

THE CIRCUIT!

A Publication of Southeastern
Electric Cooperative, Inc.



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Going Green During the Holidays!

The holidays just got a little greener at Southeastern Electric! Yes, there is no shortage of Christmas decorations around the office, but just to the east of our building the new Member Solar Station is coming alive.

Now the 950 solar panels are not necessarily glimmering excessively here in December (although they enjoy every sunny day), what gets them charged-up is the sunny summer time. When conditions are right, this impressive 250 kilowatt station will produce renewable energy all year long. SEC hopes to receive over 500,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity into the distribution system in 2017.

So as we end 2016, we will know that our Cooperative is doing its part in being environmentally responsible. Hydro, Wind and Solar are all now part of an Energy Generation mix that arrives at every member's meter, every day, all year long. ***

Merry Christmas to all of our Members!
From Southeastern Electric Cooperative

The Circuit!

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Winter Storm Preparedness

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain. Regardless of the severity of a winter storm, you should be prepared in order to remain safe during these events.

Know the Difference

- Winter Storm Outlook - Winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2 to 5 days.
- Winter Weather Advisory - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.
- Winter Storm Watch - Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.
- Winter Storm Warning - Life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately.

How to Prepare for a Winter Storm

- Winterize your vehicle and keep the gas tank full. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F. ***

Southwestern Electric's Holiday Hours

We will be closed for Christmas from
Friday, December 23rd thru Monday, December 26th.
We will re-open **Tuesday, December 27th at 8:00 a.m.**
Please call 1-866-924-1315 for an outage.

SEC will not be able to accept any payments into the system on December 30th and 31st due to accounting closeout. This will include IVR Hotline, kiosks and on-line payments as well.

**From all of us at Southeastern Electric Co-op,
have a very Merry Christmas!**

New Rebate Programs Coming to SEC During 2017



Your Co-op has been at work to find ways we can help you, our Member-Owners. We know that having to replace or maintain an HVAC system can get quite expensive. Because of that, we have planned to roll out several new rebate programs in 2017 to help our Members. Below you will find the summary of the programs.

- **Heat Pump Rebate Program:** This is offered to residential Members only who have replaced or installed a new Air Source or Ground Source Heat Pump. The unit being installed must meet specific qualifications to be eligible. New home construction can qualify for this rebate.
- **Central A/C Rebate Program (NEW):** This is offered to residential Members only who have replaced or installed a new Central A/C unit in their home. The unit must meet the minimum requirements on efficiency ratings. New home construction does not qualify for this rebate.
- **Ductless Mini Split A/C Rebate Program (NEW):** This rebate is for residential Members only and new homes do not qualify for this rebate. Just like the other rebates, the Mini Split system would have to meet the required efficiency ratings to qualify.
- **Window A/C Rebate Program (NEW):** This rebate is available to residential Members only and new homes do not qualify. This program will rebate up to 30% of the net cost of an Energy Star certified window A/C unit.
- **Cooperative Home Energy Efficiency Program (NEW):** This is a co-funded program with Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC). Qualifying Members can receive up to \$1,000.00 in pre-bates for their efficiency improvements on their home. A Member can choose On-Bill Financing for the remainder of improvement costs.
- **Preventative Maintenance Rebate Program (PMRP):** The PMRP is no new program for SEC Members. This rebate, only available from April 1st to June 30th to residential Members, can give up to \$70.00 per unit every three years.

For more information about any of these rebates mentioned above, please call and ask for Jim or Kevin at 580-745-9463.

SEC Employees Come Together for the Holidays

Each year, SEC employees come together to collect items for two different drives in the area.

For over 15 years, SEC has held a Co-op House Shoe and Blanket Drive. This meaningful event was started by Eileen Horton, a retired SEC employee, and ended up being a huge success.

New blanket and house shoes are purchased and brought to the Co-op by employees and delivered to a nursing home in SEC's service area.

The goal each year is to have enough donations to give each nursing home resident one pair of house shoes and a blanket for the Holi-

days.

Last year, the donations were taken to Calera Manor Nursing Home during their Christmas Party. This year, the donations will be delivered to Southern Pointe Living Center in Colbert.

Another drive that SEC AND our Members can both participate in is the Bryan County and Red River Ford Canned Food Drive.

Members are welcome to bring any canned good or non perishable food items to the Cooperative during the first two weeks of December. There will be a donation box inside of the lobby. Any and all items are greatly appreciated.***

Cold Weather Space Heater Safety

As temperatures drop this winter, many will look for supplemental heating sources for their homes. Space heaters can be a good alternative for those who want to warm one area of their home without turning up the thermostat on the central heating system. However, space heaters are also responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you are planning to use a space heater in your home this winter, review these tips from Southeastern Electric Cooperative to keep you, your family and your property safe.

Materials – *What are the components of your space heater made of? Parts like metal grating can be hot to the touch and may burn anyone who gets too close. Make sure you purchase a heater that is cool to the touch and has guards over the coils just in case little fingers get too close.*

Placement - *While it can be tempting to place a small heater on a shelf so it is not in the way of pets and children, it is safest to leave the heater on a level floor on a nonflammable surface. Keeping the space heater on the floor can keep it from falling over, preventing fire hazards. Also, remember that space heaters and bathrooms are not a good combination, unless the heater is designed for bathroom use. Moisture can damage the heater.*

Special Features – *Does your space heater have an auto shutoff function if tipped over? Auto shutoff can be a lifesaver. If you currently own a space heater without auto shutoff, consider purchasing a heater with this important safety feature.*

Cords – *You should never use an extension cord when plugging in a space heater as it can cause overheating. The space heater should be plugged directly into a wall outlet, and should be the only thing plugged in to the wall outlet. Also make sure cords aren't in a high-traffic area so they are not a tripping hazard.*

Use – *Never leave a heater unattended while in use. If you are leaving your home or going to bed, make sure to unplug the heater.*

Following these tips and making sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions can keep you safe this winter. ***

