

THE CIRCUIT!

*A Publication of Southeastern
Electric Cooperative, Inc.*



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The Efficiency of Space Heaters

Some basic facts about space heaters will help you get at the truth of the matter. Space heaters work best as a supplement to a furnace or heat pump—they rarely are used as the primary heating source. Three main types of space heaters are available: radiant heaters, convection heaters, and combination heaters. These usually can be purchased for \$30-\$100.



•**Radiant Heaters**: A radiant heater heats objects and people—not the air in a room. Their best use is in rooms where those who want to be warmed are in the direct line of sight of the heater. Radiant heaters can be a good choice if you are in a room for a short period of time and want instant heat. They can pose a burn or risk of fire, however, and should not be placed near furniture, drapery, pets, or small children.

•**Convection Heaters**: Convection heaters are designed to heat the air, not people or objects in a room. Hot air from the convection heater rises to the ceiling and forces cooler air to the floor. The cooler air is warmed by the heater and rises to the ceiling, creating a cycle that continues as long as the heater is on. These typically are either baseboard, oil or water filled heaters. The oil or water filled heaters are the most efficient types and often look like a small radiator. These units generally become warm to the touch and, compared to a radiant heater, have a decreased fire and burn risk.



•**Combination Heaters**: As the name implies, combination heaters try to merge the best features of radiant and convection heaters. They often have an internal fan that aids in distributing heat throughout the room. These heaters are versatile, but they typically do not perform as well as radiant or convection heaters.

Before purchasing a space heater, you should determine how and where it will be used and whether a radiant, convection, or combination heater will do the best job. Use a radiant heater if you want to heat instantly and will stay in one spot. If you need to warm an entire room, a convection heater should do the trick.

So can using a space heater cut your home heating bill? Maybe. Most space heaters use between 600 and 1,500 watts of electricity. A homeowner using a space heater 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, for a month would spend approximately \$15.26 for this additional electricity. However, space heaters can only heat a small space. You can save significantly if you use the space heater in this way: turn the thermostat of your central heating system down considerably (as low as 50 degrees in some cases). Place the space

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Multiple Ways to Pay Your Bill

Several options are available for Members to pay their electric bill. We want to make it as convenient as possible when the payment due date comes around each month! These options are also available to PrePay accounts as well!

- Call the Office:** You can call the office at 580-924-2170 during regular business hours (Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm) and pay by using a bank account or credit card.
- Call the Hotline:** A 24/7 Hotline is available to all Members. You can call anytime day or night to make a payment over the phone. You must have your account number handy. 1-888-260-6597
- Online:** Enroll in Online Billing by calling the office and then have access to pay your bill online 24/7. Visit www.se-coop.com to make a payment after your online account has been set up.
- Payment Kiosk:** Several payment kiosks are available to Members. Locations include-inside the Co-op lobby, Nichols Dollar Saver in Durant, Choctaw Travel Plaza in Durant, SoonerFoods in Tishomingo and the Choctaw Travel Plaza in Atoka.
- Mail:** As always, you can mail your bill in along with the payment.
- Auto Draft:** Call to speak to the Billing Department to have your account set up on auto-draft and take away the worry of a late payment.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

for Southeastern Electric Cooperative

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Your Electric Co-op vs. Investor Owned Utilities

A Cooperative

A cooperative is a nonprofit electric utility that is owned and operated by the same consumers it serves. It ensures that residents receive power for the lowest price possible by purchasing power wholesale from a generation facility. Co-op rates are set just high enough to put profits back into the cooperative to fund expenses. If the co-op ever has excess margins, it returns the money to its members through patronage or capital credits.

Though each member has equal ownership of the utility, policies for a co-op are determined by a consumer-elected board, typically consisting of seven people. Any member of the cooperative's service area has the opportunity to run for the board. Elections are held on an annual basis and all members are invited to participate in the meeting and vote in the election.

Co-ops are mainly located in rural areas of the United States. They were formed in the 1930s as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal to help distribute power to residents in remote locations. Investor-owned utilities refused to deliver power to these areas because they could not turn a profit by providing electricity to areas with only a few customers per mile of power lines.

When electricity markets deregulated, legislators recognized the democratic system that a co-op operates in. That's why co-ops generally weren't required to open up to retail competition. However, co-op members can collectively decide and vote to enter into the competitive energy market.

Investor Owned

An investor-owned utility is very different from both co-ops and municipal utilities. This type of utility is owned by stockholders and is for profit. The more stock a person owns in the utility, the more say he or she gets in how it operates.

Most public utilities were established more than a century ago out of necessity. At the time, it made sense to have one large company build the infrastructure and deliver power to thousands of people. Though rates were regulated by the PUC, these public utilities had a monopoly over the energy industry and consumers were left with little choice.

When deregulation laws passed more than a decade ago, investor-owned utilities were the main entity impacted. The law separated the supply and delivery of energy, giving customers the opportunity to shop in a competitive market for electricity or natural gas supply. Investor-owned utilities were left in charge of the delivery of energy and the maintenance of power lines and pipes to transport it. In most areas, customers can also choose to receive default supply from the utility at rates approved by the state PUC. (In Texas and Georgia, residents are required to purchase energy supply from a retailer.)

In a deregulated market, investor-owned utilities can only profit from the delivery of electricity or natural gas. However, through delivery rates and maintenance fees that every customer in the area must pay, utilities are usually able to make money to pay dividends to shareholders.***

• For more information, please visit www.saveonenergy.com •

Space Heaters

heater in a room occupied by people and close that room off from the rest of the home. This method of “zone heating” will save money.

Space heaters do have their place in warming a house, but they simply cannot replace energy-efficient central heating or weatherization improvements to the home. For example, all electric space heaters produce 1 unit of heat for every 1 unit of electricity consumed; in other words, they are 100% energy efficient. Those that use natural gas are 80% efficient. In comparison, geothermal heat pumps can produce more than 3 units of heat for every unit of electricity consumed, making them 300% efficient.

As with any technology, before purchasing a space heater you should understand how the device is used, as well as the energy claims of the manufacturer. While it may be technically possible to cut your heating bill by 50% using a space heater, it is impractical for most people.***

By Brian Sloboda from the Cooperative Research Network

SEC Announces Heat Pump Rebates for 2016

Southeastern Electric’s Board of Trustees has approved the Heat Pump Rebates for 2016.

This program allows SEC Members to receive a cash rebate upon the purchase and installation of a qualifying new Ground Source or Air Source Heat Pump. The benefits of a new Heat Pump can easily justify the cost-on top of the rebate you are able to receive through the Cooperative.

The steps to apply are simple. Once the installation is complete for a qualifying new heat pump, a Member may submit their application to the Cooperative for the rebate.

A Member will need to contact the Member Services Department at 580-745-9463 to request an application either by mail, e-mail or fax. As always, they can be obtained by coming by the office as well. Once the application, a copy of the invoice along with the unit’s certificate ratings are turned in, the process can begin.

The rebates for Air Source 2016 are as follows:

QUALIFYING AIR-SOURCE

Tier 1: 15 SEER-12.5 EER (or higher) in a newly constructed home is maximum \$50.00 per ton

Tier 2: Minimum 15 SEER (or higher)-12.5 EER replacement unit is \$100.00 per ton

Tier 3: Minimum 15 SEER-12.7 EER (or higher) replacement unit is \$150.00 per ton

- Maximum of five tons rebated *per residence*

- Dual fuel units are eligible

- Commercial businesses are **NOT** eligible

ADDER: Dual Fuel Conversion (DFC): While still meeting the above requirements, if existing HVAC system is all electric and converted to a gas back-up heat during replacement installation then add an extra \$200.00 per ton.

- A very robust rebate is in place for Ground Source Heat Pumps.
Please call the office at 580-745-9463 for the details and specifics.