

SWRE POWER SOURCE

A Supplement to Oklahoma Living



OPERATION ROUND UP 2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS

YOUR CENTS MATTER

SWRE Members Give Back \$57,258 to Organizations in Need

When Southwest Rural Electric announced our Operation Round Up program in 2018, we knew it would make a difference by serving various unmet needs and making a great impact on lives in this area.

Operation Round Up is supported by members who voluntarily round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar. For example, if your electric bill is \$151.22, your bill would be rounded to \$152, and the change—never any more than 99 cents a month—goes into the Operation Round Up fund. Those funds are exclusively marked for distribution to individuals and organizations for charitable purposes right here at home, in the counties we serve.

Food needs and food banks, shelter, health needs and rescue organizations, educational projects, and childcare programs are just a few of the services in our communities your cents have supported. Contributions are tax deductible, and applications are handled with the utmost care and respect. All these years later, how much difference have your cents made? \$223,238 in grant distributions to SWRE communities. Thank you for your cents—they matter!

SWRE awarded a total of \$57,258 to the following groups and organizations in 2022:

- Altus Lions Club
- Altus Salvation Army
- Cyclone Education Foundation
- Frederick Arts and Humanities Council
- Frederick Public Schools Band
- Grace Child Development Center
- Great Plains Literacy Council
- Jackson County EMS District
- Operation C.A.R.E. Ministries (*Jackson County*)
- SWOK Community Action Group Head Start
- SWOK Community Action Group Safe Haven
- Tipton Chamber of Commerce
- Tipton Public Schools first grade
- Tipton Public Schools second grade
- Town of Tipton
- Vernon Meals on Wheels
- Vernon Salvation Army
- Warren Senior Citizens Center
- Wilbarger County Child Welfare Board
- Wilbarger Humane Society



Jeff Simpson, CEO

// Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home.

If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Loose fill insulation typically costs \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer

model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.

If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, visit our partner website, TouchstoneEnergy.com. If you have a concern about your energy usage or electric bill, give us a call! We're here to help you manage your energy use. //

CELEBRATING COOPERATIVE EMPLOYEE MILESTONES



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Billing Coordinator



Bob Reid
Manager of Technology & Facilities



Calvin Flood
Warehouse Coordinator



Barry Holt
Manager of Member Services



David Ball
District Lineman

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month



Did you know insulating your electric water heater could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. The Department of Energy rates this project level as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. Visit Energy.gov for project tips and additional considerations.

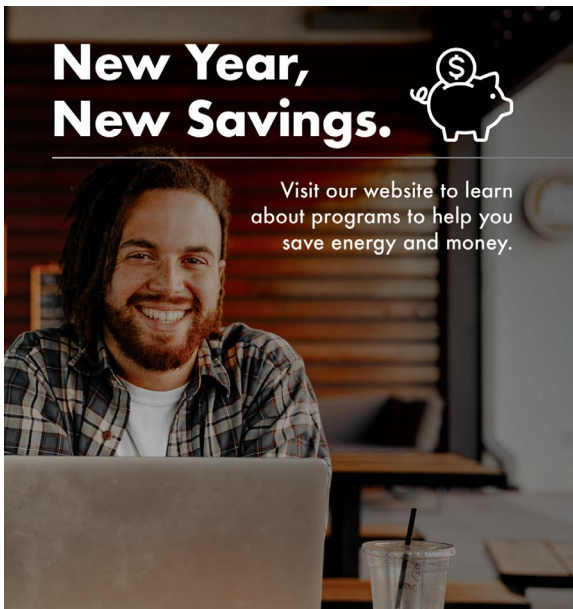
Source: Energy.gov


Trading Post

FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Submissions must include the account holder's name and account number to be eligible. Ads are also posted on SWRE.com/Trading-Post.

Send your ad to the marketing department by mail, e-mail or phone!

*MAIL: P.O. Box 310, Tipton, OK 73570
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**New Year,
New Savings.** 

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HOT BLACK-EYED PEA DIP

INGREDIENTS:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 tablespoon butter | 1 (10 oz) can Rotel diced tomatoes and green chilies, drained |
| 1 small onion, diced | 1 (15 oz) can seasoned black-eyed peas, drained |
| 1/2-1 tablespoon finely chopped pickled jalapenos | salt and pepper |
| 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin | 1/2 cup shredded Mexican cheese or cheddar |
| 4 oz cream cheese, softened | |
| 1/3 cup sour cream | |

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Melt butter in a pan and add onion. Cook until soft.
3. Add remaining ingredients to pan EXCEPT shredded cheese. Stir to evenly mix and remove from heat. Check for seasoning and add salt and pepper to taste.
4. Transfer dip to a greased cast iron skillet or baking dish. Sprinkle shredded cheese on top.
5. Place in oven and bake for 20 minutes or until warm and cheese is melted.
6. Serve with tortilla chips.

Source: You can find this recipe by Christin Mahrlig at <https://spicysouthernkitchen.com/hot-black-eyed-pea-dip/>.

Southwest Rural Electric

P.O. Box 310 • 700 North Broadway
Tipton, OK 73570-0310
Headquarters: 1-800-256-7973

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Rebecca Chambless, *Power Source* editor

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