



Shield your home from energy loss with adequate insulation

BY ANNE PRINCE

Walls. Floors. Ceilings. Attic. These are some of the prime areas of a home that need insulation to maximize energy efficiency. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), adding insulation

to your home is a sound investment that is likely to quickly pay for itself in reduced utility bills. In fact, DOE estimates that you can reduce your heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home.

If your home is more than 20 years old and was not specifically constructed for energy efficiency, additional insulation can likely reduce your energy bills and increase the comfort level of your home. The actual amount of savings for each home depends upon several factors – the current level of insulation, your climate, efficiency of your heating/cooling system and your utility rates. On average, older homes have less insulation than homes built today, but even adding insulation to a newer home can pay for itself within a few years.

So, where do you start?

You first need to determine how much insulation you already have in your home and where it is located. For those with the DIY spirit, you can conduct an insulation audit yourself. Here is what you should be looking for:

- Where your home is, isn't and/or should be insulated
- The type of insulation in your home
- The R-value and the thickness or depth (inches) of the insulation

A prime area that is chronically under-insulated is the attic. Whether you live in a cool or warm climate, attic insulation is essential to help keep warm air inside in the winter and prevent hot attic air from heating your living spaces in the summer. If you have R-19

INSULATING YOUR HOME TO LOCK IN EFFICIENCY AND SAVINGS

Adding insulation in the areas shown here may be the best way to improve your home's energy efficiency. Insulate either the attic floor or under the roof. Check with a licensed contractor about crawl space or basement insulation.

- 1 Attic
- 2 Walls
- 3 Floors
- 4 Basement
- 5 Crawlspace



Source: Dept. of Energy

or less insulation in your attic, consider bringing it up to R-49 in cold climates. For flooring in cold climates, if you have R-11 or less insulation, consider bringing it up to R-25.

How does insulation work?

Heat flows naturally from a warmer space to a cooler space. During winter months, this means heat moves directly from heated attics, garages, basements and even outdoors. It can also travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls and floors – wherever there is a difference in temperature. During

summer months, the opposite happens – heat flows from the exterior to the interior of a home. Proper installation of insulation creates resistance to heat flow. Heat flow resistance is measured or rated in terms of its R-value – the higher the R-value, the greater the insulation's effectiveness. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs will be.

Save green by going green

Today, you have choices when it comes to selecting insulation for the home, including an environmentally friendly option made of recycled materials, such as scrap jeans. It

looks similar to chopped up jeans and is treated for fire safety. With an insulating R-value similar to fiberglass insulation, this blue-jean insulation is a great option.

Get started and get saving

While an older home will never be as efficient as a new home, an insulation upgrade will make a noticeable difference in your energy use and wallet. A well-insulated home is one of the most cost-effective means of saving energy and decreasing heating and cooling bills. ■



Scott Johnson

Johnson retires

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) announces the retirement of Scott Johnson. Scott began his career as an accountant at LYREC in 1984, straight out of college. In 1997, Scott was promoted to office manager/accountant.

“It has been a great 31 years and I wouldn’t have changed anything about my time with LYREC,” Scott states.

Scott and his wife, Kay, have three children. Their oldest son, Nathan, is working for a CPA firm in Missoula, Mont. Their daughter, Brittany, is currently in her last year of college and will be graduating with a teaching degree. Brady, their youngest, just graduated high school and will be off in the fall to the University of Montana.

Scott has been involved in many community activities throughout his years.

Scott has been on the economic development board, the church council, and is currently involved in an investment club and is a member of Kiwanis. Scott has enjoyed following and coaching his children through their sporting events. Scott is also an avid sports lover. Go Minnesota Twins and Dallas Cowboys!

Scott has enjoyed his years with his fellow co-workers, board and cooperative members.

“I hope the membership knows how lucky they are to have such a tremendous board of directors working for them,” he says.

Although Scott will miss all the people he has worked with throughout the years, he is ready to start a new chapter of his life.

Scott will be missed, as he has always been a delight to work with. LYREC board and staff wish Scott a great retirement! ■



Cassie Parker

New employee joins LYREC

Cassie Parker is Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative’s new office administrator. Cassie is also doing some part-time work for the Richland County Boys and Girls Club and prior to that Cassie

was employed with Verizon Wireless.

Cassie and her husband, Louis, have been living in Sidney for the past year. Cassie has a 6-year-old stepson, Malachi. She is originally from Billings, where her parents still reside. ■

Capital credit retirement checks

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) needs your assistance finding these past members. If you know how we can reach any of these past members listed below, please call 406-488-1602 or 844-441-5627, so LYREC can issue them their capital credit check. (No. 23354)

Steven L. Abel, Spokane, Wash.
Eric Aho, Sidney, Mont.
Laurie Banta, Richey, Mont.
Dakota C. Bruns, Trenton, N.D.
Amy Dart, Olney, Mont.
Dusty Elmore, Fairview, Mont.

- Victor Escobedo, Sidney, Mont.
- William Falcon, Williston, N.D.
- William and Vicki Finnicum, Medford, Ore.
- Don Herriot, Trenton, N.D.
- JS Home Solutions, Williston, N.D.
- Bruce Kroshus, Williston, N.D.
- Audie Ladue, Trenton, N.D.
- Mike and Roberta Larson, Sidney, Mont.
- Steve Macik, Arizona City, Ariz.
- John and Glenda Nicholas, Pampa, Texas
- Jacques and Amber Olson, Williston, N.D.
- Brian O’Shea, Velva, N.D.
- Mary-Jo Packineau, New Town, N.D.

- John and Eva Perrell, Sidney, Mont.
- Chad Prosser, Dickinson, N.D.
- Retco, Billings, Mont.
- Amanda Rudie, Sidney, Mont.
- Simply Clean Oilfield Services, Billings, Mont.
- Ione Smart, Sidney, Mont.
- Harvey W. Smith, Deerfield, Wis.
- Cliff A. Sowle, Billings, Mont.
- Melissa Tasker, Sidney, Mont.
- Vicki Trang, Richland, Mont.
- Adam and Amanda Vondal, Williston, N.D.
- Valerie and Earnest Waters, Sidney, Mont.

Special invitation to LYREC members

All-expense-paid conference

Each year, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative sponsors members and/or a member couple to attend the Today's Members Program in Great Falls at the Heritage Inn. This program is held in conjunction with Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) annual meeting.

The Today's Members Program is an educational opportunity for members to learn about the history, operations and some of the issues that affect cooperative members along with the future of electric cooperatives. If you choose to attend, it requires a three-day commitment. Lower Yellowstone Electric will pay for the conference fees, hotel room, meals and mileage to the meeting.

This program is an important piece of what electric cooperatives are about – educating their members. If you are interested in learning more about cooperatives and are able to attend during this time, complete the registration form provided below this article.

This year, registration begins at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, and the meeting will conclude mid-morning Oct. 8. If you have any questions regarding this program, contact Jami at 406-488-1602. If you are interested in attending, please fill out the form or contact Jami prior to Sept. 7.

ENTRY FORM FOR TODAY'S MEMBERS PROGRAM

(Participants must be members of Lower Yellowstone Electric to be eligible)

Member's name (as it appears on your bill)

Mailing address

City

ZIP

Telephone number

Please mail form to: LYREC, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney MT 59270



If you would like to stay updated on what is happening at **YOUR** co-op, join us on Facebook. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative will notify members on planned power outages, update members on power outages, give energy efficiency tips, and much more.

HIDDEN NUMBERS

If you find your meter number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$25 credit on your next statement. The meter number will appear within the four Lower Yellowstone Electric pages. Give us a call during the month your meter is listed, and claim your \$25 bill credit.



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