

News Release



Energy Efficiency Makeover transforms home of Bill and Mary Quilhot of Gassville

Little Rock, Ark. — Sept. 29, 2010 — The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas 2010 Energy Efficiency Makeover was completed in just seven weeks, but Bill and Mary Quilhot will see years of lower utility bills and increased comfort in their Gassville home.

According to Bret Curry, manager of energy marketing for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, the original air infiltration test result on the 1,390 square foot home was very leaky at 1.42 air changes per hour, however the post-makeover blower-door test revealed only .6 air changes per hour, a 58 percent improvement.

“Thanks to the hard work and dedication of electric cooperative employees and program sponsors, this home is the model of energy efficiency,” Curry said. “The Quilhot’s house joins the list of growing energy efficiency improvement success stories.” The Gassville home is the third Energy Efficiency Makeover Contest home in Arkansas.

As an example of the projected savings, Curry reported that the Water Furnace geothermal heat pump is “working splendidly” and averaging 11 kilowatt hours daily at a cost of approximately \$1.10 per day.

“We replaced a freezer that was consuming approximately five-kilowatt hours each day with a General Electric (GE) Energy Star model that only consumes one-kilowatt hour each day,” he said.

The couple was selected in August from more than 2,500 applicants for the 2009 Energy Efficiency Makeover Contest sponsored by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. The Quilhots are members of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative.

The following components were installed at the home:

- Water Furnace geothermal heat pump was installed by Rood Heating & Air of Russellville;
- A Marathon water heater was installed;
- Energy-efficient Weatherbarr windows were installed by Harry G. Barr of Fort Smith;
- Energy Star rated appliances were supplied by General Electric;
- Foam insulation was installed by Tommy Gracy/BPSI Foam Insulators;
- American Window Tint provided 3M window tinting;
- Any incandescent lights were replaced with compact fluorescent lights;
- ABC/Bradco supplied new roof shingles and materials were installed by Teddy Kalke and crew.

The measures incorporated into the makeover project are available at www.smartenergytips.org. The site includes a weekly project update, videos and other energy efficiency tips.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECI), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides various services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to approximately 500,000 members, or customers, in Arkansas and surrounding states.

For additional information, contact:

Rob Roedel, Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, 501.570.2296 or rroedel@aeci.com

www.ecark.org

###