

## Water Heater Savings

*Easy, money-savings opportunities you can do on your own.*

A water heater is typically the third largest consumer of electricity in your home, behind your heating/cooling system and appliances. But there are ways to make your water heater more efficient and save money.

The biggest key to paying less on your water heating is to simply lower your usage. Here are some tips to help do just that:

### Tip -- Install a low-flow faucet aerator

You won't compromise convenience by installing a low-flow aerator. Simply unscrew the old aerator and install the replacement.

### Tip -- Control the water flow

You might consider an aerator with an on/off button or lever for the kitchen or bathroom sink. You can switch the lever on and off with one finger, while keeping the temperature and flow you like. The lever aerator can be especially useful for tasks such as handwashing dishes.

### Tip -- Replace the showerhead

Older showerheads can send an incredible amount of water through the head -- more than necessary for a good shower. Some of the first low-flow showerheads still used large amounts of water and provided an unsatisfying shower. New low-flow showerheads make showering much more efficient without compromising a good shower.

### Tip -- Lower the temperature

If your water heater is set higher than 120 degrees, you are wasting money.

If you have an electric heater, first turn off the circuit breaker. Electric water heaters have two thermostats. Access them by removing the metal covers (sometimes both are under one long

cover). Use a screwdriver to set both thermostats to the same temperature.

Check the temperature several times over the next few days to see where it settles. To check, use a probe thermometer in a glass, letting the water run over it until the thermometer holds steady.

### Tip -- Check the shower diverter

Any water that flows out of the tub faucet when you take a shower is wasted and costly. More than a dribble of water likely means a diverter valve needs attention or replacement.

### Tip -- Insulate your pipes

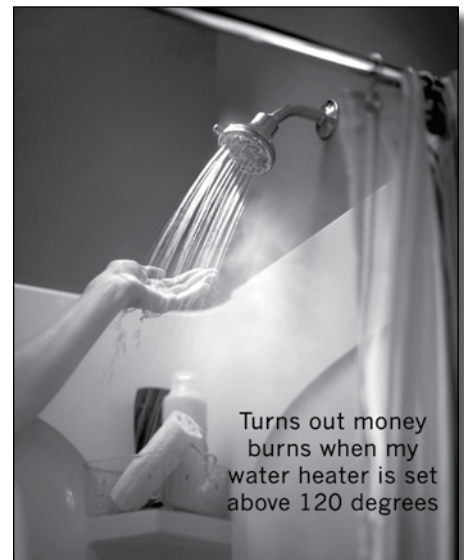
It is a good idea to insulate the hot water pipes that you can access. Buy pipe insulation (check the diameter of your pipes) at any hardware store. Use a sharp utility knife to cut the insulation to size.

For more information about these and other energy efficiency tips, call BEC's Member Services Department at (573) 449-4181.

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Turns out money burns when my water heater is set above 120 degrees

**TOGETHER WESAVE.COM**

## Member Information

### Community Support Programs You Can Add to Your Bill

#### Operation Round-Up

Helps fund the Boone Electric Community Trust, which provides financial assistance to charitable organizations in BEC's service territory.

#### C.A.S.H.

Provides utility assistance to low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Funds administered by City/County Health Department.

#### H.E.L.P.

Provides utility assistance to low-income families with children. Funds administered by City/County Health Department.



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# Looking Back at 2009

*Positive results throughout the cooperative last year.*

**B**oone Electric Cooperative had a great year for the membership in 2009. The cooperative continued to help members save money through the Co-op Connections Program and energy efficiency initiatives. Outage numbers were at their lowest in a number of years. We saw a record attendance at Annual Meeting. Those are just a few of the highlights.

Here are others as we look to 2010:

Thirty three BEC employees helped with efforts to restore power to more than 60,000 cooperative members affected by a January 26, 2009 ice storm across Southeast Missouri. Linemen, engineers, tree trimmers and storeroom employees all worked on a rotating basis assisting fellow Missouri cooperatives.

A dental, vision and hearing plan joined the Co-op Connections Card program. Members who sign up for the plan can receive significant savings on visits to participating providers. For a complete list of participating businesses, log onto [www.booneelectric.coop](http://www.booneelectric.coop).

Boone Electric General Manager Todd Culley hosted several "coffee chats" around the service territory, where he met with members to answer any questions or concerns about their cooperative.

BEC hosted Doug Rye, the "King of Caulk" for two presentations at the Mid-Missouri Home & Garden Expo.

Rising production costs and an increase in demand resulted in a rate increase effective with member energy usage in April. The service availability fee on each meter increased to \$19.70 per month.

The cooperative sent four juniors to Washington D.C. for Youth Tour and six Sophomores to the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE) in Jefferson City. Rather than an essay and



*Thirty three Boone Electric employees, including linemen, tree trimmers, engineers and storeroom attendants, helped cooperatives in southern Missouri following the late January ice storm.*

speech contest, as in the past, students completed an application, followed by an interview. Finalists not attending Youth Tour received a \$250 college scholarship. CYCLE is a program similar to Youth Tour, but on a state level.

Boone Electric celebrated Arbor Day with elementary students in Renick and Sturgeon. A large redbud tree was planted on the grounds of each school and more than 250 students took a redbud sapling home to plant in their own yards.

More than 1,500 members attended July's Annual Meeting and nearly 4,400 enjoyed a fried chicken or barbecue meal. The 4,400 total attendance was a record crowd. Nathan Martin, Frank Glenn and Glen Beckmeyer were re-elected to the cooperative's Board of Directors.



*Delegates to 2009 Youth Tour were Sarah David, Moberly High School, Melana Salisbury, Centralia High School, Brianna Wagner, Southern Boone County High School and Tara Korff, Harrisburg High School.*

## Member Information

Associated Electric Cooperative (AECI) our wholesale power supplier, began construction on a 540 megawatt gas-based power plant in Oklahoma. The plant is scheduled to begin power production in 2011.

Boone Electric saw a significant decrease in the number of outages over the summer months of June to August 2009. The total number of outages dropped 35 percent over 2008 and 22 percent over the previous five-year average. The total number of member hours without power and the number of members affected also decreased significantly.

The cooperative hosted its first Member Appreciation Day in October, with a full day of energy efficiency information, food and prize drawings.

Cooperative members from the years 1991 and 2008 received their capital credit dividends in December. The cooperative retired \$2.2 million in capital credits last year.

### Right of Way Department

In-house and contract tree trimming crews cleared more than 280 miles of transmission line in 2009. Crews used a spray application to help maintain growth over 383 additional miles.

In addition, in-house crews removed nearly 150 trees reported by cooperative members as possibly too close to power lines. "Outages due to trees have dropped, which means the efforts of our crews are working. We will be even more aggressive in 2010," says Steve Davenport, Right of Way Supervisor.

The Right of Way Department distributed more than 1,000 trees and saplings through various means in 2009. Mid-Missouri Home & Garden Expo attendees could take home a tree sapling. Renick and Sturgeon elementary students received a sapling to help celebrate Arbor Day. The remaining trees were those planted as part of the Tree Replacement Program.

### Operations Department

Boone Electric crews built 23.82 miles of underground transmission line in 2009. They converted 14.51 miles of overhead line to underground.

In all, the cooperative has 2,975 miles of transmission lines -- 2,042 are overhead and 933 are underground.

Crews completed a nearly six-mile upgrade of line near Sturgeon that began in 2008. Additional line upgrades took place on Highway 63 South, Old Highway 63 North and Creasy Springs



*A few of the cooperative members who enjoyed the 2009 Annual Meeting.*

Road. In preparation for the expansion of Scott Boulevard, a lengthy stretch of overhead transmission line was converted to underground.

### Engineering Department

The cooperative's service availability index was 99.984 for 2009. That means power was on for the entire membership 99.984 percent of the year. It's the highest percentage in more than 12 years.

An outside contract crew tested and refurbished 5.5 miles of underground service.

### Member Services Department

Boone Electric and AECI helped members make their homes more energy efficient through several rebate opportunities:

- \* Ground Source Heat Pump -- \$122,500
- \* Dual Fuel -- \$49,575
- \* Washing Machine Exchange -- \$3,100
- \* Dishwasher Exchange -- \$1,800

In addition, through the Home Performance by Energy Star program, participating members received nearly \$60,000 in rebates.

In all, Boone Electric members received nearly \$237,000 in rebates in 2009 for making energy efficiency upgrades.

The compact fluorescent light bulb exchange continued, as members brought in their incandescent bulbs to trade for cfl bulbs.



# We Don't Like the Cold Weather Either

*We preach energy conservation, especially on the coldest and warmest days.*



Todd Culley  
General Manager/  
CEO

Many people think we are happy here at the cooperative when temperatures plummet as they did in early January. We must be making more money, people say.

Actually, that's not always the case. Sure, it's important for the cooperative to sell kilowatt hours; that's how we stay in business. But we don't want members to use more and more energy unnecessarily.

If we sold large amounts of kilowatt hours (referred to as energy) during those cold spells, would there be more "profits" at the end of the year to go into your capital credit check? Not necessarily, because our power bill at the cooperative is based not only on "energy" sales, but also on a peak "demand" rating (which may not always occur during a month of high kilowatt hour use for members).

A "demand" rating is an instantaneous reading of our entire system. Compare this to driving your car. At 3 p.m. yesterday, say you were driving 70 mph -- that was your "demand" rating, taken on an instantaneous reading. Over the entire day, you may have driven 100 miles -- that was your "energy" rating. If you average 12,000 miles of driving during the year, but only drove once (yesterday) for the month, your monthly energy charges for driving would be low, but your monthly demand rating (i.e. your car payment) would be relatively high for the use you received.

So it is possible to set a peak demand during below-zero temperatures (thus raising our peak demand bill). But margins, which also come from kilowatt hour sales over time, may not increase.

A very cold day can easily set a new peak demand for the cooperative, but unless it stays cold on an extended basis, energy sales may remain moderate.

While we encourage energy efficiency all year long, it is especially important on peak demand days. If we can keep our highest peak down, as an entire system, we can ultimately keep down our rates set by Associated Electric Coop-

erative, Inc. (AECI), our wholesale power supplier; essentially by lowering our "car payment." In other words, why buy a car that can safely drive 70 mph when all we need is one that drives 55 mph?

There are a couple of things we do here in the office in an effort to offset a high peak demand. During those bitterly cold days in January, our headquarters office was powered by generators instead of power from the power plant.

In addition, our system engineer scheduled load control on water heaters, ground source heat pumps and dual fuel systems across the territory. If your water heater (or heating/cooling system) has a load switch installed by Boone Electric, we can program that unit to power off for a preset amount of time each hour. Those members affected by the load control likely never even notice. The load control cycle isn't long enough for the water in your water heater to cool off or your house to feel cold.

I can assure you that Boone Electric Cooperative's substations and transmission lines have no problem carrying the load and providing all the power that cooperative members demand at any given time. Boone Electric's engineers do a great job of forecasting the amount of energy members will require. That forecast helps them plan construction of any necessary transmission lines or substations.

We simply wanted to let you know that we work hard behind the scenes to minimize everyone's demand and energy charges.



## Touchstone Energy

Boone Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of local, member-owned electric cooperatives providing a high standard of service to customers large and small.

In order to qualify as a Touchstone Energy partner, electric cooperatives must be active members of their community and be dedicated to serving all customers with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to their community.

Welcome the following businesses to the Co-op Connections Card family:

### Windows, Walls & Design

Columbia, 874-8662, [www.windowswallsdesign.com](http://www.windowswallsdesign.com)  
10% off regularly priced merchandise. Excludes sale-price merchandise or other rebates.

### Avon -- Sheila Robertson, Independent Consultant

Ashland, 529-0496, [www.youravon.com/sheilarobertson](http://www.youravon.com/sheilarobertson)  
15% off total purchase for first-time customers