substantial savings on a home’s energy costs in the long term. NAEC’s energy advisers can offer suggestions on the energy efficiency measures that would benefit your home the most.

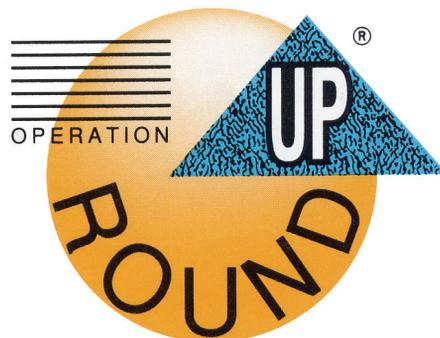
Qualifying members who own their home can get a low-interest loan from NAEC to fund needed energy efficiency improvements. Improvements can include: geothermal heat pumps, air-to-air heat pumps, ductless mini-split heat pumps, insulation (ceiling, floor or wall), energy-efficient windows and doors, electric water heaters and LED fixtures and bulbs. Loan periods range from five to 12 years.

NAEC offers two options for members who are having difficulty paying their current bill. The first is to contact the co-op and request an extension. The second is to enter a delayed payment agreement that spreads the bill amount over four months with the first installment being paid by the 14th of the current month.

Scholarship applications due April 13

The member-funded Operation Round Up® program awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to local graduating high school seniors each year.

The co-op is accepting applications for the 2018-2019 scholarship program. Students may get the application from the counselor’s office or www.naeci.com/operation-round-up-scholarship. Applicants must return the typed, completed application to NAEC by April 13. They must include a high school transcript and three letters of recommendation. For more information, please call 870-895-6210 or email tross@naeci.com.



The 2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

A trip of a lifetime – an all-expense-paid tour of the nation’s capital – awaits 44 high school juniors from Arkansas this summer.



High school juniors who apply for the 2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

could be chosen for a weeklong trip to the nation’s capital. The Youth Tour is sponsored by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas and will include major sites in Washington, D.C., such as the U.S. Capitol; the museums of the Smithsonian Institution; and the Jefferson, Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., Vietnam, Korean and World War II memorials.

This spring, North Arkansas Electric Cooperative will select four high school juniors to attend the 2018 tour, which is set for June 8-14. The winners will be selected through information provided on applications and interviews. Applicants must be high school juniors, and their parents/guardians must be members of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative.

The Arkansas group will travel to Washington and return to Little Rock by air. Once in Washington, the students will join about 1,700 students from across the nation.

Why do we do this? The answer is simple. North Arkansas Electric Cooperative is committed to our members and to the communities we serve. Through the Youth Tour, we are helping our area’s youth learn more about the workings of their nation’s government and electric cooperatives, as well as develop leadership skills.

Applications are available at www.naeci.com/youth-tour, NAEC offices and high school counselors’ offices. NAEC must receive completed applications by March 16, 2018, to be considered. For more information, please contact Tori Moss, marketing and communications director, at 870-895-6210 or tmoss@naeci.com.

Don’t miss out on this incredible, life-changing opportunity.