



SHAWN DORFLINGER
MANAGER

Reflecting on Progress

Advocacy, innovation and reliability drive growth

As we close another year, we want to pause and express gratitude for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision, whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for affordable, responsible energy policies comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit the members we serve?

Policy advocacy

This past year has been marked by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability, affordability and resilience.

Over the past year, electric cooperatives across the country came together for advocacy efforts on the Environmental Protection Agency's Power Plant Rule. As originally written, the rule would have forced a rapid shift away from always-available power generation resources, threatening the accessibility of a diverse fuel supply that keeps electricity reliable. Intermittent energy sources are a growing part of our energy future, but we know that the demand for electricity is rising rapidly, and natural gas, coal, nuclear and hydro remain essential for ensuring dispatchable power is available around the clock.

As we collaborated and engaged with policymakers, we pressed for a more balance-of-power approach to generating power — one that supports intermittent energy innovation while still recognizing the role of readily dispatchable generation resources. Our efforts are helping to shape a more workable path forward that better protects reliability and keeps costs in check.

Another area of ongoing progress came through advocacy work on federal permitting reform. For too long, outdated rules and lengthy delays have stood in the way of building critical infrastructure, including transmission lines and generation projects. Modernizing this process is essential to strengthen the electric grid and keep pace with growing demand. This year, the

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas helped move the needle on permitting reform, advocating for policies that make the process faster, more predictable and more efficient. Investments we make in infrastructure will reach communities sooner, improving reliability and preparing us for the future.

Disaster readiness

We're also seeing progress with bipartisan support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Act of 2025, which would speed up the disaster recovery process for electric cooperatives.

FEMA is a crucial partner for electric cooperatives in efforts to restore power after disaster strikes, but currently, the federal reimbursement process after a major storm is slow and mired with red tape. If passed, the bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency to help strengthen resilience, protect taxpayer dollars and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster.



Future promise

As we look ahead to a new year, we see both challenges and opportunities on the horizon. The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by the rising need for more electricity, new tools and technologies and federal energy policies.

The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable, affordable and responsible power for today — and tomorrow.

Merry Christmas from your Ouachita Electric employees and directors.



Chad Davis

Walt Pigott Jack Cole

Danny Adams James Steed

Troy Carter Penny Dean Kelly Belt

Jemison McPherson Chad Stanberry

Stephanie Butler

September Hudson Loretha Walker

Billy Harper Lacey Thomason Julie Launius

Angie McLendon Natalie Johnston David McLeane

Justin Horstkamp Tiffanie Hildreth Sabrina Estridge

Austin McDonald

Chad Sloan David Kelley Sheila Johnson

Alan Ferguson Greg Strickland Richard Freeland

Jamie Brown Eric McGee Alon Atkins Bryan Dunn Chris Sims

Ethan Jordan Josh Reams Derek Sanders Jared Lampkin Lisa Hendrix

Beau Morgan Valorie Stringfellow David Morgan Corbet Lamkin Judy Taylor

Jimmy Pitts

Kari Strickland

Shawn Dorflinger



Ouachita Electric
Cooperative Corporation



ADDRESS

700 Bradley Ferry Road
Camden

BOARD MEMBERS

Danny Adams

Kelly Belt

Lisa Hendrix

Sheila Johnson

David Kelley

Dr. Corbet Lamkin

David McLeane

Beau Morgan

Walt Pigott

CONTACT US

(877) 252-4538

PAY BILL

ebill.oecc.com/
onlineportal/
(877) 252-4538

REPORT OUTAGES

(844) 326-4624

CONNECT ONLINE

oecc.com

FOLLOW US ON

Facebook



DOWNLOAD

OEC App

OUACHITA ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE



How to Heat

Smart use of space heaters saves energy costs

Drafty room? Before reaching for your space heater, consider whether it's better to plug it in or simply turn up the thermostat.

Space heaters are designed to warm small, targeted spaces — not your entire home. If you find yourself relying on one often, it may be time to address your home's energy efficiency.

Fix efficiency first

Improving your home's efficiency helps it retain heat, lowers drafts and reduces your energy use. Many solutions are affordable and DIY-friendly, such as:

- Seal air leaks. Use caulk and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors to prevent drafts.
- Add insulation where it matters. Attic insulation has the biggest return on investment, and loose-fill insulation is an affordable option.
- Check your heating system. Schedule regular service for your furnace or heat pump. If it's outdated or struggling, it could be time for an upgrade. Check with your utility for potential rebates and incentives.
- Use programmable thermostats. These can help reduce energy waste by heating only when and where needed.

Once your home is sealed and insulated, a space heater can be used to increase comfort and warm specific rooms, like a home office or bedroom, without turning up the heat for the whole house.

A space heater is like a ceiling fan; it can improve comfort in a small area, but it's not a whole-house solution.

Use efficiently

- Heat only the room you're currently in.
- Close doors to keep heat contained.
- Choose the right size — too small and it won't warm you; too big and it wastes energy. Check manufacturer sizing guides.
- Use a heater with a thermostat and timer to avoid overheating the room or wasting electricity.

Stay safe

- Place the heater on a solid, flat, nonflammable surface — never on carpets or rugs.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet.

Never use extension cords or power strips.

- Keep children, pets and anything flammable, such as curtains or bedding, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- Choose a heater with built-in safety features including:
 - ✓ Overheat sensor.
 - ✓ Tip-over shutoff switch.
 - ✓ UL, ETL or CSA International certification label.
- Never leave a space heater unattended, especially around children or pets.
- Turn off the heater when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Unplug it when not in use to prevent electrical hazards.

For more safety tips, visit [safeelectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org).

