

Electric Line Newsletter

Focus on Heating Safety

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission has been reporting more recalled space heaters lately. Space heaters are convenient, but some are not meant to be used as a permanent solution to heat your home. They pose a serious risk for fires and carbon monoxide poisoning; which is why when the cold season approaches, you should be cautious in the methods used to heat your home.

The U.S. Department of Energy reports that portable electric space heaters are the only type of unvented space heater that is safe to use inside your home. A combustion style heater uses fuel like wood or gas to heat your home, and releases toxic carbon monoxide if not vented properly. For that reason, portable electric space heaters are a viable option for in home use.

If you are in need of a permanent solution and not just a portable one, vented combustion space heaters are only safe with the proper set up. These heaters should be placed in a permanent location where they can be vented outdoors, ensuring that no carbon monoxide can leak into your home. While they are not portable, they will aid in heating your home and will get the job done during the chilly months.

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Some heaters are meant for outdoor use and outdoor use only. These include propane tank heaters, forced air heaters, and kerosene heaters. These types of heaters are used to warm up patios, hunters, ice fisherman, sidelines, and etcetera. Under no circumstances should you use these types of heaters indoors.

When it comes to staying warm, opt for portable electric heaters. Do not run them with extension cords, and do not replace them with any type of heater that releases carbon monoxide unless they are placed in a permanent vented location.

Operation Round Up

A little good can go a long way; such is the case with Operation Round Up. By rounding up your electric bill to the next whole dollar amount, you are able to contribute to charitable organizations for the equivalent of pocket change every month. If you have not participated in this program, here are some reasons to convince you.



Donations just make you *feel good*. There is a lot of bad in this world, and for seemingly pennies every month, you are able to donate to good causes. It is the easiest way to give back to a community that aims to please you. Besides, the amount you donate on a monthly basis is less than the price of a pack of gum. When you combine the total number of members involved in this program, it amounts to a whole lot of good.

The money *actually* goes to good causes. Some programs allow a percentage to go back into the company that sponsors it; not at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. Here, 100% of donations go to charitable causes. You won't have to worry about your money going to political causes or administrative costs.

So, where does the money go? For short, a host of local charities receive donations from our Operation Round Up program. We aim to donate to causes that either need assistance, or support a good cause. For example, we donate to police departments, fire stations, libraries, and so on. If a company, charity or business is in need of a donation, Operation Round Up steps up to the plate.

The yearly totals of Operation Round Up, per household, are \$6.00. For \$6.00 every year, you can give back to a community that works day in and day out to make your life as enjoyable as possible.

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October is National Co-Op Month

Cooperatives See the Future

Dramatic changes are transforming all aspects of the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high, and ultimately consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The prevalence of smart-phone apps and “smart” technology for the home is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles. There’s no denying it: electric utilities will have to make changes to the way they provide energy to accommodate these trends. Luckily, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is uniquely positioned to meet these changing energy needs because we are a cooperative.

Co-ops are community-led.

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique.

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their consumer-members. Mike Wade, President and CEO of CWEC, explains that, “Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people that we serve.”

Co-ops are a catalyst for good.

Electric co-ops, like CWEC, are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their consumer-members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 75 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible.

Today, it means programs such as Toys for Tots, Operation Round Up, and other charitable options CWEC offers.

Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their consumer-members.

Electric cooperatives often partner with local groups to bring economic opportunity to their local community. It is this facilitation role that is often the most valuable strength of the co-op. Right here in our multi-county service territory, we partner with local businesses and organizations to aid in the development of our community.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members’ best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve—now and in the future.

POWERING THE FUTURE

Electric co-ops power
56% of the
nation's
landmass
and more than
19 million
American homes,
businesses, farms
and schools.



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