

Spoon River Providing Many of Your Energy Needs

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

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Our mission at Spoon River Electric Cooperative is to provide members with safe, reliable, affordable electricity. Our employees are dedicated to that job every day. Sometimes our members have other energy needs, and I wanted to remind you that we can help with those, too, through our other businesses: Spoon River Mechanical Services and Spoon River Propane.

Though Spoon River Mechanical and Spoon River Propane operate as separate businesses, we all work in tandem to meet your energy needs. Whether you need a reliable propane supplier, furnace repair work or a backup generator for your home, we can help.

Spoon River Mechanical Services offers a full line of mechanical services, including plumbing, heating and cooling, geothermal, electrical, refrigeration and whole-house backup generators. The servicemen there can work on all brands, or you can buy high-quality equipment from Water Furnace, Trane, Generac, and other suppliers that are the best in the business. Whether your job is big or small, it's important to the 15 employees at Spoon River Mechanical. You can reach them at (309) 647-3450.

If you use propane, consider becoming a Spoon River Propane customer. The employees



there have many years of experience and are experts in the business. Customer service is the top priority at Spoon River Propane. Manager Duane Siegel can evaluate your tank, do a safety inspection and evaluate your propane needs. You can reach him at (309) 649-5462.

Since they are owned by the cooperative, Spoon River Mechanical and Spoon River

Propane are businesses you can rely on for many years to come. When you use those businesses, you can expect top-notch service and competitive pricing.

Energy is an important part of all our lives. As a member of Spoon River Electric Cooperative, you are part of a family of companies that are here to meet your energy needs every day. We want to be your all-energy provider.

“ask Frank”



Frank Romane,
Manager of
Operations

Working to give you the best service possible

Our goal at Spoon River Electric Cooperative is to provide you safe, reliable, affordable electricity every day. I work with our outstanding crew of linemen on safety and reliability. We do proactive maintenance to prevent problems before they happen. But with such a large system subject to all sorts of extreme weather, sometimes we get calls from members having problems with their electricity, and I want to give you some ideas of what to check before you call so we can help.

First, look at your meter. If there are still numbers on the front of it, you should do further investigating before calling us. If there are no numbers on the box, call us at (309) 647-2700.

Whether or not there are numbers, we will ask you some questions

when you call. These questions are not intended to challenge you in any way, but to help us gather information to decide how to respond to the problem. Here is a checklist for you to look into before calling.

Have you lost power to your whole house, or just part of it?

Did you check your breaker box and reset it if needed?

Have you checked with your neighbors to see if they still have power?

Before you lost power, did you hear any loud noises or see any damage to nearby power lines and equipment?

Any other information you think pertains to the outage will help us determine whether to send a lineman to your home. We try to ensure that

when we dispatch linemen to a location, it's for problems with our system. If they arrive and it's a problem in your home or business, we have to charge you for the time worked.

If you are having problems on your side of the meter, I recommend calling the electrical department of our sister business, Spoon River Mechanical Services, at (309) 647-3450. They do quality work with fair rates and we work closely with them.

Anytime you have questions about your electrical service, you can call us at (309) 647-2700. You can e-mail me directly at fromane@srecoop.org. We strive to offer all members the very best service at the greatest value we can.

If you have a question for Frank, email it to fromane@srecoop.org.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

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8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,249 • Number of members served: 4,944

Number of power poles in territory: 29,255

Wash Clothes Efficiently Without Getting Caught in the Spin Cycle

Washing machines perform a fairly simple function — getting dirty clothes clean. Yet prospective buyers today can be overwhelmed with all of the different models and “bells and whistles” available — top-loading, front-loading, high-efficiency (HE), water saver, steaming, and wrinkle removing, to name only a few.

Energy-efficient washing machines, easily identified by the Energy Star label, are a priority for any cost-conscious consumer's list. Approximately 93 percent of all American households have a clothes washer, adding up to 102 million clothes washers across America. About 9 million washing machines are sold each year — efficient models account for slightly more than one-third of sales.

Energy Star-rated washing machines cost slightly more than their less-efficient counterparts, anywhere from \$400-1,500, depending on other features selected. To get a handle on how much electricity a particular unit will draw, pay close attention to the yellow energy guide before making a purchase.

An energy-efficient washing machine can save the typical homeowner around \$50 a year, or \$540-\$600 over the life of the appliance. Efficient machines also save more than 5,000 gallons of water annually. The energy and water efficiencies of clothes washers are measured according to their modified energy factor (MEF) and water factor (WF). These criteria generally limit Energy Star qualification to front-loading and advanced top-loading models.

Front-loading clothes washers use a horizontal or tumble-axis basket to lift and drop clothing into the water, instead of rubbing clothes around a central agitator in a full tub. These units use less energy than conventional clothes washers by reducing



the amount of hot water needed to clean clothes. Front-loading models also squeeze more water out of clothes by using spin speeds that are two to three times faster than conventional washers, reducing both drying time and energy use.

Energy Star-qualified top-loading models typically use spray valves to rinse clothes, rather than a new tub of water. This method not only reduces the energy required for water heating, but typically saves an average of 15 gallons of water per wash, compared with conventional clothes washers.

Qualified top-loading models also boast sensors to monitor and adjust

incoming water temperature. This keeps water hot enough to dissolve the detergent and provide high-performance cleaning, but cool enough to save energy and minimize hot water damage to fabrics. One limitation of efficient top-loading washers is that many models do not offer a high-temperature standard wash option.

By looking for the Energy Star logo and shopping at a store with knowledgeable staff, you should be able to leave with a new washing machine that will, over time, pay for itself.

Source: NRECA's Cooperative Research Network

Energy Efficiency - Tip of the Month

Use your microwave for cooking whenever possible. They use 50 to 65 percent less energy than conventional ovens and do not heat up your house in the summer. However, conventional ovens may be more appropriate for larger size items when cooking time is increased.

Source: Touchstone Energy Cooperatives





I PULLED THE PLUG ON MY ENERGY COSTS JUST BY PULLING A FEW PLUGS.

TVs, gaming consoles, DVRs, cable boxes and almost anything that has a plug uses energy even when it's off. I'm saving \$222 a year by pulling plugs and turning off power strips. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



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