



Willie's World

A Publication of Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative

February 2010 Issue

SCHOOLS GO ENERGY EFFICIENT



(Pictured: Tony Wilson, AVECC, presenting check from AECEI to Dr. Dan Foreman)

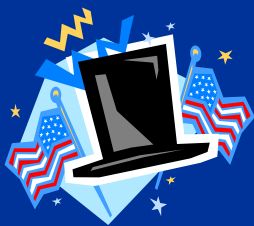
When Dr. Foreman, Superintendent, needed assistance in replacing the HVAC system in the Cedarville school system, he contacted his local energy partner, Arkansas Valley Electric. "We were looking to replace our system with a high efficiency geothermal unit to lower energy costs while providing greater comfort for the students, and to provide a cleaner system for our school," says Foreman.

Tony Wilson, Member Services Representative, introduced him to a Department of Energy grant that would provide a 50/50 match. That saves the school district approximately \$2.5 million and "is the key to this entire project," adds Foreman. Arkansas Electric Cooperative Inc. made a contribution of \$2,500 to help fund the required energy audit.

The cost of the entire system is \$5 million which includes the elementary, middle, and high schools, with the high school estimated completion date of fall 2010. Building Design Services, Inc. from Cabot, AR will perform the installation.

Articles:

- Schools Go Energy Efficient!
- Mobile Data Systems
- Co-op Connections Card Savings
- Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency



MONTHLY SAFETY TIP



Willie Wirehand wants you to remember...

"Don't connect your generator directly to your home's wiring. A generator that is directly connected to your home's wiring can 'back feed' onto the power lines connected to your home."

AVECC INSTALLS MOBILE DATA SYSTEM INTO VEHICLES



Pictured (L-R): Brandon Fisher, Roger Carlyle, and Bruce Haney training on one of the new mobile data system laptops.

Arkansas Valley Electric has begun installing mobile data systems in several company vehicles. Just what is a mobile data system and what will it do for Arkansas Valley Electric and its members?

Law enforcement agencies, fire and EMS agencies thrive on information—they need it to respond to emergencies, anticipate what they'll encounter when they arrive on-scene, and to help predict incident trends and patterns. Electric utilities depend on this information as well.

A basic definition of a mobile data system is a truck mounted computer that can transmit data wirelessly from virtually anywhere. This will offer several benefits to our linemen and to the members we serve. It will allow up to the minute

access to live outage information and maps which will aid in quicker response times. To further increase efficiency, linemen will be able to dispatch themselves as needed and enter/close outage reports in real time.

It also provides access to member payment information and on-line service to verify credit card payments. This will reduce calls to the office and potentially eliminate unnecessary trips, increasing productivity.

With regards to safety, as more vehicles are equipped, linemen position can be monitored. They will have access to up-to-date GIS monitoring and real-time weather maps eliminating the need for paper maps while in the field.

They will not have open Internet access. These are tools and not entertainment items. This tool will enhance efficiency for AVECC and its employees and enable us to better serve you, our members.



800-450-0500



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

In 2010 many state energy offices are offering consumers rebates when they replace old appliances with ENERGY-STAR qualified ones. Find out what's available in your state at www.energysavers.gov/financial/70020.html.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

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CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD

Since its launch in August, the Co-op Connections card program has saved Arkansas Valley Electric members \$65,593.98 on prescription medication!

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

TAX CREDITS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Making Sense out of Federal Stimulus Energy Efficiency Tax Credits

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides incentives for you to make energy efficiency improvements to your existing home in 2009 and 2010. Receive a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost of materials for qualifying improvements—up to \$1,500 over both years. The cost of installation is not covered for windows, doors, roofing and insulation. A list of qualified improvements is at www.energystar.gov, keyword 'tax credits.' Examples include:

Windows and Doors

Exterior Windows, Doors and Skylights	Must have Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) and U-factor less than or equal to 0.30.
Storm Windows and Doors	When combined with the window/door over which it's installed, it must meet the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) in your climate zone.

Roofing

Metal, Asphalt roofs	All ENERGY STAR metal and asphalt roofs qualify. Must be expected to last 5 years or have a 2 year warranty.
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Insulation

Insulation	Primary purpose must be to insulate. For example, vapor retarders are covered but insulated siding does not qualify. Also must meet 2009 IECC and be expected to last 5 years or have a 2 year warranty.
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Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

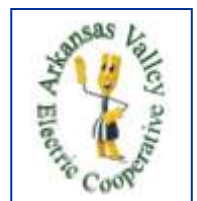
Central Air Conditioning	For split systems, must have an energy efficiency ration (EER) greater than or equal to 13 and a Seasonal EER greater than or equal to 16. For package systems, must have an EER greater than or equal to 12 and a SEER greater than or equal to 14.
Air-Source Heat Pumps	For split systems, must have a Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) greater than or equal to 8.5, an EER greater than or equal to 12.5, and a SEER greater than or equal to 15. For package systems, must have a HSPF greater than or equal to 8, an EER greater than or equal to 12, and a SEER greater than or equal to 14.
Natural Gas or Propane Furnace	Must have an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) greater than or equal to 95.
Gas, Propane, or Oil Hot Water Boiler and Oil Furnace	Must have an AFUE greater than or equal to 90.
Advanced Main Air Circulating Fan	No more than 2 percent of furnace total energy use.

NOTE: Select non-solar water heaters and biomass stoves also qualify for energy efficiency tax credits. Tax credits are also available for renewable energy, including geothermal heat pumps. For tax purposes, the Manufacturer's Certification Statement and receipt are generally required.

Source: ENERGY STAR. For details visit www.energystar.gov.

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