



SHAWN DORFLINGER
MANAGER

The Season of Giving

Powering communities with year-round generosity

As the holidays approach, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another — and at Ouachita Electric, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community. More than a nice phrase, this is one of the core principles that makes cooperatives like ours different. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though, of course, we're always working hard to do that). We're here to make life better for the members, neighbors and friends we serve.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

We're also proud to support local students through the Youth Tour program, where we send some of our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., to see democracy in action and dream big about their futures. That's giving in the most meaningful way — by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

And because we care deeply about safety, we also spend time visiting schools throughout the communities we serve, holding demonstrations and teaching folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We believe knowledge is a gift, and we love sharing it.

You'll also find our team out in the community beyond work, coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events, serving on nonprofit boards and partnering with our Chamber of Commerce to keep our local economy strong. Because when you're part of a co-op, giving back is what we do.

While the holiday season is a festive time, we understand these can be tough times for many. If you need advice on saving energy to reduce your energy bills, want to explore payment plan options or you simply have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out at (877) 252-4538. Helping our members is what we do in every season.

We believe concern for community is more than a value — it's the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we're especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.



Employees of Ouachita Electric Cooperative volunteer at community events, support local youth and help with worthwhile projects throughout our service area.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF OECC



GOOD NEWS!

Your cooperative is returning capital credits

Ouachita Electric Cooperative is excited to announce that our board of directors has approved the retirement of approximately \$1 million in capital credits this November! This retirement includes patronage from the years 1997, 1998 and 2024.

Here's how it will work:

- If your retirement amount is less than \$25, it will be applied as a credit on your November bill.
- If your retirement amount is \$25 or more, you'll receive a check in the mail sent on Nov. 1.

Capital credit retirements are one of the many benefits of being a member-owner of your electric cooperative. It's our way of saying thank you for being part of Ouachita Electric!

If you have any questions, we're happy to help. Please give us a call at 877-252-4538.



HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit and operate at cost. Capital credits are a financial benefit of co-op membership.



**Ouachita Electric
Cooperative Corporation**
700 Bradley Ferry Rd, Camden • (877) 252-4538 • oecc.com



Members pay their electric bills, and we track their kWh purchased each month.



The co-op pays operating expenses throughout the year and allocates any leftover operating revenue as capital credits.



When financial conditions permit, the co-op board votes to retire (pay) a portion of allocated capital credits to the members.



We send members their share of capital credits as a check or apply the credit to the member's account.



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/
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REPORT OUTAGES

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**Ouachita Electric
COOPERATIVE**

**Ouachita Electric
will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 27,
and Friday, Nov. 28,
for Thanksgiving.**



Efficiency Pays

Double your Black Friday savings

BY MITCH ROSS

To help reduce energy costs, shoppers can use energy-efficient products to cut bills. Buying items on sale, combined with energy savings, means you save two ways.

From LED lights to insulation, these upgrades pay for themselves over time, and Black Friday may be the perfect time to snag them at a discount. Here's how to shop smart for savings this holiday season.



LED lighting: Bright savings

LED bulbs use up to 80% less energy than incandescent and last 20 times longer. A single LED bulb can save \$100 or more over its lifetime. On Black Friday, many retailers often slash prices on LED packs by 20-40%. Stock up on quality brands for bulbs that will last and that fit every fixture, from warm white to daylight tones, ensuring long-term savings on your electric bill. Also look for LED Christmas lights and décor to celebrate the season without bumping up the bill.

Caulk and weatherstripping: Seal the deal



Drafts around windows and doors can account for 10-20% of home energy loss, especially in the coming colder winter months. Caulk and weatherstripping are affordable fixes — costing as little as \$5-\$15 per tube or roll. Deals often include bundles or discounts on silicone caulk and foam weatherstrips. Applying these in a weekend can save up to \$200 annually on heating and cooling by preventing air leaks.

Spray foam: Expand your savings

Spray foam insulation, like Great Stuff or Touch 'n Seal, fills gaps in walls, attics and crawlspaces, reducing energy loss by up to 20%. A \$10 spray foam can might save \$50 or more yearly on energy bills.

Look for specials at hardware stores, where bulk kits or multi-packs are often discounted 15-25%, making it an ideal time to tackle those hard-to-reach spots.

Insulation: Wrap up efficiency

Proper insulation can cut energy costs by 30% in poorly insulated homes. Fiberglass batts or blown-in cellulose are cost-effective options, with savings of \$200 to \$500 per year. Stores may offer deals on insulation rolls or bags, sometimes with free rental of blowing machines, maximizing your investment.

This season prioritize energy-efficient products to shrink your utility bills and double your shopping savings! With sales slashing prices, you'll save upfront and for years to come. Check circulars or websites early, compare deals and invest in a more efficient home.

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

