



# Willie's World

A Publication of Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative

## Articles:

- A Wise Investment
- Holiday Closing
- G.E. Hybrid Water Heater
- Electric Range Donation
- Save \$\$ with the Co-op Connections Card
- Winterize Your Home



## December 2009 Issue

### WISE INVESTMENTS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The economic uncertainty we're facing these days has many of us putting money into something we feel comfortable with: our homes. Making a few upgrades around the house generally pays big dividends. And when boosting energy efficiency is one of them, the decision becomes a no-brainer.

For any energy efficiency work made at your residence during the coming year, Uncle Sam will foot 30 percent of the bill—not a bad deal! Through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—better known as the stimulus bill—the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) offers a personal tax credit of up to \$1,500 for energy efficiency improvements made to existing homes during 2009 and 2010.

The credit covers 30 percent of the cost of adding insulation materials and exterior doors, windows, and roofs designed to help reduce a home's heat loss or gain. It also includes efficient central air conditioners, air-

source heat pumps, hot water boilers, and biomass stoves.

For weatherization-related work the credit covers only the cost of materials. With heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems as well as biomass stoves installation costs also count toward the credit.

So how does the math work out? Say you spend \$1,000 on new insulation. You would get, in the form of a tax credit, \$300 back. If you spend \$3,000 to purchase a new HVAC system and have it installed, you'd have a \$900 tax credit to show for it.

To take advantage of the program, a home improvement must have taken place after Feb. 17, 2009 (the day the stimulus bill was signed into law), and products must meet specific energy efficiency criteria. A few rules of thumb will help you determine those criteria.

For exterior windows and skylights, rely on the Energy Star label. For other efficiency upgrades, request what's called a "Manufacturer

Certification Statement" that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit. Many manufacturers post these on their websites, but be sure to verify that the product does qualify before making a purchase. You can also visit [www.irs.gov/recovery](http://www.irs.gov/recovery) to review guidelines for eligible purchases.

Energy tax credits reduce taxes owed, dollar for dollar, and can be carried forward to following years. While they can help boost any refund you receive, you won't receive a check directly for the credit amount. You can file for energy tax credits using IRS Form 5695, with a total maximum value of \$1,500 for improvements made in 2009 and 2010.

For suggestions on how you may make your home more energy efficient while taking advantage of these tax credits, please don't hesitate to give us a call. Contact Arkansas Valley Electric at 800-468-2176 with any questions you may have.

### MONTHLY SAFETY TIP



#### Willie Wirehand wants you to remember...

"When hanging Christmas lights, stay away from power lines or feeder lines (these go from the pole to the house)."

## Holiday Closing

Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative offices in Ozark, Waldron, Pocola and Van Buren will be closed Thursday December 24 and Friday December 25, 2009, in observance of Christmas.

In case of emergency, Ozark, Van Buren and Pocola service area call 1-800-468-2176.

Waldron service area call 1-800-468-2152.

For automated outage reporting, call 1-866-TOAVECC or visit our website at [www.avecc.com](http://www.avecc.com).

## COMING SOON!

The new industry-exclusive GE Hybrid Electric Water Heater is designed to provide the same hot water homeowners are accustomed to, but requires only about half the energy to produce it. For example, based on the same standard tank water heater that uses approximately 4800 kWh per year, the new GE Hybrid Electric Water Heater is designed to:

- ✓ Consume up to 62% less energy than a standard electric water heater
- ✓ Result in energy savings of \$320 per year

Visit the [Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas](http://ElectricCooperativesofArkansas.com) website for more information!



## ARKANSAS VALLEY DOES IT AGAIN

Arkansas Valley Electric remains dedicated to the communities we serve by continuing to offer a wonderful electric range program. Through this program, AVECC contacts three or four schools in our service area to determine a need for an electric range. Different schools will be contacted each year. If the schools need an electric range, AVECC places the order with our Statewide Office. Once the range is received, we will deliver it to the school FREE of charge! Pocola, OK School District is one of the recipients this year. Mrs. Amy Fischer, FACS ED teacher, was very excited when the range was delivered to the school. Aaron Mantooh, AVECC Member Services, is shown donating the electric range to Mrs. Fischer and the Pocola School District.



Pictured (L-R) are Aaron Mantooh, Mrs. Amy Fischer, and three of her students.

Merry  
Christmas

From Your  
Arkansas Valley  
Electric Cooperative

1-800-468-2176



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Federal tax credits are available for home energy efficiency improvements, including windows, doors, water heaters, and HVAC equipment for existing homes. For details, visit [energystar.gov/taxcredits](http://energystar.gov/taxcredits).

Sources: Energy Star

## Willie's World

### Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative Corp.

1811 W. Commercial  
P.O. Box 47  
Ozark, AR 72949

PHONE:  
(800) 468-2176

FAX:  
(479) 667-9847

E-MAIL:  
[memberservices@avecc.com](mailto:memberservices@avecc.com)

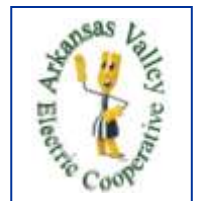


A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections®

[www.avecc.com](http://www.avecc.com)

### ARKANSAS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1811 W. Commercial  
P.O. Box 47  
Ozark, AR 72949



### CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD

Now three months into the program, the Co-op Connections card has saved Arkansas Valley Electric members \$24,271.90 on prescription medication!

Questions? Contact [Member Services](#) at 800-468-2176.

### IS YOUR HOME READY FOR WINTER?

It's amazing how all those small air leaks around the house add up to big costs on your electric bill. With fall almost behind us and old man winter knocking on the door, it is a good time to check for air infiltration and weatherize your home.

Arkansas Valley Electric offers an energy audit program for its members at no charge to help locate those air leaks and make suggestions on how to fix the problems before they show up on your electric bill. A certified energy consultant will come to your home and does a walk-through inspection to identify potential problem areas, identify high usage appliances and devices, and provide tips to make your home more energy efficient and possibly reduce consumption.

For those who want a more extensive audit, AVECC offers a blower door test. The blower door consists of a powerful, calibrated fan that is temporarily sealed into an exterior doorway. The fan blows air out of the house to create a slight pressure difference between inside and outside. This pressure difference forces air through all holes and penetrations in the building envelope. By simultaneously measuring the air flow through the fan and its effect on the air pressure in the building, the Blower Door system measures the air tightness of the entire building envelope.

These are just a few ways Arkansas Valley Electric, your local energy partner, can help make our members' homes more energy efficient, reduce consumption, save them money on their electric bill, and make their home more comfortable.

For more information or to schedule an audit/blower door test, please contact Aaron Mantooh at 800-468-2176 or [amantooh@avecc.com](mailto:amantooh@avecc.com).

We Welcome Your [Comments and suggestions](#).