

Scott Parrish

Recently our cooperative lost longtime director Scott Parrish.

Scott started his service to the cooperative in September 1995.

We will miss Scott's quick smile and positive outlook. He wasn't an outspoken person, but he was always listening. As an electrician, Scott was a cooperative director with a unique perspective. His understanding of the mechanics of electrical systems was unmatched.

Scott took a lot of pride in his work as a farmer and an electrician. When cooperative em-

ployees volunteered time last summer to upgrade the electrical system at the Fulton County Fairgrounds, Scott donated his time right alongside them. He also quietly donated money for the project, mailing in a check but not seeking any recognition for it.

There was no greater joy in Scott's life than his family. He and his wife Nancy were married for 47 years and were the parents



of a son, Carl, a daughter, Vonda, and six grandchildren.

Scott's family generously chose to commit memorial contributions in his honor to the Spoon River Electric Cooperative Scholarship Fund.

His legacy will live on, not only in his children and grandchildren, but through the scholarships that our members' children will receive.

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

Contents

Spoon River Mechanical Services 16b

Efficiency Tax Credits 16c

Spoon River Propane 16d

HomE Program Extended

Money is still available for energy efficiency improvements

Good News! The HomE Energy Rebate program that began in May of last year has been refunded and money is again available for our members.

HomE Rebates

- \$1,500 – Geothermal heat pumps (closed loop 14.1 EER or 3.3 COP) (open loop 16.2 EER or 3.6 COP)
- \$1,000 – Air source heat pumps (16 SEER)
- \$350 – Natural Gas or LP furnace (95% efficiency)
- \$350 – Central air conditioner (16 SEER)
- \$250 – Heat pump water heater (2.0 Energy Factor)
- 30% of cost of insulation and weatherization (max of \$500)

Insulation and heat pump water heater rebates can be combined with others. Furnace and air conditioner rebates cannot be combined. Rebates will continue until the money is exhausted.



Spoon River Mechanical Services

The employees of Spoon River Mechanical Services are ready to meet all your heating, cooling and plumbing needs. Call them today at (309) 647-3450.



Spoon River Mechanical Services' new employee Todd Williams can take care of all your furnace needs. Williams has a background in commercial furnace

work and can handle jobs both big and small.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

By replacing your five most-used light bulbs with ENERGY STAR-qualified bulbs, you could save \$70 a year.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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

Efficiency Tax Credits drop, but don't disappear

Benefit reverts to \$500 lifetime cap for upgrades

By Megan McKay-Noe, CCC

Energy efficiency improvements are great for lowering electric bills. But sometimes the up-front cost can be a drawback.

Since 2005, Congress has enacted a series of tax breaks for consumers who take steps to make their homes more energy efficient. In December, the outgoing 111th Congress approved extending some popular efficiency tax credits through Dec. 31, 2011, although at greatly reduced levels.

"While we were hopeful that the tax credits would be higher than what was approved, we are encouraged that this valuable incentive for homeowner investment was retained," says Leigh Faircloth, executive director of the South Carolina Association of Heating and Air Conditioning Contractors.

The federal Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 reduces the total lifetime credit that can be claimed on energy efficiency improvements made between 2006 and 2011 (excluding 2008, when no credit was available) from \$1,500 to \$500. It also lowers the percentage of efficiency upgrade costs consumers can recover, from 30 percent in 2009-2010 to 10 percent in 2011.

There are also maximum allowances for different upgrades. For installing more efficient windows, the tax credit is limited to \$200, and there's a \$300 cap for "any item of energy-efficient building property." Other restrictions include:

- **Furnaces (\$150):** Must have at least 95 percent (up from 90 percent) annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE). Oil furnaces and boilers were returned to the single furnace category at 95 percent AFUE.
- **Advanced main air circulating fan (\$50):** Must utilize less than 2

percent of a furnace's total energy consumption.

- **Central air conditioner**

(\$300): Must have a seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) of at least 16 and an energy efficiency rating (EER) of at least 13.

- **Air-source heat pump**

(\$300): Must have at least a heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF) of 9, SEER of 16 and EER of 13.

- **Biomass fuel stove (\$300):** Must have a thermal efficiency rating of at least 75 percent

Builders and Manufacturers Benefit, Too

The bill reinstates a credit of up to \$2,000 for builders (during 2010 and 2011) of energy-efficient residences that use no more than half the energy of a 2003 national model energy code home (the credit had expired in 2009). In addition, U.S.-based manufacturers of clothes washers, dishwashers, and refrigerators will receive credits ranging from \$25-\$200 for efficient appliance models produced in America during 2008, 2009 and 2010.

"While consumers cannot take these types of credits directly, these units may be promoted by manufacturers, or by state or utility efficiency programs, during the next two years," notes the Tax Incentives Assistance Project. The group operates a website, energytaxincentives.org, devoted to tracking efficiency incentives.

Renewable Tax Credits Remain Active

Renewable energy tax credits created by the federal stimulus bill don't expire until Dec. 31, 2016. These credits cover 30 percent of the cost of materials and installation for residential solar panels, solar water heaters, small wind turbines, and geothermal heat pumps. Details are available at



energystar.gov/taxcredits.

Claiming Tax Credits

Tax credits are beneficial because they directly reduce, dollar for dollar, any taxes you owe. Be sure to keep your receipts and your Manufacturer's Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Then claim the credit on your taxes using IRS Form 5695.

Looking for Help?

For a list of federal, state, and local energy efficiency rebates and tax credits, visit the Database for State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, at www.dsireusa.org.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative members looking to upgrade an inefficient furnace or air conditioner can get a free estimate from Spoon River Mechanical Services Manager Rod Lynch by calling (309) 647-2700.



**As a subsidiary of
Spoon River Electric Cooperative,
Spoon River Propane is member-owned.**

Spoon River Propane offers:

- 🔥 24-hour emergency service
- 🔥 Competitive pricing
- 🔥 Several flexible payment programs to meet your needs
- 🔥 Outstanding customer service

To learn more call Manager Duane Siegel or Lisa Miller today
at Spoon River Propane -- (309) 649-5462