

Small Changes Can Result in Energy Savings



MESSAGE FROM MANAGER RICK HAILE

If you are wondering what you can do to reduce your heating bills almost immediately, McLennan County Electric Cooperative offers several suggestions.

“There are a lot of things you can do to help you save money on your power bill,” says General Manager Rick Haile. “Something as simple as regularly changing your air filters can result in energy savings.”

Listed below are a few of your cooperative’s suggestions. They are arranged in order of urgency and importance.

- Use a programmable thermostat that automatically adjusts your thermostat setting lower at night and during the day when no one is home. Or remember to change the temperature set point manually every day.

- If you stay alone in a large house, try to confine your activities to one room and leave the remainder of the

house at the low nighttime set point. Heat your daytime activity room to a comfortable temperature with an electric space heater.

- Use electric blankets or quilts for sleeping comfort and to allow a lower nighttime thermostat setting.

- Change your furnace filter as often as it gets dirty. Buy several when you shop so that you will have one when you need it.

- Seal large air leaks around plumbing pipes, wires, chimneys and other penetrations through your floors and ceilings. Look for these in your attic and also in your basement, if you have one.

- Make sure that all your storm windows are closed during winter weather. If your storm windows are broken or missing, repair or replace them.

- Open drapes and blinds on your home’s south-facing windows during the day to let solar heat in.

- Be sure that your walls are filled with insulation and that your attic has at least 8 inches of insulation. Nothing can compensate for lack of insulation. Insulate your walls and attic if they need it. This may require some planning and budgeting but can result in great savings.

For more energy-saving information, visit www.mclennanelectric.coop or call our office at (254) 840-2871.



AWARENESS HELPS SAVE LIVES

Most electricity-related burns are preventable—especially when children are the victims.

Observe Burn Awareness Week—the first week in February—by taking a few actions to prevent your loved ones from suffering from burns.

- Check smoke detector batteries regularly and keep replacement batteries on hand.



- Turn pot handles inward and cook on the rear burners so children can’t reach them.

- Keep electrical cords out of reach of little hands and away from walking paths and water.



- Lower your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees, a comfortable temperature that won’t scald.

- Establish a safety zone in front of stoves where children are not permitted.

- Supervise children around hot liquids, such as hot chocolate, soup and bathwater.

- Keep candles out of reach and avoid lighting matches in front of small children.

- Teach children that matches, lighters and electrical equipment are for adult use only and explain the dangers.



Annual Rattler Hunt Approaches

This year marks the 38th annual Rattlesnake Hunt sponsored by the Oglesby Lions Club. The hunt will be held Saturday and Sunday, February 24-25, at the Oglesby Community Center.

Hunters' registration fee is \$5 per person with registration times on February 24 at 8 a.m. and February 25 at 10 a.m. Prizes are awarded for the longest rattlesnake, the smallest rattlesnake and the heaviest rattlesnake.

If you are planning to attend the snake show, the entry fee is \$2, or free for children age 6 or below. Snake-handling shows on Saturday will begin at 10 a.m. with the last show starting at 5 p.m., and the shows on Sunday will start at 11 a.m. with the last show beginning at 4 p.m.

While the Oglesby Lions Club sponsors the annual hunt, it has become a communitywide effort through the years. The Oglesby Volunteer Fire Department is preparing for barbecue sales, and the Oglesby 4-H Club will also have a concession stand available.

Directions from U.S. Hwy. 84 are to

turn south onto FM 1996 and travel 1.25 miles into town. The Community Center will be on the left on Old Oglesby Road just before the railroad crossing.

Vendors can rent booth spaces for \$20. That includes both days. If you need more information on booth space rentals, contact James Sullins at (254) 456-2214.


CONGRATULATIONS, KARLA

Karla Ashley Simmons, daughter of MCEC Digger Operator Charles Simmons, graduated in December from Hill College in Hillsboro. She received her Licensed Vocational Nursing Degree.



McLennan County Electric Cooperative

1111 S. Johnson Dr. • McGregor, Texas 76657
(254) 840-2871 or 1-800-840-2957
www.mclennanelectric.coop

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Operation Round Up Enriching Your Community **Moody Community Library**

The Moody Community Library was awarded a grant of \$500 from Operation Round Up® in January 2006. The grant was used to enhance programs that benefit the community around Moody. Library officials recently wrote a letter to express their appreciation for the grant and show how the donation directly affected the learning programs of the library.

One of the programs enhanced by the grant is the Preschool/Home School Children's group that meets each Wednesday. The library was able to purchase a variety of books, and a special rug for the children to sit on while listening to the book selection.

They also purchased a counter table to enhance children's activities.

During the Summer Reading Program, Jimmy Don Aycock, a former Moody resident, educated the partici-



The Preschool/Homeschool Children's group gathers each Wednesday to hear stories.



Jimmy Don Aycock educates children during the Summer Reading Program.

pants about Indians, covering topics ranging from arrowheads and spears to hunting and medicine men.

Aycock is a newly elected representative of the library. The grant provided books to advance the learning endeavor.

Operation Round Up represents one of the best principles of the cooperative business model: Many members working together to benefit the whole cooperative. Participation in the Operation Round Up program is voluntary.

Accounts that participate in Operation Round Up have their electric bills rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. The extra change goes into the Operation Round Up fund, which is disbursed by a board of cooperative members. Members who would like more information about participation in Operation Round Up can contact the office.



Operation Round Up® News

A voluntary, member-funded program supporting local, nonprofit organizations in MCEC's service area

MCEC MEMBERS HELPING OTHERS IN CO-OP COMMUNITIES

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

At its third-quarter meeting, the Operation Round Up® Trust Board voted to disburse an additional \$5,250 in funds to local organizations in McLennan County Electric Cooperative's service area. Since the program began in May 2004, MCEC members have put a total of \$85,973.95 back into the local economy by helping 74 community organizations help others.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which residential electric bills are rounded upward. Every month, the additional pennies, nickels and dimes are added to a special fund. The Operation Round Up

Trust Board, composed of MCEC members, meets once every quarter to review applications and to decide how the funds are to be allocated. Members may have their names added or removed from the program by calling our main office at (254) 840-2871 or 1-800-840-2957.

The next deadline for Operation Round Up applications is March 1. Organizations interested in applying for funds may contact Robin Ciscell for information at (254) 840-2871. Applications are also available online at www.mclennanelectric.coop, or at the MCEC office at 1111 S. Johnson Dr. in McGregor.

Fourth Quarter 2006 Fund Recipients

Crawford VFD	\$1,500
McLennan County Resource Center	\$750
Mother Neff State Park Association.....	\$1,500
Chilton VFD	\$1,500
Total	\$5,250



Crawford VFD



Mother Neff State Park Association



McLennan County Resource Center

McLennan County Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up Helping Those Who Help Others