

AUGUST 2024

URECC NEWSLETTER



Monitor the Time to Secure Energy Savings

As temperatures soar and summer activities pick up pace, a steady electricity supply is crucial for keeping members of Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative cool and connected. In August, when summer temperatures peak, people tend to stay indoors to escape the heat, leading to air conditioners running more frequently. This surge in electricity usage results in spikes in demand, known as energy peaks. During these peak periods, URECC must collaborate closely with our wholesale power provider to ensure a consistent supply of electricity meets the energy requirements of our community.

The electric grid functions as a vast network linking power plants, utility poles, and power lines to homes and businesses nationwide, across our state, and within our local communities. All components of this network must collaborate to maintain a balanced electricity flow around the clock.

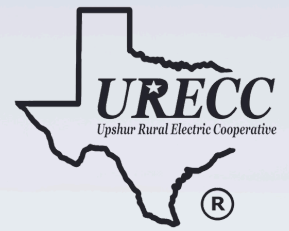
When electricity demand surges, power providers need to increase electricity generation – whether from coal, natural gas, wind, solar, or other sources – leading to utilities paying more for electricity generated during peaks. These elevated costs, coupled with the overall rise in electricity consumption, often result in higher bills during the hottest months. In extreme scenarios, demand may exceed the available supply, leading to electricity shortages.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Positioning heat sources, such as lamps, computers, or TVs, close to your thermostat can lead to inaccurate temperature readings, higher energy consumption, and inconsistent heating or cooling. To avoid these issues:

- Place your thermostat in a location free of obstacles, electronic devices, direct sunlight, and drafts.

By keeping your thermostat away from these disturbances, you can enhance energy efficiency, enhance indoor comfort, and minimize strain on your heating and cooling system.



In times of shortages, utilities must enforce rolling power outages to manage electricity demand and stabilize the grid. During hot summer days with high electricity demand, you can contribute by conserving energy. Simply check the time and avoid energy-intensive tasks during peak hours, which for URECC are 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

By collectively reducing energy usage during peak hours, URECC can secure lower electricity rates, benefiting the entire community. This practice also helps alleviate strain on the grid and maintains a balance between electricity supply and demand.

To reduce home energy consumption, here are some tips to save energy (and money) during summer peaks:

- Adjust your thermostat a few degrees higher and sync your cooling system with off-peak hours using a smart or programmable thermostat.
- Utilize ceiling fans to feel up to 4 degrees cooler. Operate fans in occupied rooms to complement air conditioning, and remember to turn them off when leaving the room to maximize energy savings.
- Schedule energy-intensive tasks like laundry and dishwashing for off-peak hours. Use timers for appliances such as hot tubs, pool pumps, and water heaters.
- Unplug electronics when not in use or manage them with power strips.
- Close drapes and blinds in the afternoon to block excess heat from sunlight.

By working together to reduce energy consumption during peak periods, everyone benefits – lower bills, sustained lower electric rates, and reduced strain on the grid.



Apple Muffins

Ingredients

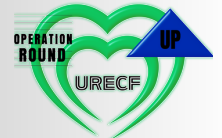
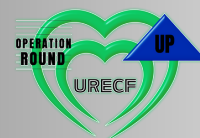
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1 large egg, beaten
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 1 cup apple - peeled, cored, and chopped



Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Lightly grease 12 muffin cups or line with paper muffin liners.
- Stir together flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt. Stir together milk, egg, and butter in a separate bowl. Stir egg mixture into flour mixture just until combined. Fold in chopped apples. Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups
- Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into center of muffins comes out clean, 20 minutes.

Operation Round Up Fast Facts:



- The program was initiated 35 years ago by Palmetto Electric Cooperative.
- Members have the option to round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar, with the spare change being pooled for charitable purposes.
- The funds support various local organizations.
- On average, each member contributes around \$6 per year, with a maximum donation of \$11.88.
- Enrollment is possible through our SmartHub app, online at urecc.coop, or by reaching out to our Member Services department at 800-259-2536 or 903-843-2536.

