



DAVID VONDRA
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Co-ops power communities with purpose

October is National Co-op Month

C & L Electric Cooperative is deeply committed to our members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community. This month, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities we serve. Our mission has always been to provide you with Reliable, Affordable and Responsible power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

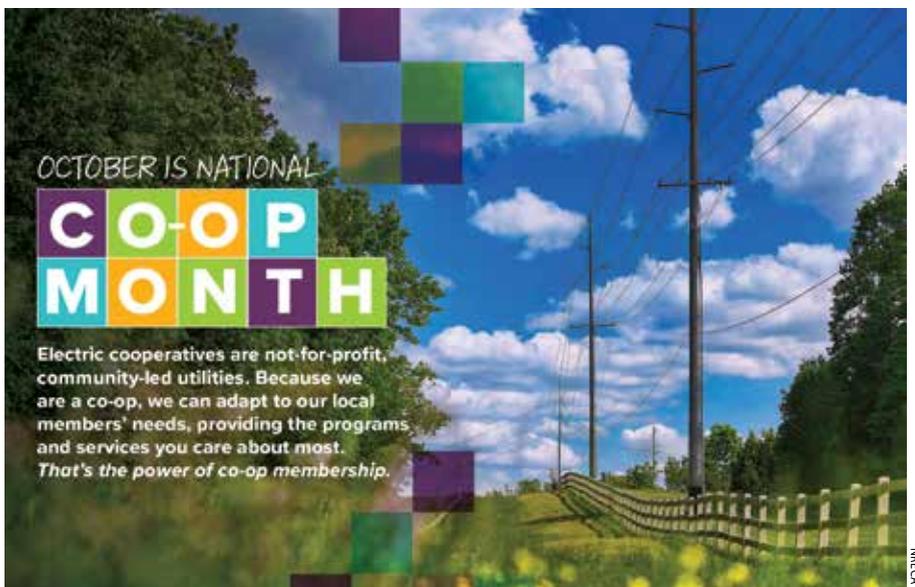
Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created *by* the members, *for* the members.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money by paying monthly bills to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
- 5. Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.
- 7. Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve.

Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is Reliable, Affordable and Responsible power. Our purpose is people — the local communities we're proud to serve.



C & L Electric employees grant Disney wish

C & L Electric employees teamed up with Make-a-Wish Mid-South to help make little Sophia Owen's dream come true. Sophia, who has been fighting cystic fibrosis since an early age, along with her brother, Payton; her mother, Dominique; and father, Bozz, traveled to Orlando, Florida, in early August to spend a week at Disney World.

Dominique said that the best part of the trip was getting to spend time with family and "watching Sophia see her wish come true!" She said, "Sophia is the bravest girl I know with challenges she faces everyday with cystic fibrosis. She always has a smile on her face, and she's always so happy and kind!" She continued, "Our family wants to thank everyone at C & L and Make a Wish; it was so very magical to see her wish come true and her so happy!"

Since 2019, C & L Electric employees have partnered with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to help create meaningful experiences for children with serious illnesses in Southeast Arkansas. One of C & L Electric's main principles is Concern for Community, which emphasizes the commitment of the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to their local communities. Employees at C & L Electric Cooperative have generously donated a portion of their wages to support the Make-A-Wish organization. For more information on how to support the Make-A-Wish foundation, please visit wish.org.



COURTESY OF MAKE-A-WISH MID-SOUTH

Make-A-Wish recipient Sophia Owen's Disney wish came true thanks to the generosity of C & L Electric employees.



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2024

Holiday Card Art Contest



Your child's or grandchild's art can be featured on C & L's 2024 Holiday Card!

Children and grandchildren of members are welcome to submit their Christmas/holiday-themed artwork for our 2024 Holiday Card. Our top three pieces of artwork will be featured on social media and our website, and the artists will receive prizes! Our winner's art will be used on our 2024 Holiday Card, sent to friends of C & L Electric.



Submissions are due Friday, Oct. 25, by 5 p.m.

Scan here for an entry form:





Member Involvement



Insulation 101

Wrap your home in warmth

BY MITCH ROSS

Several years ago, when I was looking to purchase a home for my family, I gave the real estate agent quite a surprise! As she was showing us a home and talking about the layout and other hot-topic items, an attic access caught my eye.

Though I didn't have a ladder, and it wasn't a pull-down style access, I was undeterred. I grabbed a broom to push the scuttle door out of my way and managed to jump up and grab the lip of the scuttle hole and pull myself up. I'm not 100% positive, but based on the agent's reaction, I'm guessing this is the first time she'd experienced something like that.

The most notable thing that came out of this attic review was the dire lack of insulation. If we purchased the home, I was going to have some expense on my hands to get the insulation where it needed to be to make the home comfortable and efficient. We bought the house, and I put in blown cellulose insulation soon after we moved in. We noticed the difference it made right away!

The experience also reminded me of how many insulation options there are for homeowners, and how investigating and choosing the best option for a particular application can be tricky. The most important part of the home to insulate well is the attic, as that is where most heat transfer occurs in homes.

Here are some common insulation materials and considerations for each:

Fiberglass batts: These rolls of fiberglass insulation are the most common for DIY scenarios, as they are relatively easy to install and don't require any special equipment. They come in varying thicknesses for different applications (walls vs. ceilings). However, if great care isn't taken to install them well with no gaps, the R-value, or measure of thermal resistance, drops significantly.

Blown fiberglass: This loose material requires a machine for installation. It is good for attics, as installation goes quickly and covers small areas and gaps well. It's usually not the best option, in my opinion, as blown cellulose offers the same benefits plus some others at a comparable cost.



Adequate insulation in a home will significantly impact heating and cooling needs, lowering energy usage and costs.

MARK GILLILAND, PIONEER UTILITY RESOURCES

Blown cellulose: This is usually the best-value option for homes, especially in the attic. It is composed of recycled paper with some fire-retardant additives. It has the same pros as blown fiberglass and is installed in the same manner. The big benefit of this material over fiberglass is that it is significantly better at stopping airflow in addition to slowing heat transfer.

Spray foam: Spray foam is your premium option for insulation. It has excellent R-value per inch and completely cuts off airflow. It requires professional installation and has a high price tag. There are closed-cell and open-cell options depending on your application.

Whenever considering attic insulation options, be sure to do your homework, as you'll be feeling the effects for years to come!

Mitch Ross is the energy efficiency manager for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.