

President's Report



Josh DeWees
President/CEO



\$7,100 donated through Spoon River Electric's Operation Round Up program

The Spoon River Electric Operation Round Up Committee recently donated \$7,100 to five local organizations within our service territory: \$1,100 to the Cuba Fire Protection District; \$1,500 to the Canton FFA Alumni; \$1,500 to the VIT Art Department; \$1,500 to the VIT FFA Alumni; and \$1,500 to the HELP Center.

These donations are made possible by the generous members of Spoon River Electric who voluntarily make the decision each month to "Round-Up" their electric bill to

the next dollar and donate this "extra change" directly to the Operation Round-Up Program. All the funds collected are donated back into our communities as charitable grants. The average donation a member makes annually ranges from \$6-\$12.

For more information about the Operation Round-Up Program, visit our website at sre-coop.org under the Operation Round-Up tab or call Taryn at 309-647-2700.

Applications are being taken now through July 7.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340,
Canton, IL 61520
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
309-647-2700 • www.srecoop.org

President/CEO

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Editor of Spoon River News

Taryn Mellert
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Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,272
Number of members served: 5,022
Number of power poles
in territory: 29,361



SOLAR ENERGY WORD SEARCH

Did you know solar panels turn sunlight into electricity? When the sun shines on the panels, tiny particles of light hit cells on the panels to create a flow of energy, like magic sunlight turning into power! The electricity then travels across power lines and can be used to light up homes, charge gadgets and more.

Can you find all the words associated with solar energy in the puzzle below?

WORD BANK

Solar	Sunlight
Panel	Efficiency
Renewable	Installation
Energy	Rooftop



Smart ways to save energy this summer

Don't sweat the heat

Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. As temperatures soar and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take steps to lower your energy consumption and stay cool without breaking the bank.

Boost your home's energy efficiency

Start with an energy audit. We can't fix what we don't know about. Request a home energy audit from your local utility provider or a home energy auditor to identify where energy is being lost. Then, take action to reduce usage this summer.

Tips to keep cool air in and hot air out

- Seal air leaks around pipes, doors, windows, cracks and openings with caulk or weather stripping.
- Schedule an HVAC system inspection with a professional to maintain performance. Check with your utility for rebates on energy-efficient replacements.
- Change your air filter regularly. A clogged air filter makes your HVAC system work harder.
- Switch to LED bulbs for increased efficiency.
- Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control. Check with your local utility for incentives and deals.

Reduce energy costs with smart appliance use

- Run dryers, washers and dishwashers early in the morning or late in the evening.
- Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. It's the detergent, not hot water, that cleans the clothes.
- Clean the dryer's lint trap after every laundry load, and air-dry clothes when possible.
- Reduce heat-generating activities at home, like cooking during the hottest parts of the day or using heat-producing appliances.
- Use a microwave oven or countertop appliance instead of a conventional range or oven. Better yet, grill outside!

Easy actions for big energy savings

- Change ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise to cool rooms and turn them off when you leave the room. Ceiling fans don't actually cool the air; they create a windchill effect on your skin by circulating air around you.

- Stay on the lowest floor of your home for naturally cooler air.
- Close blinds and shades on sunny days to block excess heat.
- Increase your thermostat by two degrees or more and set it to higher temperatures when you're away.
- Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.
- Prepare no-heat meals like salads, wraps and dips.

Making small changes to reduce energy use can make a big impact. You'll keep cool, save money on your utility bill and help reduce energy demand

Beat the Heat and Stay Safe on the Job



Outdoor workers face serious risks in hot, humid weather. Know how to prevent heat stress when temperatures rise.

Heat exposure can affect worker health in a number of ways:

- **Heat cramps:** Muscle spasms.
- **Dehydration:** Dizziness, confusion, decreased urination.
- **Heat exhaustion:** Fatigue, nausea, pale or cool skin, heavy sweating; needs prompt attention.
- **Heat stroke:** High body temp, headache, rapid pulse, nausea, hot or dry skin, confusion or unconsciousness. Heat stroke can be fatal; call 9-1-1 immediately.

Prevention is key

- **Drink water** every 15 minutes. Consider electrolytes.
- **Eat light** and avoid hot meals.
- **Wear a hat and sunglasses.** Apply sunscreen regularly.
- **Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.** While necessary for safety, be aware that personal protective gear can increase body heat.
- **Acclimatize and gradually increase heat exposure.** Allow new or returning employees time to adjust.
- **Take frequent breaks** in a shady or cool location. Schedule heavy work for cooler times of the day.
- **Know the signs of heat-related illness** and get medical help promptly if needed.

Safe
Electricity.org®

WHAT IS RENEWABLE ENERGY?

The Answer is Blowing in the Wind

We hear a lot about renewable energy, but what is it, exactly?

It is an energy source that is perpetual ... inexhaustible... "to infinity and beyond!" Renewable energy has storage limitations, however, and some types are not available 24/7.

A FEW FACTS

- According to the University of Michigan (U-M) Center for Sustainable Systems, about 80% of the nation's energy comes from fossil fuels, 8.4% from nuclear and 11.4% from renewable sources.
- In 2019, renewable energy sources accounted for about 17% of energy generation, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).
- The EIA projects that the share of renewables used for U.S. electricity generation will increase from 21% in 2020 to 42% in 2050.
- Wind and solar are the fastest-growing renewable sources, but they provide just 3.8% of total energy used in the U.S., according to the U-M center.

THE MAJOR TYPES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES ARE:



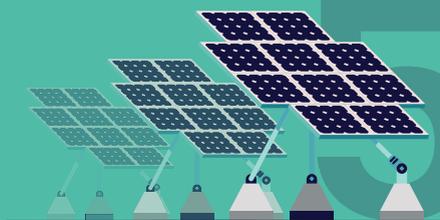
**BIOMASS,
INCLUDING
BIOFUELS**
(comes from plants
and animals)

WATER OR HYDROPOWER



GEOHERMAL
(comes from the heat
of the earth)

WIND



SOLAR

**Safe
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