

# The NEWS LINE

RUTHERFORD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

www.remccom

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## Is My Portable Space Heater Really Costing Me That Much?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The typical space heater operates at around 1,500 watts, so it consumes around 1.5 kW per hour. This puts their operating cost at a little under 20 cents per hour. I agree, that sounds rather inexpensive for a little warmth, but multiply that by 24 hours of run time each day for 30 days and you have added approximately \$130 to your monthly electric bill. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency, energy needs, and the added costs you're willing to pay for a warm spot in your home.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a very efficient investment. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space

heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from any type of space heater.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns they pose, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills! Be sure to always read the small print on the manufacturer's box so that you don't have unusual expectations. **These heaters can get costly quick!**

If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, visit our website at [remc.com](http://remc.com) for more ideas. As always, Rutherford EMC is here to help you manage your energy use year round.

Source: Abby Berry of NRECA

### What is Wholesale Power & TIER Adjustment?

You may have noticed the Wholesale Power & TIER Adjustment (WPTA) line item on your power bill and wondered what this is for. The Wholesale Power & TIER Adjustment is the component on your electric bill that directly reflects the cost of commodities that are used to generate electricity. We recover these fluctuating costs through the WPTA.

Rutherford EMC's board of directors recently increased the WPTA to \$0.004 per kilowatt-hour [\$4 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours] effective on Jan. 1, 2024.

### TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.





## SWAP SHOP

Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation provides Swap Shop ads as a free service to its members. Guidelines are as follows: Ads are published first-come, first-served. When the space allotted for ads each month is full, remaining ads will be held over for the next issue. Ads will not be run more than once unless re-submitted. Commercial ads will not be accepted. We reserve the right to edit, condense or deny publication of any advertisement. Rutherford Electric Membership Corp. assumes no responsibility for the content of any advertisement and does not endorse or warrant any of the goods so advertised. Please include your account number with your ad.

### Mail your ads to:

Newsletter Editor, Rutherford EMC, PO Box 1569,  
Forest City, NC, 28043-1569 or e-mail at [cbailey@remc.com](mailto:cbailey@remc.com).  
No phone calls, please.

## FOR SALE

**Tires** – (4) Toyo QT size 255/50 R20, good tread, \$125; Poulan chainsaw w/16" bar & case, \$50; 10" Craftsman table saw w/stand & carbide blade, \$120; Gold's Gym inversion table, \$50. 828-738-4075. If no answer leave message.

**1930 vintage 3-piece bedroom set**, fair cond., \$200; Victrola talking machine, record player, asking \$180. Morganton, NC. 828-403-1952.

**Yardbird Plucker** – like new, takes the hassle out of backyard chicken processing, they sell for \$500, asking \$300. Columbus/Tryon area. 828-817-2200.

**Water** totes \$75; metal & plastic drums, \$10; metal cages, \$25; feed barrels \$20; wood splitter, \$1,000. Old saw mill blade, 48", \$150. Hickory, NC. 828-327-4782.

**Hoveround Tekniq FWD power wheelchair**, 2 chargers and 2 extra wheels with tires (new), 2 new tires and tubes. \$750 OBO. Morganton, NC. 828-584-4598

**Split** rail fence; New smoker grill, never used, with extras. Leave a message, 828-584-6589

**Two** plots, side by side, vaults included at Burke

Memorial Park. Spaces 3 & 4 in Lot 39. Asking \$3,500 for these two lots (vaults) and the cost of the transfer fee. Please leave a message, 828-390-9780.

**16-foot** deer stand (attachable to tree). Used, great shape. \$100. 757-903-5767.

**NASCAR** Race programs, 40+ Daytona and Charlotte, early 2000s. Mint condition. Plus Bristol and Brickyard. Some signed. \$175 for all. 704-538-7984.

**CKC** Yorkie-Poos, tails docked, de-dew-clawed. Shih-Poos. Morganton area. 828-433-1374.

**Teddy Bears** – Vintage Heartfelt Collectible Brown Bear with red striped flannel fitted clothes – \$35.00. Vintage Lee Jeans Teddy Bear in original, unopened bag wearing pair of Lee Jeans – \$20.00. Vintage Belkie Musical Bear, plays 5 Christmas songs with light-up heart, original price tag still attached, battery included – \$35.00. Vintage Bear, multi-colored bear – Abigail's on tag still attached and Irmo, SC. \$20.00. Vintage Snowman, stuffed, \$50.00. Vintage, "Pete – The Talking Christmas Beagle", with light-up heart, repeats what you say by pressing his nose, original tag still attached, battery included – \$50.00. Vintage, posable, jointed Brown bear with bear ribbon – \$20.00. 910-233-7877.

**Vinyl Albums** – Elvis "How Great Thou Art" in original jacket \$50.00. "The Blind Bartimaeus" Victor E. Sears, in original jacket – \$35.00. Christy Lane, "Footprints" in original jacket \$50.00. Christy Lane "One Day At a Time" in original jacket – \$50.00. "Joy to the World" Ivan Ditmar, Organ and Chimes in original jacket – \$35.00. Several other albums, from various artists including Pat Boone, Chuck Wagon Gang, and Roger Byrd and the Messengers. Several Christmas albums as well. Prices vary from \$5 to \$15; most in original jackets. 910-233-7877.

**Vinyl** 45's – "Jesus Loves Me" and "Gentle Jesus Meek and Mild" Anne B. Warner, no jacket – \$2.00.

"Why Me Lord" and "Help Me" Kris Kristopherson, no jacket – 3.00. 910-233-7877.

**2007** Utility Trailer, 6' x 10'. Little to no rust. Wood flooring needs replaced. \$750. Call 828-652-2185, leave name and number.

**Two** grave plots/2 burial containers in Westview Garden Cemetery, Gastonia/Bessemer City, Edgewood Rd. Garden of the Well, section 1. \$2,000 + \$95 for deed transfer fee. 980-251-1597.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Free** downed trees for firewood. Oak, maple, ash. Some partially cut. You haul. Gilkey/Rutherfordton. 828-287-3944, please leave message.

**For Free:** Gravesite at Crestview Cemetery in Rural Hall, NC, includes canopy, chairs, concrete vault opening, closing & all fees. 704-860-6039.

**For Sale or Rent:** Available February 17-24, 2024: The Christie Lodge -All Suite Property/Beaver Creek, located in Avon, CO, 1 BR timeshare condo for rent, \$995 per week or \$150 daily, rates are negotiable, sleeps 4, on site & close by amenities, just minutes from Vale, CO, easy transportation to & from the Denver airport. Condo is also for sale as a deeded property w/annual use during Red Winter weeks (mid-December to mid-April). A commission will be paid for assistance with rental or sale. 704-732-8678.

## WANTED

**1-ton** flatbed dump truck, preferably a 90's model Ford. 828-442-6213.

**Chain** link fencing 5ft high. Need 100ft, plus posts, etc. Also private fencing needed. Call or text 704-460-0128.

### BEST BETS FOR

## Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

### UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

### ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



### USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.



### MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT

Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.



### LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).



# Heat Pump Maintenance is A Key Energy Saver

Like all heating and cooling systems, proper maintenance remains the key to efficient heat pump operation. The difference in electric use between a well-maintained heat pump and a severely neglected one ranges from 10-25%!

Remember not to set back a heat pump's thermostat if it causes any back-up heating system to kick on; they are usually more expensive to operate. Continuous indoor fan operation can also hurt heat pump performance unless you use a high-efficiency, variable-speed fan motor. Operate your heat pump with the "auto" fan setting on your thermostat. Typically, when referring to your heat pumps thermostat, it's best to "set it and forget it", instead of changing heat settings often. Adjusting your temperature settings regularly can allow the backup/auxillary heat to operate more often and this means higher operating costs for you.

Clean or change filters once a month, or as needed, and maintain the system according to manufacturer's instructions. Dirty filters, coils, and fans reduce airflow, which will decrease system performance and possibly damage the compressor. Clean outdoor coils whenever they appear dirty; occasionally, turn off power to the fan and clean it; remove vegetation and clutter from around the outdoor unit. Clean the supply and return registers within your home, and straighten their fins if bent.

You should also have a professional technician service your heat pump at least every year. The technician should do the following:

- Inspect ducts, filters, blower, and indoor coils for dirt and other obstructions.
- Diagnose and seal duct leakage.
- Verify adequate airflow by measurement.
- Verify correct refrigerant charge by measurement.
- Check for refrigerant leaks.
- Inspect electric terminals, and, if necessary, clean and tighten connections, and apply non-conductive coating.
- Lubricate motors and inspect belts for tightness and wear.
- Verify correct electric control, making sure that heating is locked out when the thermostat calls for cooling and vice versa.
- Verify correct thermostat operation.

To learn more about heat pumps, visit [energysavers.gov](https://energysavers.gov).

Source: [EnergySavers.gov](https://energysavers.gov)

## Apply for a Touchstone Energy Scholarship and Attend Basketball Camp **FREE** this Summer!

Parents, do you have a middle schooler who loves to take it to the hoop and wants to gain experience training alongside real college basketball players and coaches? If so, we have great news for you!

Rutherford EMC is now accepting applications for full scholarships to basketball camps at two North Carolina Universities this summer. Young men can apply for a scholarship to attend the Carolina Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and young women can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp held at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Each Touchstone Energy cooperative in the state awards scholarships to students in their local area annually, one to a young

man and one to a young woman. Want your middle schooler to have an opportunity to be the winner? Have them apply today!

Applicants must be a rising sixth or seventh grader at a qualifying school in North Carolina. Rutherford EMC will select winners for each camp based upon academics, extracurricular activities and a short essay. The application process is in full swing and all applications must be completed online by March 31.

For more information or to apply visit [ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps](https://ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps) and take it to the hoop this summer!





# Fire Extinguishers: A Little Preparation Can Go a Long Way

Cooking and home heating are the two leading causes of house fires. A house fire can happen in just seconds: in one instant, you could go from preparing dinner to watching flames spring up from the stovetop. According to the National Fire Protection Association, approximately 78% of all reported structure fires occur in homes. In the right hands, a household fire extinguisher can save lives and protect property should a small fire start.

Fire extinguishers should be placed in easily-accessible areas of the home, close to where they might be needed (such as in a kitchen, garage, or bedroom). Some basic rules to keep in mind when using household fire extinguishers:



1. If the fire is not spreading and remains confined to a small area, use the appropriate type of extinguisher. Select a multi-purpose extinguisher (rated A, B, or C) with the UL mark that can be used on all types fires such as wood, cloth, paper, flammable liquids (gasoline, oil, grease, oil-based paint), and energized electrical equipment including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers and appliances.
2. Know both your limits and that of the fire extinguisher.
3. Periodically inspect your extinguishers to determine if they need to be recharged or replaced. Extinguishers need to be recharged or replaced after each use—even if you haven't used the entire extinguishing agent. Check the gauge on the fire extinguisher for this information.
4. When operating a fire extinguisher, stand at least 6 feet away from the fire and keep your back to a door so you can escape easily, if necessary.

## Remember the word PASS:

- **P**ull the pin, hold the extinguisher away from you and release the locking mechanism.
- **A**im low, pointing the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- **S**weep the nozzle from side to side.

When making the decision to use a fire extinguisher, always keep in mind that fire extinguishers for home use are not designed to fight large or spreading fires. In these situations getting out safely is your number one priority.

*Source: Underwriters Laboratories & National Safety Council*



## Tackling Those Home Improvement Projects May Have Gotten Just a Little Easier

Apply for an Energy Efficiency Loan with Electel

Did you know that Rutherford EMC members are eligible for membership with Electel Cooperative Federal Credit Union? Electel is an ideal source for financing energy efficiency related projects as well as products for your home. Loans are available for many residential improvements that may save you energy and money.

The energy efficiency loans are primarily available to residential dwelling property owners only. This may include family residences, duplexes, and owner-occupied condominiums. Energy efficient improvements may include electric heat pumps, weather stripping, electric/solar water heaters, insulation, windows, doors, and other solar or energy star related items. Apply for membership today at [electel.org](http://electel.org) or call them at 1-800-849-5600 and see what they have to offer you!