

MEMBER

From Cedar Island to Cedar Point
and many places in between

News

A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

December 2009



The truth about popular portable electric heater advertising claims

It's the time of year when marketers of "magic" electric heaters start their mailings to unsuspecting consumers. These high-priced heaters do have attractive wood exteriors and digital displays, but they do not deliver any more warmth than standard electric heaters. So are there any differences? Yes. For one, these heaters cost \$300 to \$400 more than other heaters found in local stores for the same amount of heat.

If price were the only issue it wouldn't be so bad, but marketers claim their heaters can cut home energy bills up to 50%. What they don't say is that you must turn off heat to all other rooms in the home to accomplish this.

Here's a tip: if electric heater advertisements mention "exclusive heating technology," the buyer needs to beware. All electric heaters (also called resistance electric heaters) are 100%

efficient in converting electricity into heat, and they do it in one of three ways:

The first, **High-Temperature Radiant Heaters**, are characterized by the glowing red heating elements, often with a mirrored reflector behind the coils. Radiant heaters don't attempt to

heat the air, but 'beam' their warmth directly to people or objects in the room.

The second style, **Natural Convection Heaters**, transfers heat differently. Instead of using red-hot coils, they distribute the same amount of heat over a larger surface, at a lower temperature. This allows the heater to transfer its warmth to the air using the natural flow of air across it. Watt-for-watt, natural convection heaters put out just as much warmth as the radiant style, but you don't feel the same intense heat when you stand near them. They are a bit slower heating a room, but the chance of fire or injury is greatly reduced.

The third type, **Fan-Forced Heaters**, relies on a blower to push air over the heating coils. Like a 'mini furnace,' these heaters must warm the air in the room to increase comfort. They don't rely on a large surface area to transfer heat to the air and are often smaller than the other designs. They also are a bit faster at raising room temperature by forcing air transfer of heat from the coils.

No matter what style you choose, it's important to remember that all these styles use a process called 'electric resistance heating.' A watt is a watt no matter how it is delivered. This simply means that electricity is sent through a material that is 'resistant' to the flow of electric current. These materials glow red as they convert electricity into heat, much like the burners on your electric stove. Whatever the heater's shape, size, or marketing claims, the amount of heat coming out is the same as the amount of electricity going in. For example, any two heaters with a rating of 1,500 watts will deliver the same amount of heat, no matter what they look like.

Source: *Rural Electricity Resource Council*
www.nerc.org



on the web

Co-op Connections Card national deals are online. Follow the link at:

www.connections.coop



carteret-craven electric cooperative

Directors look back on 2009, ahead to 2010

In the past year, we have been keenly aware of the struggles some of you have faced during the economic downturn and have worked hard to bring you reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost. At the same time, we have increased value-added services



Arland Bell

to help you use less energy while increasing the comfort of your home and have given you a voice in Congress as our elected representatives continued to debate climate change legislation.



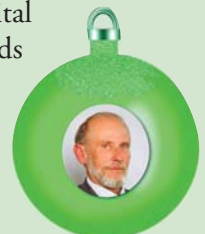
Alice O'Berry

Although the economy was in turmoil, the cost for the fuels used to generate electricity dropped during the year, and we have been able to return money to you at a rate of \$10 per 1,000-kilowatt hours through the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment. Further, we were able to give back more than \$1 million to members and former members as part of our Capital Credit program. Members allow the co-op to use these funds to provide solvency and necessary upgrades to facilities.



Jerome Meadows

When Capital Credits are retired they are returned to you, our cooperative members.



Clifford Rice

From compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and LED night lights to home energy monitoring devices and electric water heater efficiency kits, many of you have taken advantage of these and other no-cost or discounted offerings to help you reduce your energy use.



Fred Fulcher

We have joined Touchstone Energy® co-ops nationwide in bringing you the Together We Save program. Whether unplugging unused appliances or adding an extra layer of insulation in the attic, the program shows how easy these energy-saving techniques are. The Web site, www.togetherwesave.com, features interactive web tools linked to a virtual home tour.



Roger Jones

The Co-op Connections Card program launched in October provides discounts at national retail businesses and prescription medication savings at more than 25 independent pharmacies and national drug store chains in our area. Many of you are already taking advantage of the savings on prescription medications alone.



Doug Fulcher

You have helped the co-op, too, by participating in the grassroots "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign seeking fair, affordable and achievable federal energy legislation, and by adopting energy-efficiency practices that help us meet the state's Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard. Your support is greatly appreciated!



J. Henry Davis

As we look toward 2010, we will continue to make it our mission to provide excellent service and value to you beyond simply providing electricity to your home or business. As your elected directors, who are co-op members as well, we are truly committed to you and the communities we serve.



Thom Styron



Wayne Willis

*We wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

Safe holiday lighting helps ensure a merry Christmas

In the spirit of the season, it can be easy to become engrossed in holiday lights. However festive, these embellishments also add extra electrical strain to your home, and safety must be considered when plugging in those giant Santa statues and miles of icicle lights. Practice the following tips to ensure a safe holiday:

- Do not plug multiple light strands into one outlet.
- When decorating with lights, look for frayed or broken cords and damaged light bulbs.
- Immediately replace a broken light bulb with a new

one. Leave the old one in until you find a replacement.

- Don't run extension cords under rugs or furniture, especially under a Christmas tree skirt.
- Only use lights with the label "Underwriters Laboratories Approved" or "UL Approved."
- Plug outdoor lights and decorations into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help protect against electric shock.
- Do not leave lights on unattended.
- Keep your tree well hydrated. Dry branches can ignite when they come in contact with lights.

Make the switch to energy-saving decorative lighting

If you want to save on holiday lighting, consider replacing incandescent decorative lights with Energy Star qualified light strings.

These lights, many which feature LED technology, consume 75% less energy than conventional strands. Additionally, they are cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire. They come in a variety of colors, shapes and lengths, many with dimming and color shifting

features, and they can last 10 times longer than traditional lights.

If all decorative light strings sold in the U.S. this year were Energy Star qualified, we would save over 2 billion kWh of electricity and reduce greenhouse gases equivalent to nearly 300,000 cars.



Bundle up your water heater and save up to \$100 a year

You put on a sweater to hold in your body heat and keep cold air out. Did you know that you can save energy and money by doing the same for your electric water heater?

Electric water heating accounts for nearly 15% of your monthly electric bill, but you can reduce the cost with an electric water heater efficiency kit.



The kits, which are valued at more than \$50 each, include a water heater blanket, pipe insulation, a water-efficient showerhead and faucet aerators, all for \$16 for co-op members.

Installing an insulating blanket on your water heater is one of the most effective do-it-yourself

energy-saving projects you can perform. The blanket will reduce standby heat loss (heat lost through the walls of the tank) by 25-40%. Insulating your hot water pipes will reduce losses as the hot water is flowing to the faucet and will reduce standby losses when the tap is turned off and then back on within an hour or so. A lot of energy and water are wasted waiting for hot water to reach the tap.

Low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators significantly reduce the amount of water you use in your home. You could save anywhere from 42-82% percent with a low-flow showerhead alone. And, when you use less water overall, you need less water from your water heater as well.

The kits are available at our offices in Newport, Havelock and Harkers Island.

'Fill the Pantry' Food Drive continues

Cooperative employees are gathering up non-perishable food items and other items to help those less fortunate this holiday season. Please help us help others by donating items at one of our three offices in Newport, Havelock and Harkers Island. The items are being distributed to local food pantries.



'Energy Explained' site launched

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has launched a new web portal, Energy Explained, a comprehensive energy education resource that provide a variety of information, from electricity and gasoline to renewable resources and hundreds of other energy topics.



Visit the site at:
www.eia.doe.gov/energyexplained

“Energy touches us in many ways every day, from the electricity that lights our homes to the fuel we

use in our cars,” said EIA Administrator Richard Newell. “Energy Explained uses plain language and clear graphics to help explain a sometimes complex, but vital subject.”

Energy Explained allows easy navigation among the following major energy topics:

- What is Energy?
- Use of Energy
- Energy and the Environment
- Nonrenewable Energy Sources
- Renewable Energy Sources
- Secondary Energy Sources

Energy Explained includes a “rate this page” feature so visitors can easily give EIA feedback on any page.

Easier ways to pay your electric bill

You can forget about paying your electric bill if you sign up for Automatic Bank Draft. It's safe and convenient. You don't need to buy stamps or make a trip to the post office.

We draft your monthly electric payment from your checking or savings account on a specified draft date. You'll never receive a late fee, and you'll never pay early.

Paying your electric bill is even more carefree if you combine bank draft with the cooperative's Equalizer

Payment Plan. Your monthly electric bills are totaled for the year and then divided into 12 equal payments.

You can also pay online each month with PowerPay 24. You are notified by e-mail each month when your bill has been posted. You can key in your account information and pay right away. You will immediately see confirmation of your payment. You can also use PowerPay 24 to view your account, including bill history.

To apply, visit us on the web or call us at (252) 247-3107.



I'M TIGHT WITH MY MONEY. AIRTIGHT.

I'm saving \$212 a year by sealing a few cracks. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative



Touchstone Energy®

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



carteret-craven electric cooperative



Offices

1300 Highway 24, Newport
450 McCotter Boulevard, Havelock
849 Island Road, Harkers Island

On the Web

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop

Contact

Phone: 252.247.3107 / 1.800.682.2217
Fax: 252.247.0235
E-mail: customerservice@ccemc.com