



McCONE ELECTRIC CO-OP ADDS FREE HEALTHY SAVINGS BENEFITS TO CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD

McCone Electric's Co-op Connections® Program is about to save you even more. The card that has saved McCone Electric members more than \$60,875.61 on prescriptions now offers members significant savings on lab and imaging services, chiropractic, dental, vision and hearing care.

The new Healthy Savings package is available at no cost to members who print paper cards from www.healthysavings.coop and show it at participating providers along with their plastic cards. This brand-new benefit is part of a commitment to helping members save money during challenging economic times. The Health Savings package will help our members stretch their paychecks and underscore that McCone Electric is always looking out for its members.

To locate providers that participate in the Healthy Savings program, call 800.800.7616 with your card handy or visit www.healthysavings.coop. Savings examples include 10 to 60 percent off eyeglasses, contact lenses and eye exams; 20 to 40 percent discounts on a range of dental care services; and 30 percent off chiropractic treatments.

Many insurance plans do not include provisions for dental, hearing and vision care. With the new Healthy Savings package, McCone Electric members get no-cost access to five discounted health benefit areas: vision, dental, hearing, lab imaging and chiropractic care.

Detailed information on available savings and how to take advantage of the entire Healthy Savings package is posted at www.healthysavings.coop. If you do not have access to the internet, please call McCone Electric at 406-485-3430 and someone will assist you.

Have you used your
"Coop Connections Card" yet?



So far, McCone Electric Cooperative members have saved **\$60,875.61** on the cost of their prescription drugs by using the Coop Connections Card at their pharmacy. This has worked out to be a **34.14%** savings on the total cost of the prescriptions filled. Not bad, for a little plastic card you received free of charge.

McCONE ELECTRIC CO-OP

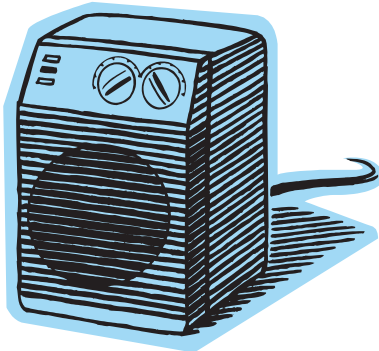
Some Truths About Portable Electric Heaters

Every year about this time we seem to get a lot of questions concerning portable electric heaters. The most frequently asked question is usually having to do with the consumer's electric bill having gone up.

The consumer has gone to the store and purchased a portable heater that has been advertised as a money saving, extremely efficient, and will cut your heating bill in half. Some of these heaters, while very attractive in appearance, are also quite expensive. Some priced as high as \$400 or more.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with these heaters as far as how they perform. They will heat the room you put them in just as advertised. However, depending on how long a period of time they are in use, will depend on how much your electric bill goes up.

The truth of the matter is that a 1500 watt heater is just that, a 1500 watt heater. All the bells and whistles that go along with the more expensive brands of heaters do nothing to increase the efficiency of the heaters ability to put out heat.



A 1500 watt heater puts out 5100 British Thermal Units of Heat (BTUH). Whether that heater is brand A, costing \$400 or brand X, costing \$34.95, the heat output is the same.

To be more specific, let's look at an example of how much it would cost you to run a 1500 watt heater for a twenty four period of time.

$$1.5\text{kw} (1500\text{watts}) \times 24 \text{ (hrs.)} \times .1043 = \$3.75 \text{ per day}$$

You may say \$3.75 is not that bad. But over the course of 30 days that would be an added \$112.64 to your monthly electric bill. More or larger KW heaters of course will only add to the cost of your monthly bill.

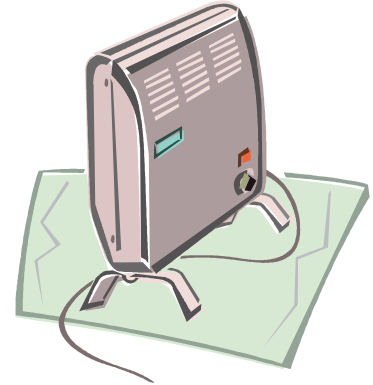
One of the disadvantages of using a portable heater is that you do not get to take advantage of McCone Electric's heat rate, which is \$.054. Per our heat rate policy we do not allow the metering of individual electrical outlets.

So how can you utilize a portable or space heater so it saves you money? Whether you are on a special heat rate or are heating with a type of fossil fuel, there is really only one way to make it work. Here it is.

If you have zoned heating in your home, (the ability to shut off the heat source in certain rooms), you can simply shut off all rooms you do not want to heat. Then

you would simply drag your portable heater into each room you wish to occupy at any given time.

You would most likely find this process not only cumbersome but inconvenient as well. Most of us when we walk into a room in our homes fully expect it to be heated to a comfortable level.



Another issue with these portable heaters is that many of them come with a specific warning. The warning states that they are not to be used in conjunction with an extension cord. The reason behind this is that due to the amount of electrical draw (amps) used to run the heater it could cause a build up of heat in the cord, thus starting a fire.

We here at McCone Electric in no way discourage the use of portable electrical heaters. We do however want you to be aware of the cost incurred by the use of such heaters. There are many applications where a portable electrical heater is the only option available.

Should you find the need to purchase a portable electrical heater please keep these things in mind. Quite simply put a BTUH is a BTUH and a WATT is a WATT. There is no magic formula for savings. More simply put the \$400 1500 watt heater puts out the same amount of heat as the \$34.95 heater and they both cost the same to run.

Another thing to consider during these winter months is the use of engine heaters, whether it be on your car, pick-up, or tractor. Most engine heaters are somewhere between 500 watts and 750 watts. Some tractor engine heaters are as big as 3000 watts.

On those cold winter days a lot of us tend to get home from work and just plug them in, leaving them run for twelve to fourteen hours. One thing you can do to keep those kwh's down is to put your engine heater on a timer, setting it to come on a few hours before you have to start your vehicle.

Be sure you buy a good outdoor rated extension cord and an outdoor rated electrical timer. Over the course of a long and cold winter the savings can be substantial.



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES NEARING

Those individuals wishing to apply for any of the scholarships being offered by, or through, McCone Electric need to be aware of the looming deadlines.

The deadline for the Montana Electrical Cooperative's Association scholarship is January 31, 2012. The Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship deadline is also January 31, 2012. The Wade Sukut Memorial scholarship deadline is February 29, 2012.

Applications for all scholarships can be found on-line at www.mcconeelectric.coop. Scholarship applications were also dropped off at the high schools in Jordan, Richey, and Circle earlier this year.

For an application to be accepted it must be turned in to McCone Electric by the deadline date. If you have any questions please call C.J. at McCone Electric (406-485-3430) and he will be glad to assist you. Good luck to all those applying.



McCone Electric has a variety of Compact Fluorescents on hand, and we have low prices for them

We are stocking 40, 60, 75, 100, 150, 200, 250, and 450 watt equivalent compact fluorescents mini-spiral bulbs for sale to our cooperative members. We also have 40 watt equivalent vanity globe bulbs for bathroom fixtures, and outdoor flood lamps.

An easy way to save on your energy bill is to buy compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs to replace standard incandescent bulbs.

Take advantage of the new lower pricing we are now offering. We have been able to lower prices considerably since we found a cheaper source of supply.



CFL Watts	Incandescent Equiv. watts	Price
9	40	\$2.65
13	60	\$2.65
18	75	\$3.00
23	100	\$3.00
36	150	\$6.25
40	200	\$7.50
55	250	\$11.70
105	450	\$16.50
11 globe	40	\$4.25

McCone Electric Offers Many Valuable Services

We here at McCone Electric want to be sure that you are aware of the many valuable services that we have to offer. Here are a few:

- ◆ Electric heat rate \$.054
- ◆ Free home heat loss calculations
- ◆ Ground source heat pump, electric heat, and air-air heat pump information
- ◆ Hot water heater rebate program
- ◆ Educational scholarships
- ◆ Free secondary power line locates
- ◆ Free secondary power line fault locates
- ◆ Electrical safety programs for schools or any interested groups
- ◆ A wide variety of electric heaters for sale
- ◆ A varied assortment of compact fluorescent light bulbs for sale
- ◆ Co-op connections card good for many discounts, both local and nationwide



CJ Reid locating a secondary fault for a MEC member

McCone Electric Co-op

Using your electric space heater safely

An electric space heater can increase your comfort during cold months, especially in garages, basements, workshops and other areas that may not have central heating. Before you purchase an electric heater, check it carefully to make sure it has:

- ◆ An automatic safety switch that will turn the unit off if it's tipped over.
- ◆ An overheat sensor that shuts off the heater if it gets too hot.
- ◆ A low surface temperature to protect your family and pets from burns.
- ◆ A screen or grill to prevent kids from reaching inside or putting toys in the heater.
- ◆ A label or tag noting the heater has been tested and approved.



Greg Brooks, Walton EMC

If you already have a space heater, before you put it to use keep these things in mind:

- ◆ Check the cord. Is it worn? Is the insulation cracked? If so, don't just put some electrical tape over the break. Have the cord replaced by a professional. Replacing a high-wattage heater cord isn't the same as rewiring a lamp. And make sure your professional replaces the cord with one designated as an HPN cord - it's the only kind acceptable for electric space heaters.
- ◆ Never use an extension cord with an electric space heater.
- ◆ Keep the heater away from water sources or damp places to avoid potentially deadly electric shock.
- ◆ Keep anything that burns - electric or otherwise - at least three feet away from curtains, newspapers or other flammable items.
- ◆ Never leave the heater unattended or go to bed without turning it off.
- ◆ Keep the heater out of high traffic areas and make sure to place it on a stable surface.
- ◆ Don't hang items to dry on the heater.

<http://mcconeelectric.coop>
McCone Electric's website

McCone Electric Co-op., Inc.
Office Hours
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays
 Telephone 406-485-3430
 or toll-free 1-800-684-3605

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Patti Murphy, Pres. Circle, MT
 Arne Sutton, V.P. Circle, MT
 Ruth Hinnaland, Sec. Brockway, MT
 Conrad Moline, Treas. Brockway, MT
 Dean McCabe Circle, MT
 Henry Green Circle, MT
 Brent McRae Jordan, MT
 Don Bogar Vida, MT
 Brent Kluth Vida, MT

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Mike Kays General Manager
 Theresa Haynie Office Manager
 Nichole Sikveland... Consumer Accts. Supv.
 Jennifer Hogan Plant Accountant
 Sonja Amston Payroll/Accts. Payable
 Kelsy Solberg Billing Clerk
 Donna Lala Cashier / Receptionist
 CJ Reid Member Services Director
 Scot Brown Member Services Advisor

Touchstone Energy[®]
The power of human connections

OPERATING REPORT

McCone Electric Co-op., Inc.
 Year-To-Date
 For Period Ending: November 30, 2011

Total Income	\$6,970,898
G&T Capital Credits	\$62,754
Cost of purchased Power	\$2,778,902
Total Operating Cost	\$3,891,690
Total Margins	\$363,060
KWH Purchased	69,124,709
KWH Sold	62,407,339
Meters Billed	5,097
Miles of Line in Service	3,818

The Trouble Reporting Number is
406-485-3430 or 1-800-684-3605
A dispatcher is available to
answer your call at all times

LINE PERSONNEL

CIRCLE / RICHEY AREA

Larry Schmidt Plant Superintendent
 Jere Loudon Line Foreman
 Dwane Mury Sub Foreman
 Ed Crockett Sub Foreman
 Dennis Murphy Sub Foreman
 Rex Sikveland Sub Foreman
 Bryan Becker Lineman
 Dane Hanson Apprentice Lineman
 Clay Nagle Apprentice Lineman
 Scott Becker Meter Technician

JORDAN AREA

Jim Gibson Sub Foreman
 Jordan Dasinger Lineman
 Jesse Obergfell Apprentice Lineman
 Adam Stanton Apprentice Lineman