

A publication of Spoon River Electric Cooperative • Canton, IL • [www.srecoop.org](http://www.srecoop.org)

## Small changes add up to big savings

### President's Report



William R. Dodds  
President/CEO

Sometimes the little things in life mean a lot. Simple steps such as turning off lights when you leave a room, unplugging appliances when you're not using them, and raising the temperature on your thermostat a bit as our weather warms up, when done together, can help your family rack up big energy savings.

At Spoon River Electric Cooperative we're always looking for ways to help you, our members. With energy costs rising due to a growing demand for electricity, higher power plant costs, and federal regulations, energy efficiency remains a key part of our efforts to keep rates affordable. Best of all, energy efficiency—simply making the electricity you use do more—saves you money.

Because we're part of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives network, you have access to a valuable resource that not only identifies simple energy-saving tasks but also illustrates the real-dollar savings they produce, specific to your home. TogetherWeSave.com uses real savings calculations—based on our co-op's rates and climate zone—to motivate and inspire small changes in behavior.

Intrigued? Check it out at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com). You'll be asked for your ZIP code; this helps us provide accurate electricity rates for your home.

The Virtual Home Tour provides a good starting point. As you move through each of the



six rooms, clicking on areas highlighted in yellow prompts you to take various interactive energy-saving measures and shows how these changes translate into savings on your electric bill.

A visit to the attic, for example, recommends adding insulation. Slide the arrow up the scale to add extra inches of insulation and watch the exciting end result. Adding nine inches saves up to \$143 a year. Add 15 inches, and that figure jumps to \$241.

Now head downstairs to the living room. Most folks enjoy watching television and playing Wii or Xbox games, but you don't need these gadgets on 24 hours a day. By unplugging entertainment center devices when they're not in use, you could save up to \$174 every year. Seems simple enough—and every small step adds up to big savings. In fact, just lowering your thermo-

stat one degree in winter could save \$82.

The website uses calculations targeted for our co-op's kWh electric rate and geographic location. In short, it gives you an accurate reflection of what your potential savings could be if you implement suggested steps.

Want more in-depth information on energy efficiency? TogetherWeSave.com also includes a library of short videos on various topics.

Finding ways to help you save energy dollars during tough times is important to us. Valuable tools like TogetherWeSave.com are just one more way we at Spoon River Electric Cooperative are looking out for you. Want to learn about other ways to make your home more energy efficient? Visit [www.srecoop.org](http://www.srecoop.org) or call us at (309) 647-2700.

### Contents

Small changes add up to big savings..... 16a

Savings available on new appliances .. 16b

CFL Discounts .... 16c

# Savings available on new appliances



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (also known as the stimulus bill), allocated \$300 million for appliance rebates to make homes more efficient while stimulating the economy.

More than \$12 million was made available through Illinois' program. Rebates will be available April 16 - 25.

Immediate rebates on ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers and room air conditioners will be avail-

able at participating retailers. A list of those stores and more information about the program are available at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity website: [http://www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo/Bureaus/Energy\\_Recycling/](http://www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo/Bureaus/Energy_Recycling/).

Rebates are also available for recycling an old refrigerator, freezer, washing machine or dishwasher. Forms can be found at the DCEO website.

## 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

# Buy CFL bulbs for \$1 to \$3 less



Electric cooperative members in many downstate Illinois areas can now purchase ENERGY STAR® qualified energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps, or CFLs, at discount prices. The discounts are part of a program sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in downstate areas to promote increased use of energy efficient CFLs and help consumers save on their electric bills. Participating retailers are discounting the bulbs by \$1 to \$3 per bulb, or even more in some locations.

Sixty-two retailers, including some County Market, Ace Hardware, CVS Pharmacy, Family Dollar, Krog-

er, Rural King, Niemann's and True Value stores are participating.

If you replace 20 incandescent light bulbs with 20 CFLs you can save up to \$100 in energy a year. They also produce less heat and last eight times longer.

IDCEO will offer the program as long as CFL supplies last. Look for displays with the IDCEO program logos such as the one shown at the right to find the discounted CFLs.

Please call your local electric cooperative or John Freitag (217-241-7973) or Nancy Nixon (217-241-7954) at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives with any questions about the program.



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