

# MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2022



734 Barlow Road  
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Fort Morgan, CO 80701



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customerservice@mcrea.org



mcrea.org



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## MCREA Mission

Morgan County REA, a member-owned cooperative, is dedicated to serving our members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## 2022 MORGAN COUNTY REA SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE APPROACHING

Through partnerships with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Morgan County REA is proudly sponsoring a total of nine college or vocational scholarships for students who reside within MCREA's service territory, and whose family (parents or grandparents) receives electric service from MCREA. For the 2021–2022 school year, MCREA will award five \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors and one \$1,000 scholarship to a current postsecondary student who will be returning to college or trade school. Tri-State will award two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors, and Basin Electric will award one \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior.

All completed application materials must be postmarked or delivered to MCREA headquarters by Friday, February 18, 2022. Applications can be picked up at MCREA headquarters or downloaded from the website at [mcrea.org/college-scholarships](http://mcrea.org/college-scholarships). (Mike Klenda acct. #xxx9300) Only one set of application materials is necessary to apply for scholarships from all

three cooperatives. Students applying for the \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a current college or trade school student do not need to be previous MCREA scholarship winners to qualify.

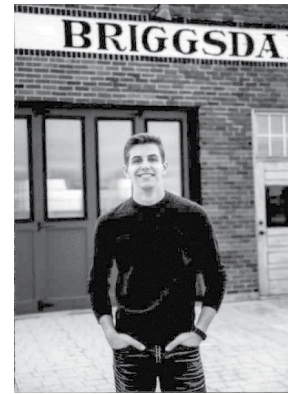
Scholarship application materials may be delivered to the MCREA office or mailed to:

**Morgan County REA**

**Attn: Scholarship Committee**

**P.O. Box 738, Fort Morgan, CO 80701**

More information regarding these scholarship opportunities can be found at MCREA headquarters, your school's counseling office, or by going to [mcrea.org/college-scholarships](http://mcrea.org/college-scholarships). If you have any questions regarding MCREA scholarship opportunities, please call the member services department at 970-867-5688.



Wyatt Patton, Briggsdale, was selected as the winner of last year's post-secondary scholarship.

## MCREA CONDUCTING POLE INSPECTIONS

Morgan County REA will be conducting pole inspections in its service territory, utilizing independent third-party contractors. The independent contractors are tentatively scheduled to begin inspecting MCREA electric poles sometime in January, and are expected to run through March.

These crews will be seen on four-wheelers around MCREA poles and infrastructure and they are authorized by MCREA to conduct their inspections. Inspectors will also have photo IDs that identify them as authorized contractors for MCREA.

Information regarding pole inspections can be found at [mcrea.org](http://mcrea.org). If any consumer-members have questions about the pole inspections, please call MCREA headquarters at 970-867-5688.



## Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill

Each month, Morgan County REA gives two lucky consumer-members a chance at a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*.

Congrats Erin Rix (acct. #xxx9200) and Pat Jakel (acct. #xxx3200)! You each spotted your names in the November issue and received a \$25 bill credit. There are two more MCREA consumer-member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call MCREA member services at 970-867-5688 by January 31 to claim a \$25 credit on your bill.



January 2022

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system. Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

*Source: Department of Energy*

## STAY TOASTY AND WARM WHILE TURNING DOWN THE THERMOSTAT



When the winter winds blow, it is tempting to adjust the thermostat up a few degrees to stay toasty and warm. However, turning to other (FREE!) ways to help keep you warm could help reduce your energy bills.



Each degree you reduce your thermostat saves 1% on your heating bill. No one home during the day? Adjust your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting to save up to 10% annually.

*Source: Department of Energy*



## Here are ways to help you stay warm when it is cold outside:



Bundle up by wearing layers and heavy socks

Get your body moving and stay active

Use blankets while sitting still

Caulk windows and door frames that leak air



Replace or update old or ineffective door seals



Make sure your home's heating system is working properly

Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly



Let the sun shine in during the day and close window coverings at night



Reduce how long you use ventilation fans (they transfer warm air outside)



Keep a fireplace damper closed when not in use

Humidify your home to make the air feel warmer



If you use a portable space heater, use it safely and for short amounts of time. Using one for extended periods can cause your energy bill to spike since it draws a lot of power.

Learn more at:

**Safe  
Electricity.org®**



## MCREA Employees Recognized for Years of Service

Accepting years of service pins at the December party are (left to right): Alan Mason, Suzi Iungerich, Tammy Walker, Cirildo Estrada and Amanda Green.

Morgan County REA honored a handful of employees with years of service pins at its December employee Christmas party. Each of these individuals plays a significant role in helping the cooperative best serve its consumer-members. Congratulations to the following:

- 40 years – Rodney Rhoades
- 25 years – Brad Boppre
- 15 years – Amanda Green
- 15 years – Curtis Berg
- 15 years – Cirildo Estrada
- 10 years – Alan Mason
- 10 years – Angie Larson
- 5 years – Tim Hishinuma
- 5 years – Tucker Jochim
- 5 years – Tammy Walker
- 5 years – Suzi Iungerich



## SIGN UP FOR MORGAN COUNTY REA'S “PULLOUT LIST”

Do you have equipment capable of helping Morgan County REA personnel and vehicles stuck in heavy snow, mud or other extreme conditions? Consider adding your name to MCREA's pullout list.

While MCREA certainly hopes that outages don't occur during inclement weather, situations may arise where MCREA crews need assistance from consumer-members — primarily with pulling out stuck equipment. (Taylor Cummings acct. #xxx9600) The pullout list was created with this in mind, and MCREA is looking to update that list with new and existing volunteers.

MCREA asks any consumer-members with the necessary equipment to assist in adverse conditions to provide updated contact information so the co-op can contact you quickly should the need arise. MCREA will provide compensation when pullouts are performed, and we greatly appreciate consumer-members being willing to help our crews. If you are interested in being added to the list, please call the MCREA office or sign up online at [mcrea.org/outage-center](http://mcrea.org/outage-center).



# ARE PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS EFFICIENT FOR MY HOME?

BY ABBY BERRY

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; this can take a toll on energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, such as 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 great next step. Loose-fill insulation typically costs \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. 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.

Use a space heater only 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 come with a general sizing table.

**A word about safety:** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 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 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 space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm such as 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 appeal — and improve warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember, in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.

If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, contact MCREA's member services department at 970-867-5688. We're here to help you manage your energy use.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



## 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.

