

DECEMBER 2024

URECC NEWSLETTER



The holiday season embodies a spirit of generosity and kindness. It's a moment for us to reflect on our countless blessings and support those in need. While this time of year is indeed special, cooperatives such as Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative are committed to giving back to their local communities throughout the entire year.

Our mission focuses on providing reliable power, while our purpose centers around the people we proudly serve—our Members. This commitment drives us to organize blood donation drives, sponsor local events and organizations, and actively engage in the community to create a positive and lasting impact. Your involvement helps us fulfill that purpose as well. URECC's Operation Roundup program thrives thanks to members who choose to "round up" their electric bills to the next dollar amount. Your generous donations assist families in need and support local charitable organizations and community services.

Another way URECC contributes is by investing in the leaders of tomorrow. Through initiatives like our ETREYS Leadership Camp, scholarship opportunities, and the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we aim to empower students for a promising future. By investing in our local youth, we fortify the foundation of our community.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe in recognizing the contributions of our members who shape our cooperative. One way we do this is through capital credits. Since URECC operates at cost, we return margins to our members instead of distributing profits to outside investors or shareholders.

Here's how capital credits work:

URECC members use the electricity we provide and pay their monthly bills, and we track their business with the co-op over time. URECC pays all operating expenses throughout the year, and if any operating revenue is leftover, we allocate it as capital credits. When financial conditions permit, the co-op's board of directors votes to pay capital credits back to the members.

Capital credits are just one of the many benefits of co-op membership. Giving back to our local members instead of outside parties is one of the many aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses.

Our members guide every decision we make and are the reason our co-op exists. To us, you're more than a Member. This holiday season, we hope you're proud to be part of a community-focused co-op that puts people before profits.

From your friends at Upshur Rural Electric Co-op, we hope you have a bright, blessed holiday season.



December is the season of GIVING

Consider signing up for URECF Operation Round Up Today!

For under \$1 a month, support local organizations in meeting youth, education, public safety, health, and emergency service needs.

You can register through the SmartHub app, visit our website at urecc.coop, or reach out to Member Services at 800-259-2536 or 903-843-2536.



OPERATION
ROUND

UP

URECF

A heartfelt thank you to all the Members who have signed up and contributed to the fund. Your generosity makes a real difference, and together, we are working towards strengthening our community for the better.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

December important dates:

- Dec. 1st- Advent begins
- Dec. 2nd- Cyber Monday
- Dec. 7th- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec. 21st- Winter Solstice
- Dec. 24th- Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25th- Christmas Day
- Dec. 25th- Hanukkah Begins
- Dec. 26th- Kwanzaa Begins
- Dec. 31st- New Years Eve

**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**



PAYMENT COUNTER CLOSING DECEMBER 31, 2024

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR MEMBERS
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2024**

URECC IS COMMITTED TO FINDING NEW WAYS TO SAVE MONEY FOR ITS MEMBERS! AS PART OF OUR EFFORTS, WE WANT TO LET YOU KNOW ABOUT AN IMPORTANT CHANGE:

OUR PAYMENT COUNTER WILL BE CLOSING ON DECEMBER 31, 2024.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU:

- **LOBBY REMAINS OPEN: OUR LOBBY WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.**
- **24/7 PAYMENT KIOSKS: OUR KIOSKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AROUND THE CLOCK FOR PAYMENTS.**
- **DRIVE-THRU DROP OFF: YOU CAN STILL DROP OFF PAYMENTS VIA OUR CONVENIENT DRIVE-THRU.**
- **NEW PAYMENT METHOD: VANILLA DIRECT PAY CASH-PAYING MEMBERS CAN NOW TAKE ADVANTAGE OF VANILLA DIRECT PAY FOR ADDED CONVENIENCE.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AS WE CONTINUE TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR ALL OUR MEMBERS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL US AT 903-843-2536 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**UPSHUR RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
"ALWAYS WORKING TO SAVE FOR OUR MEMBERS"**

Ways to pay your bill:

- \$ Bank Draft-** With Bank Draft, there are no convenience fees and you know what day your bill will be paid each month. This is our cheapest payment option.
- \$ Power Pay-** This is a way to pay your bill with NO convenience fees! You can find this on both our Smart Hub app and our website.
- \$ Online-** You can pay through SmartHub on the mobile app or on the web portal.
- \$ By Phone-** Use our secure automatic pay by phone system. Simply dial 855-939-3744 and follow the instructions. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express and electronic check.
- \$ By US Mail-** Please use the envelope provided with your bill.
- \$ MoneyGram-** Go to the MoneyGram website to find the closest bill pay location. For faster posting make sure to use the BLUE Express Payment Form and use receive code 15153.
- \$ VanillaDirect Pay-** This new payment option allows you to pay your bill in cash using a barcode found on your SmartHub app or electric bill. It can be paid at local retailers such as Dollar General, Walgreens, Walmart, and more.
- \$ Kiosks-** Our office is located at 1200 W. Tyler Street in Gilmer. Two kiosks are located in the lobby and available during normal business hours. There is also a kiosk to the left of our main entrance and a fourth kiosk located in our drive thru area. Both of these kiosks are available any time.
- \$ Drop box-** Available in the drive thru 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Merry Christmas AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

URECC will be closed Wednesday, December 25, 2024 in observance of Christmas Day. We will re-open Thursday, December 26th, 2024.

URECC will be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025 in observance of New Years Day. We will re-open Thursday, January 2, 2025.

**The URECC team wishes you
and your loved ones a
joyous and safe Christmas
and New Year!**

Hot Chocolate Fudge bars

Ingredients:

- 2 14 oz. cans sweetened condensed milk, divided
- 2 packets hot chocolate mix
- 2 c. semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 c. white chocolate chips
- 1/2 c. marshmallow bits



Instructions:

- In a microwave-safe bowl, add chocolate chips. Microwave in 1-minute intervals, stirring in between, until fully melted. Combine with one can sweetened condensed milk and 2 packets hot chocolate mix.
- In another microwave-safe bowl, add white chocolate chips and microwave in 20-second intervals, stirring in between, until fully melted. Mix with second can of sweetened condensed milk.
- In a parchment-lined 8"x 8" baking dish, pour hot chocolate mixture. Top with white chocolate mixture, then sprinkle with marshmallow bits.
- Refrigerate for at least 2 hours, or until set. Cut into 1" bars and serve.