



Mike Smith
President and CEO

What is beneficial electrification?

If you're like most Americans, you're interested in saving money on energy costs and in doing your part to help the environment. Wouldn't it be great if you could do both? Well, you can! It's through a concept called "beneficial electrification." This utility industry term means the innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels, such as propane, natural gas and fuel oil, in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs.

In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As McDonough Power Cooperative and other utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.

Here's how this concept impacts you. It means electric appliances such as water heaters, clothes dryers, ovens and even lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener. When McDonough Power Cooperative takes advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point (how the electricity is produced), it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the consumer-member.

Electricity is getting cleaner

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of about 10 years, it means you are able to benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the particular appliance. In other words, the high efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources in the future. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you are essentially locked into the technology of that gas appliance for its lifespan.

As McDonough Power Cooperative taps into more renewable options in the future,

your electric appliance has the potential to become greener and more energy efficient. The only way you would be able to benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

Small steps to help the environment

For consumers and homeowners looking for environmentally friendly options, choosing electric appliances, tools and cars over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric water heaters and other appliances, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helps our environment. It can translate into a better quality of life. For example, when you can trade the loud rumble of a gas-powered mower for the quiet efficiency of electric versions, you eliminate the exhaust emissions and the unpleasant noise.

How we're doing our part to help the environment

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, McDonough Power Cooperative is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. This means McDonough Power Cooperative can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable and affordable power to our community.

Through our website, we offer our members the convenience and ability to monitor their energy use. **10113B3-416A**

We care about our community because we live here too. While each member's reduction might be small, together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions. That means a brighter future for all.





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Operation Round-Up

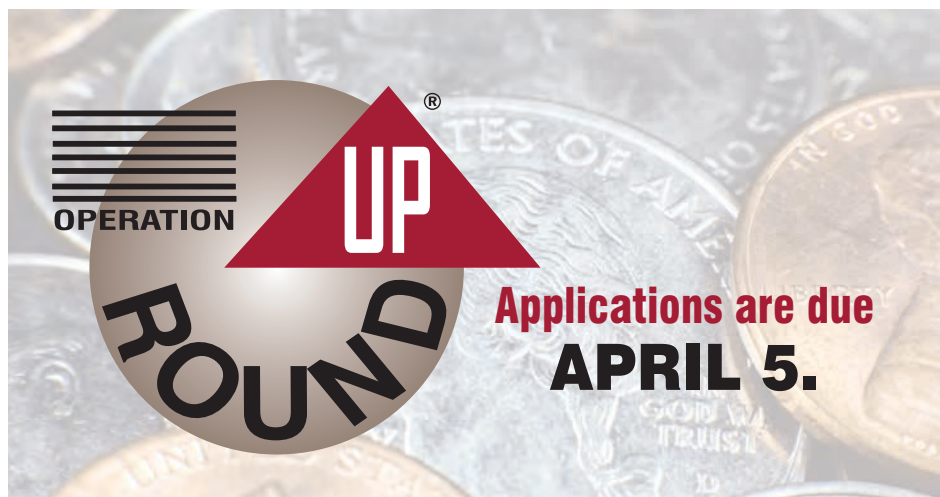
McDonough Power Cooperative does more than provide power to its members; we embrace and give back to our community, and it's not just our employees who give back. Thousands of McDonough Power members have opened up their hearts and joined our Operation Round-Up program to donate a small amount of change each month to benefit organizations in our service territory.

The program is simple, but its impact is tremendous. Members who participate in Operation Round-Up choose to round their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar amount, and the spare change is distributed to non-profit organizations in our communities. The average contribution for members is around \$6 per year, and every penny goes to these worthy organizations.

Homes and careers for those with developmental disabilities, meals for the hungry, and backpacks and school supplies for those in need are only a few of the extraordinary things these organizations provide. Many others provide educational and recreational opportunities for people of all ages, such as reading programs, ag education and daycare services.

If you know of an organization that could benefit from our Operation Round-Up program, please send them our way. The next application deadline is April 5, and all of the details can be found on our website at: mcdonoughpower.com/community/operation-round-up/.

We look forward to what we can do together! **8120SL36-864C**



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to spring
forward on **March 14!**
Set your clocks forward
by one hour.



Three electrifying kitchen appliances to save time and energy

Whether your oven and stove top are powered by gas or electricity, it's no secret that they consume more energy than smaller countertop appliances, like slow cookers and toaster ovens. In addition to efficiency, smaller kitchen appliances can provide faster cooking times and less hassle with cleanup.

If you're looking for convenient cooking methods with the added bonus of energy efficiency, here are three electrifying appliances for your kitchen.



Air fryers

Air fryers are becoming increasingly popular, and consumers have a lot of good things to say about these handy little appliances. Air fryers use convection to circulate hot air and cook the food – this means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from traditional fryers. Air fryers are fairly small, so they won't take up much of your counter space, and with everything cooked in the fryer, cleanup will be a breeze. Air fryers are available in a variety of sizes, and prices range from \$40 to \$200-plus.



Electric griddles

While they have certainly been around for a while, electric griddles offer many benefits for any home chef (beyond bacon and eggs!). Griddles are convenient because you can cook everything at once – like a “one-pan” meal, and the possibilities are endless. From fajitas to sandwiches to French toast, griddles can help satisfy any taste buds. They consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you. Prices and sizes for griddles vary, but you can typically find one for about \$30 at local retail stores. **5223C8-952C**

Pizza makers

Pizza brings people together, so why not consider a pizza maker for your kitchen? These compact, countertop machines are an inexpensive alternative to a costly brick oven, and they use less energy than your traditional oven. Choose your own fresh ingredients to whip up a faster, healthier pizza at home. Plus, most pizza makers are multifunctional and can be used to cook flatbreads, frittatas, quesadillas and

more. You can purchase a pizza maker for about \$30 to \$150-plus online or at a local retailer. **5327B4-252A**

These are just a few electrifying appliance options for your kitchen. Remember, when you're cooking a smaller meal, countertop appliances can save time and energy.



Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout **The Wire**. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.



TRAIN OTHERS

Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, about electrical hazards.

SAFETY FIRST

Have daily meetings to review the day's work and discuss safety implications. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required, and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



WAIT TO UNFOLD

Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.

USE A SPOTTER

When working in the vicinity of power lines, always have a spotter on the ground, who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.

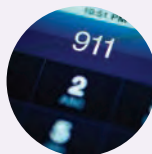


DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB

If your machine or truck makes contact with a power line, pole, or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.

CALL 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 to have your electric utility dispatched to de-energize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with feet together as far as you can.



For more information:

 **Safe
Electricity.org**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer.

Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.

Source:
www.energy.gov

