

GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

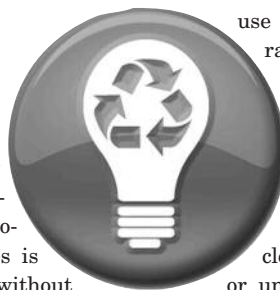
VOLUME 63

MARCH 2013

NUMBER 1



Conserving Energy is Common Sense



Many factors contribute to the amount of energy you use in your home. Some of these are the size of your home, how many people are in the household, how you regulate heating and cooling system, and the current level of energy efficiency of the home. The rising cost of electric power has created the need for energy conservation. Energy conservation does not mean living uncomfortably or in the dark to lower your bill, it simply means determining which conservation methods are appropriate for your home. After determining conservation methods, you will probably find many of them can be implemented without any discomfort. Although some projects, such as installing a heat pump or fixing a major plumbing problem will usually require a professional, some projects such as insulating, caulking and installing storm windows are appropriate for many do-it-yourselfers.

Some conservation measures don't really take any work at all, like informing household members not knowledgeable about energy saving life style actions such as switching off a light, radio or television when not in use; and keeping your thermostat for your heating and cooling system on the recommended settings of 78 degrees or higher for summer and 68 degrees or lower for winter.

If you have an electric water heater, it is thermostatically controlled and heats water automatically.

To reduce losses and increase the efficiency of your water heater, the thermostat should

be lowered to a setting adequate for your household's daily needs. A thermostat setting of 120 degrees is sufficient for most homes without a dishwasher. The water heater should be checked by a qualified person and set accordingly. Another option is controlling operation of the water heater with an automatic timer. Wrapping the pipes and tank with approved insulation will help reduce heat loss of the system and could be accomplished by a do-it-yourselfer. Your electric water heater is one of the highest energy users you have besides your heating and cooling system. Remember that the hot water should be used wisely. You should also repair a leaking faucet, especially hot water, as soon as possible. Don't fill the bath tub more than needed and when possible, take showers to use less hot water. Shower heads can be replaced with restricted-flow shower heads that reduce flow of water while maintaining an adequate flow for showering. Do as much household cleaning as possible with cold water and use the lowest temperatures possible when washing clothes.

During the summer months, your windows are a large contributing factor to heat gain in the home.

Heat gain through windows will not only cause the air conditioner to run more, it will also cause refrigerators and freezers to run more frequently. Awnings could be installed to keep sun off windows. There is a shade screen or solar screen that is on the market you can

use in your screen frame to reduce the sun rays. Draperies and shades inside the house will help but are less effective since they don't stop the sun's rays until they are inside the glass.

Your cooling and heating system should be checked or serviced periodically. Filters should be kept changed and clean. A leak in the duct work in the attic or under the house may go unnoticed and cause your unit to run more, thus using more power. Any air leakage possibilities should be fixed such as broken windows, leakage around the frames, doors or windows, cracks in the exterior walls, and leakage through the fire-place.

The attic should be insulated with a minimum of "R-30" insulation. This helps prevent heat radiation in the summer and heat loss in the winter. The attic should also be adequately ventilated.

When purchasing a new major appliance, always look for the one with the highest energy efficient rating. There are many other methods of energy conservation that could be mentioned, but these are some of the most important. We can live comfortably and maintain a reasonably priced utility bill if we will educate ourselves about energy conservation and use this knowledge to plan our energy conservation strategy.

Grady Electric Membership Corporation is always ready to help our members with any questions they might have on energy conservation. Energy audits are available and information on energy efficient new homes is accessible through your Member Service Department. Feel free to call or write, and a member services representative will be glad to assist you. ■



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Published Quarterly,
Mailed to All Members of
Grady Electric Membership
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BE WISE WHEN PLANTING TREES CLOSE TO POWER LINES

If you are thinking about planting trees, we have some advice that may help prevent future problems, and even the loss of those trees.

Before you begin planting, before you even buy any trees, look up to see if there are any power lines nearby. Tree limbs coming into contact with power lines is a major cause of power interruptions and outages. In addition, trees planted near power lines can create a safety hazard.

So look up to see where the power lines are, and consider how high and how wide different types of trees will be at full maturity. Then begin planning what to plant where.

Grady EMC's right-of-way policy requires we maintain a thirty (30) feet maintained right-of-way. No trees should be planted within that 30 feet (15 feet either side of the power line).

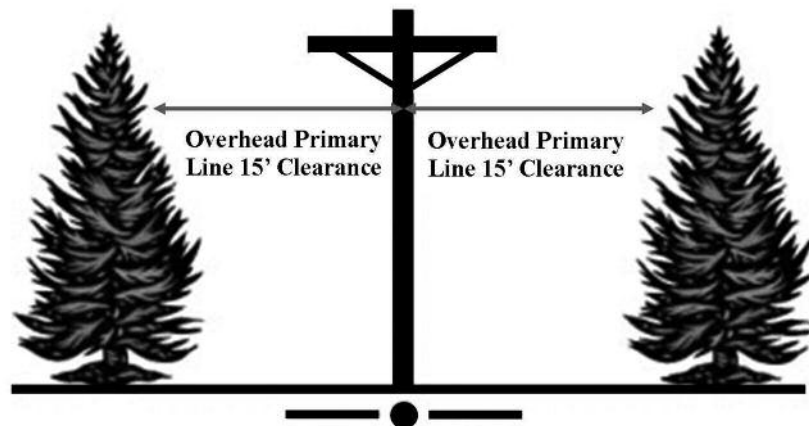
A good rule of thumb is to plant small trees or shrubs at least 20 to 30 feet away from power lines. This would include varieties such as crepe myrtle, burford holly, dogwood, and small fruit trees like apple and peach. The arborvitae, an evergreen hedge-type tree that grows fairly tall, could also be planted in this area.

Medium trees should be planted 30 to 50 feet away from power lines. Bradford pears and cherry trees, as well as any of the smaller trees already mentioned, would be suitable in this area. Willow trees could also be planted here, particularly if they will be near water.

Large trees such as oaks, maples and pines should be planted more than 50 feet away from power lines.

Please also be aware of where pad-mounted transformers are located that provide underground services as well so as not to cut into the underground power lines. One call to the Utilities Protection Center at 811 will help you locate all underground utilities in your yard.

Planting wisely can help prevent future problems such as power outages, safety hazards, and utility obstructions that could necessitate removal of the trees. If you have any questions, please call your coop. ■



2013 Rebate Schedule

Beginning January 1, 2013, Grady EMC will honor the following rebate schedule for our membership.

Note: All rebates will be applied as "credits" to the respective member's account.

1. Conversion from gas heat to a minimum 15.0 S.E.E.R. rated energy efficient heat pump. Installation of the new heat pump must be done by a licensed Georgia HVAC contractor. A copy of the customer invoice along with the necessary paperwork must be submitted by the dealer to Grady EMC who will then verify installation for the member.
2. Conversion from a gas water heater to an electric water heater - member must present a copy of the invoice for the new electric water heater and an EMC representative will verify installation of the unit.
3. Conversion from a gas stove/range to an electric stove/range - member must present a copy of the invoice for the new electric stove/range and an EMC representative will verify installation of the unit.

PRACTICE SAFETY

When Using Portable Generators

Every year, storms leave carbon monoxide poisoning deaths in their path. Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless poisonous gas. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates about 140 people die each year from unintentional exposure to carbon monoxide associated with consumer products. Last year, 64 people died of carbon monoxide poisoning from portable generators.

Consumers die when they improperly use portable gas generators, charcoal grills, and fuel-burning camping heaters and stoves inside their homes or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces during power outages.

The problem of carbon monoxide poisoning from portable generators has become so prevalent that manufacturers will now be required to place a “Danger” label on all new portable generators and portable generators’ packaging. The label states that, “Using a generator indoors CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES.” The label warns consumers that a generator’s exhaust contains carbon monoxide and that portable generators should never be used inside homes or garages, even if doors and windows are open.

Portable generators are designed to be temporarily connected to selected appliances or lights. These portable generators should never be connected directly to your building’s wiring system.

When using portable generators, remember these rules:

- **Never use portable generators inside homes or garages, even if doors and windows are open. Use portable generators outside only, far away from the home.**
- **Carbon monoxide from a portable generator is deadly and can kill you in minutes. One generator produces as much carbon monoxide as 100 idling cars.**
- **Install battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms or alarms with battery backup in your home outside sleeping areas.**
- **Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911.**

Also, exercise caution when using candles. Use flashlights instead. However if you must use candles, do not burn them near anything that can catch fire. Never leave candles unattended and extinguish them when you leave the room. ■



Portable generators, like the one shown above, are useful when temporary electric power is needed, but they can be hazardous due to carbon monoxide poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust.

PLAYING IT **SAFE** WITH HOUSEHOLD GENERATORS

A household generator can supply electricity to your home during a power outage. This allows continued use of essential appliances like heating and cooling systems, refrigerators and lights.

There are two types of generators: portable and stationary. A portable generator is suitable for brief power outages, while a more powerful stationary generator can provide for an extended period without electricity.

Generators are great for maintaining comfort in your home, but can be harmful if not used correctly. Here are a few guidelines for safely running a household generator:

Space

Do not use a generator inside an enclosed space. Generators rely on internal combustion, which emits carbon monoxide. Also, remember to keep generators away from air intakes.

Size

Whether purchasing a stationary or portable generator, don’t make the mistake of buying too small. Overloading the generator will cause damage to the unit as well as your wiring system. To prevent overloading, stay within specified output ratings.

Wiring

A transfer switch is necessary to connect a generator to your home wiring system. This switch prevents the generator from “backfeeding” into utility lines and protects your generator from damage when power is restored.

Also, to keep your generator and appliances from being damaged, use properly sized extension cords to deliver power.

Fuel

Generator safety is not limited to times when your generator is running. Always remember to store any combustible fuel in a safe area. With all machines that run by internal combustion, it is best to allow the engine to cool before refilling.

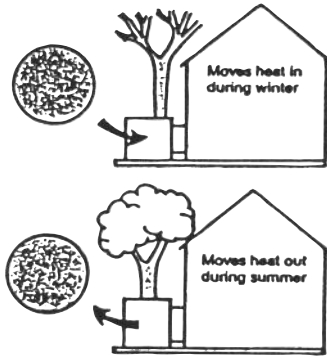
For maximum safety, consult the instruction manual provided with the generator.

The *Electric* Heat Pump Does It *Best!!*

The electric heat pump is both a central heating and a cooling system. It cools like any other air conditioning system, removing summertime heat and humidity from your home. Then, in the winter a heat pump heats more efficiently than any other system you can buy.

Here's How It Works

The heat pump is so efficient because, in the winter, the heat pump captures heat energy from the outside air to warm your home. Unlike a flame-type heating system, your heat pump does not have to produce heat. Instead, it transfers heat from the outside air and releases it inside your home. There is always some heat in the air, evening winter. The heat transfer is accomplished with refrigerant that is circulated through the system by a compressor, like your refrigerator. In summer, the process is reversed. The heat pump removes heat from inside and transfers it outside, thereby cooling your home. And, talk about efficiency! A heat pump



gives you from one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half units of heat for each unit of energy. That means for every dollar you spend on energy, you can get about two dollars worth of heat.

Year Round Comfort

Best of all, instead of putting out short, hot blasts of air that roast you one minute and chill you the next, your

heat pump heats your home evenly to a pleasant temperature with a constant output of tempered air that is normally in the 85 degrees to 95 degrees F -plus range. On those occasions when the outside temperature falls too low for the heat pump to do the entire job at a maximum efficiency, a special supplemental heating system automatically provides any extra heat needed. And because it is a heat pump, you enjoy a steady, even temperature all through the house. You stay comfortable 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. ■

Tune ^{Up} for *Spring Safety!*



No musical talent required — just use your common sense and follow a few guidelines to enjoy the coming spring season safely. For example:

- When you use electrical appliances and tools outdoors, make sure they're properly grounded and that your work area is dry.
- Remind your children never to climb utility poles or play near substations, ground level transformers, or any fence, building or equipment marked "Danger: High Voltage."
- Don't post or attach signs or announcements to utility poles. They create a safety hazard for personnel who need to climb poles for routine maintenance and repair.

And there's more you can do to tune into a safe spring season. Simply contact us with your questions.

We'll be happy to advise you. ■