

# News & Views

## Plan to attend your annual meeting

Prizes, food and great entertainment. You can be part of it all by joining us at our annual meeting of the membership in April. We like to say, "It's a little bit of business and a lot of fun!"

This annual event is held in accordance with our bylaws and is your opportunity as a member to be involved in the cooperative, and to vote for directors. Candidates this year are Lee Ann Wilbur,

District 5 and  
Stephen Watson,  
District 6.

We will serve our traditional breakfast and offer the popular coin holder drawing for a chance to win a \$5, \$10, \$20 or \$50 bill. Entertainment is provided by bluegrass group Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out. Prizes are three chances to win a \$100 bill, two chances to win an iPad, and a chance to win our grand prize of a John Deere lawn tractor.

See you in April!



GRAND PRIZE!!

**Location:** Franklin Community High School  
**Address:** 2600 Cumberland Drive, Franklin  
**Date:** Saturday, April 23, 2016  
**Time:** 8 am-10 am Breakfast & Activities  
**Entertainment:** 9 am-10 am  
**Business Meeting:** 10 am

## Johnson County REMC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*The mission of  
Johnson County REMC  
is to provide reliable,  
competitively priced  
utility services  
to its customers  
and the community.*

The theme of the meeting is *A Legacy for a Powerful Tomorrow*. We are celebrating the electric cooperative movement as a whole, and the 80-year legacy of Johnson County REMC.

The registration notice will be mailed on April 4. Bring the notice to the meeting to register, to be eligible for the attendance gift, to vote and to enter the prize drawing.

## Inside ...

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# It's all in the watts!

**The bottom line is it all depends on the wattage.**

Space heater manufacturers will often tout the energy efficiency of their product but let's take a closer look at this claim. As with any technology, before purchasing a space heater you should understand how the device is used as well as the energy claims of the manufacturer. For the purpose of our discussion we will focus on electric space heaters.



A space heater is a device that operates at 100 percent efficiency. This is a true – but misunderstood – statement. Put simply, all electric space heaters produce one unit of heat for every one unit of electricity consumed; in other words – they are 100 percent energy efficient. But compare this with a heat pump which can produce more than three units of heat for every one unit of electricity consumed, making them 300 percent efficient.

What does this mean in terms of cost? The bottom line is it all depends on the wattage. A watt is a watt and costs the same regardless of how it is consumed.

Consider: a 1,500-watt space heater operating at full capacity 24 hours per day for 30 days will cost you approximately \$108 (see graph page 4).

Let's say you are using three units – now you are spending a whopping \$324! Imagine if space heaters were your only source of heat and you had five or six? Now you are talking hundreds of dollars, and this doesn't even include your electric usage from lights, appliances, water heating, etc.

Space heaters do have their place in providing extra comfort, but they simply cannot replace energy-efficient central heating or weatherization improvements to the home.



## **Energy tip ... Savings start beneath the walls**

Consider a Touchstone Energy® Home next time you build. These homes are built to standards that exceed the average home in energy-efficient building practices, and offer a guarantee on heating and cooling costs. For more information visit [jcremc.com](http://jcremc.com) and click on the **Touchstone Energy® Home** icon.

**Johnson County REMC**

publishes

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as a service to our members.

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Back issues may be viewed on our website or obtained from the office.



# Insulate your attic for maximum efficiency

by Shane Neher

I'm thinking about what I can do to make my house more energy-efficient. I sealed the air leaks in my house, so next step - attic insulation. I'll need to know what type of insulation to use and what R-value I want to achieve (see *article at right*).

I did a little research and here's what I found out. The Indiana Energy Conservation Code (IECC) states that in this area, attics should have a minimum of R38. But I want to achieve the Touchstone Energy® Home standard of R42. Now, on to the types of insulation.

Fiberglass is made up of tiny fibers of glass that trap air. It comes in rolled batts - or blankets - of fiber, or it can be blown in with a machine that separates it and fluffs it up. It is approximately R2.5 per inch for blown and R3 to R4 per inch for rolled batts.

Cellulose is made of 80 percent recycled paper and 20 percent fire retardant. It comes in bags and is also blown into the attic with a machine. It is better than the batts because it covers any gaps that may be present. It is rated at approximately R3 to R4 per inch.

Spray foam insulation is the most effective at filling in gaps, nooks and crannies. It has the highest rating of approximately R3.5 to R7 per inch.

I have the white fluffy-looking blown fiberglass insulation so I will stick with this. I have eight inches of insulation at R2.5 per inch and need to bring my insulation level up to R42, so here's the math.

$$\begin{aligned} 8'' \text{ existing insulation} \times R2.5 \text{ per inch} &= R20 \\ R42 - R20 &= R22 \text{ needed} \\ R22 \div R2.5 \text{ per inch} &= \mathbf{8.8'' \text{ additional}} \\ &\quad \mathbf{insulation \text{ needed}} \end{aligned}$$

That's almost 20 inches total of insulation. Wow! I didn't realize how much I needed.



The good news is that with a Johnson County REMC rebate a portion of the cost is covered. Check out our website at [jcremc.com](http://jcremc.com) for more information on all our rebate programs.

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*Shane Neher is the Energy Advisor for Johnson County REMC. He may be reached at 317-736-6174 during regular business hours.*

## What is R-value?

An insulating material's resistance to heat flow is measured or rated in terms of its thermal resistance or R-value. The higher the R-value, the greater the effectiveness of the insulation. R-value is determined by the type of insulation, its thickness, and its density.

The effectiveness of an insulation material's resistance to heat flow also depends on how and where the insulation is installed. And keep in mind that the overall R-value of a wall or ceiling will be

somewhat different from the R-value of the insulation itself because heat flows more readily through studs, joists, and other building materials.

In addition, insulation that fills building cavities densely enough to reduce airflow can also reduce heat loss.

The amount of insulation or R-value you'll need depends on your climate, type of heating and cooling system, and the part of the house you plan to insulate.

# Space heaters 101

## Before you buy

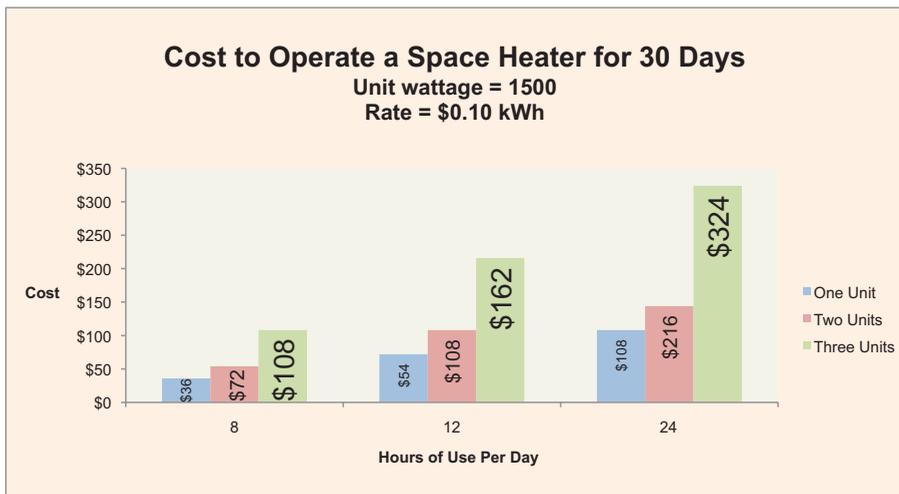
Consider how you will use the device and that cost may be a factor (see *graph below*). To maximize your savings, there are some relatively easy and inexpensive energy-saving improvements you can make to your home. These quick fixes will benefit you regardless of your type and source of heat.

- Add caulk and weather stripping around doors and windows
- Add insulation to attics and exposed walls (see *related article page 3*)
- Clean or replace furnace filters
- Move furniture or obstacles away from heat registers
- Insulate duct work
- Open blinds on sunny days, close at night

## Use safely

Did you know that space heaters are responsible for over 30 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association? Spring is on the way but there is still a chill in the air. If you reach for a space heater to supplement your furnace, be mindful to take these safety steps when using these devices.

- Place your space heater on a level, non-flammable surface
- Make sure your space heater has an auto shutoff function
- Never pair your space heater with an extension cord
- Never leave a space heater unattended when in use
- Purchase space heaters that have a *cool to the touch* feature



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