

Spotlight



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Efficiency upgrade saves energy, dollars

Mark and Peggy Sulfridge put their house on a diet this summer, with a little help from Jackson Energy.

Energy efficiency upgrades recommended by Energy Advisor Roger Medlock cut an average of 26% from their monthly energy usage. The couple are also seeing extra money in their household budget, even after paying for the upgrades through a financing program on their electric bill.

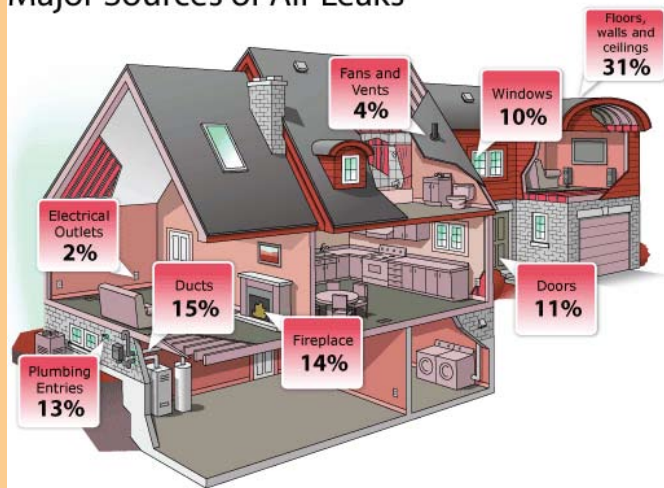
The upgrades, says Peggy Sulfridge, were long overdue on the house, which was built more than 30 years ago. The energy overhaul included adding more insulation, energy efficient windows and a high efficiency heat pump.

While Kentucky's electric rates are lower than the national average, residential bills are higher than the national average, which means Kentucky homes use more electricity than homes in other states. In other words, if many Kentucky home owners, like the Sulfridges, make energy efficiency upgrades, they could see similar savings on their energy usage.

"We replaced our old windows and also added insulation in the floor and ceiling to the levels that are recommended by Jackson Energy," Sulfridge adds. They also upgraded their 30-some-year-old heat pump.

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Major Sources of Air Leaks




JACKSON ENERGY'S HOW\$MART program can help you make your home more energy efficient. Qualifying home owners can make energy efficiency upgrades that will stop air leaks and make their home more comfortable. Air leaks, above, let conditioned air escape and raise your energy bills. One of the first steps to finding air leaks is to have a blower door test on your home. JEC Energy Advisor Roger Medlock, left, sets up a blower door.

Jackson Energy

Working for You

SPOTLIGHT

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Karen Combs CCC, Editor

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The Year of the Co-op

Last year, the U.S. Senate - building off similar action by the United Nations General Assembly - designated 2012 as International Year of Cooperatives. As a result, cooperatives everywhere are celebrating our unique not-for-profit, member-owned and -controlled business model.

Because of that business model of your local electric co-op, you and everyone else who receives its electric service are members, not a customers.

Because you and your fellow members govern how Jackson Energy operates, the top priority remains providing safe and reliable service and keeping your electric bills affordable. Local control also means your co-op is in the business of improving the quality of life in the local communities it serves, from offering college scholarships to advice on how you can make your home or business more energy efficient.

Electric co-ops are just one type of cooperative operating in America. Dairy cooperatives produce nearly 90 percent of our nation's milk. Credit unions are cooperatives, too, with more than 8,000 across the country serving 91 million consumers. You can also find housing, hardware, and even funeral co-ops.

Some agricultural marketing co-operatives have become household

names: Sunkist, Ocean Spray, and Blue Diamond Almonds, for example.

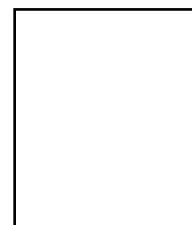
Together, all of us are a key part of our local economy. Jackson Energy provides good jobs to folks who live right here - your neighbors and friends. Your local electric co-op delivers goods and services that keep our communities humming.

Jackson Energy regularly gets involved with helping our schools and community organizations.

The user-owned, not-for-profit nature of the co-op business model means that Jackson Energy's overriding goal is to provide you with the best deal on the most reliable service possible.

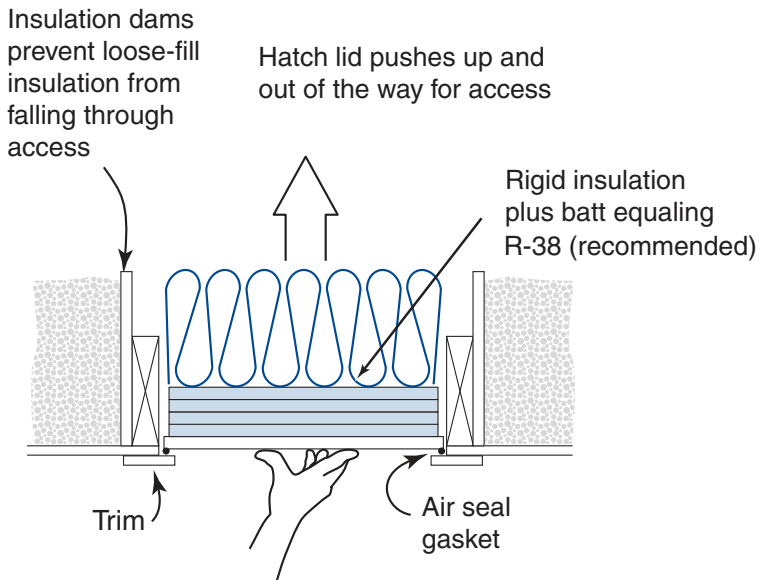
While not a new concept - Benjamin Franklin started the first cooperative, the Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire, in 1752 (it still operates today) - the cooperative form of business continues as an integral part of our lives each day.

That's why at Jackson Energy, we like to say we're Working for You.



Don Schaefer
President & CEO

Attic Hatch



INSULATING PULL-DOWN attic stairs, as recommended in the above diagram, can help eliminate a major air leak in many homes.

Insulation stops air leaks

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WHERE TO BEGIN

Sulfridge says Roger Medlock, a Jackson Energy energy advisor, was instrumental in helping them through the process.

Medlock did a blower door test of the house, which pinpoints problem area and air leaks.

One of the major culprits for sucking air and energy dollars out of the house turned out to be the pull down stairs for the attic, Sulfridge says.

Part of their upgrades included building an insulated box around the stairs, which will stop heat loss this winter.

When the work was finished, Sulfridge says it was "exciting to open our first bill and still see that we had saved while also financing the new additions. That was great."

As a result of the upgrades, the Sulfridges are saving an average of 520 kWh per month on their energy bills.

"When we purchased our home in 2000," Sulfridges adds, "we added a few inches of insulation, but not to the levels recommended by Jackson Energy... I see now that if we had taken these steps at that time, we could have saved a lot of money over the years."

Co-op programs help pay for energy upgrades

JACKSON ENERGY MEMBERS

can get help with paying for energy efficiency upgrades through the following rebates and programs.

Heat Pump Tune-Up - A heat pump tune-up includes a check of your heat pump system and some minor repairs to the duct-work. There is a \$50 charge per HVAC unit, but the total work completed is valued at more than \$300. As a result of the work, air leaks through the duct work is usually reduced to 10% or less.

Button Up - Install additional insulation or other weatherization upgrades to reduce the heat loss in the home, and Jackson Energy will help you pay for the upgrades with a rebate.

The home must be two years old or older and have electric heat. The maximum rebates for the Button Up program is \$300.

How\$martKY - Qualifying home owners can finance energy efficiency upgrades on their electric bill. The upgrades can include adding new windows, upgrading insulation levels and installing a new energy efficient heat pump.

For more information on these and other program, log on to www.jacksonenergy.com, or call 1 800-262-7480.

Operation Round-Up funds projects

Funding youth programs and community projects has been a focus for Jackson Energy's Operation Round-Up program since it began in 2003.

High Mountain Equine Outreach, which offers local young people the opportunity to learn skills by working with horses, recently received a \$1,500 Operation Round-Up grant.

More than \$100,000 doanted

Since the voluntary program began in 2003, more than \$100,000 has been donated to area non-profit groups and community projects.

Operation Round-Up funds are donated by Jackson Energy members, who voluntarily have their electric account rounded up to an even dollar amount each month. For example if a bill was \$135.62, the bill would be rounded to \$136 and the extra 38¢ would be donated to the Round-Up fund.

Any individual or community group can apply for funding, and grant applications are reviewed each quarter by a seven-member board made up of co-op members.

For more information, log on to www.jacksonenergy.com or call 1 800-262-7480.



JACKSON ENERGY'S Operation Round-Up program recently presented a \$1,500 grant to the High Mountain Equine Outreach program in Jackson County. The program offers equine programs to area young people. Presenting the check to High Mountain Equine representatives Christie and Mitch Schumacher were Jackson Energy Directors Jim Hays III, left, and Dale Madden, right.



Deadline to apply for the 2012 JEC Scholarship program is March 1

Looking for a way to pay for college? Jackson Energy would like to help with a \$1,200 scholarship.

Applications are now being accepted for the Scholarship Essay Program. For more information, contact Haley McCoy at 1 800-262-7480, ext. 1226.