

Troubleshoot Energy Leaks to Trim Electric Bills

REC's energy advisors inspect homes to help members find ways to save

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) energy management advisors, Rich Mialki and Jim Bennett, provide expert advice through a service offered to all REC members: energy consultations and audits. Their goal is to take a close look at a residence and the energy-use habits of its occupants to help them find ways to reduce monthly electric bills and improve home comfort.

“Air that transfers in and out of homes through cracks, crevices and holes can increase energy consumption,” said Bennett. “If you track kilowatt-hour use it tells the story. If you reduce kilowatt-hours, you keep dollars and cents down.”

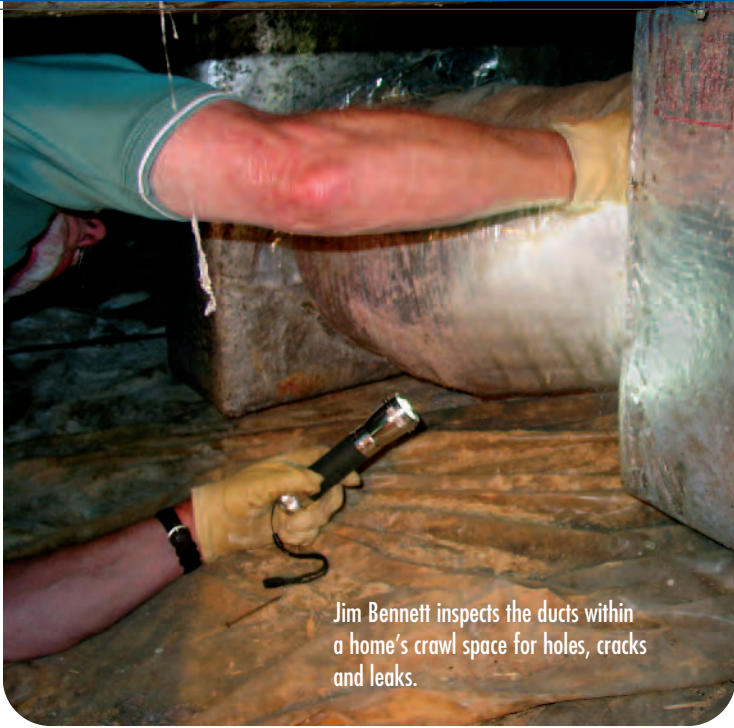
Air sealing is one of the best energy efficiency improvements you can make to your home. It will not just reduce energy costs but will also improve your home's comfort and durability. Air infiltrates in and out of your home through every hole, nook and cranny. About one-third of this air infiltrates through openings in your ceilings, walls and floors.

On average, simple home weatherization projects, like air sealing, can help reduce heating bills by 32 percent and overall energy bills by about \$350 per year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. The upfront investment in energy efficient upgrades can vary, although energy advisors like Mialki and Bennett can ensure money gets spent wisely.

REC's energy advisors are professionals trained to find specific inefficiencies in a home or business. Working through a checklist they can determine what areas of the home are using the most energy and pinpoint those areas and suggest the most effective measures for cutting your energy costs.

“All homes are unique,” Bennett relates. “It's just a matter of evaluation. I'll talk to members, find out what they do, how they use energy, and narrow things down from there.”

Rich Mialki sets up a blower-door test during a diagnostic audit for a member.



Jim Bennett inspects the ducts within a home's crawl space for holes, cracks and leaks.

REC offers free energy phone consultations and several types of in-depth energy audits for members, for a fee. Through REC's Web site members can complete a do-it-yourself home energy audit by entering information specific to their home. Members can also refer to the latest e-newsletter, *Your Energy Connection*, for a complete e-library on money-saving tips. If members prefer an audit from one of REC's energy advisors, they have some choices. All of the audits include a visual examination of the home. The advisors point out the areas where members can improve their energy efficiency. As accessibility permits, they inspect for sources of air infiltration throughout the home, insulation levels and any noted defects, the condition of the HVAC system, and condition of windows and doors. Members also receive a report of their findings and a list of suggested improvements.

A diagnostic audit involves the use of a blower-door test, duct-leakage equipment and a thermal-imaging camera to better identify the sources of energy loss in the home. We also offer home energy ratings. These involve an on-site inspection by a certified home energy ratings system (HERS) professional. Mialki, REC's HERS rater, inspects homes and measures the energy characteristics, such as insulation levels, window efficiency, wall-to-window ratios, the heating-and-cooling-system efficiency, and the solar orientation of the home. Performance testing such as a blower-door test and duct leakage are used. The home receives a point score based on its relative efficiency. An estimate of the home's energy costs is also provided. Homeowners who want to upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes can use the energy rating to evaluate and pinpoint specific, cost-effective improvements.

To schedule an energy audit or a home energy rating, call 800-552-3904 or e-mail us at energyexpert@myrec.coop. We will schedule a time for an REC energy advisor to visit you.

Energy advisors like Bennett and Mialki agree; whether it's a new house or old, large or small, there are always inefficiencies to be found. •



Sources of Air Leaks in Your Home

Areas that leak air into and out of your home cost you lots of money. Check the areas listed below.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 Dropped ceiling | 7 Door frames |
| 2 Recessed light | 8 Chimney flashing |
| 3 Attic entrance | 9 Window frames |
| 4 Sill plates | 10 Electrical outlets and switches |
| 5 Water and furnace flues | 11 Plumbing and utility access |
| 6 All ducts | |

OPERATION ROUND UP® ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Applications are now available online and in the lobby of REC's three offices to request funds from Operation Round Up®. These funds have been made available by members who volunteer to have their electric bills rounded up to the next whole dollar, with the extra change dedicated to charitable causes. Not-for-profit charities and organizations are encouraged to apply for funds. All applications must be postmarked by Saturday, May 29.

The Cooperative Difference:

Is your name on this list?

Please check the following list of Unclaimed Capital Credits to see if your name is included. If you see your name, or have information on how to locate someone on the list, call 800-552-3904 and speak with a customer service representative. With your help, we can locate those listed and deliver their checks. If the member or other person legally entitled to the Capital Credit does not claim his or her money within 120 days from publication of the listing, this patronage capital becomes the sole property of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative.

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Beck, Ruby H
Bell, Peggy B
Belt, George H
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Borntreger, Levi T
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Briggs, Sylvia G
Brooks, Rose F
Brown, Karen L
Bryant, Lynn
Bundy, Marjorie O
Bures, William G
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Cannon, Lucy S
Carmel Church Corp.
Carroll, Craig L
Carter Bros. Gulf Ser.
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Checkered Flag Equipment Sale
Chenault, Winnie
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Heflin, Charles
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Hunt, Aubrey F

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Jake's Country Stores Inc.
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Javid, Jay
Jay J Fuels Inc.
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Jenkins, Joseph L
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Jones, Carlton S
Jones, Richard Hunter
Jones, Robert R
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Kidd, Dianah M
Kirkpatrick, Helen W
Knight, Michael W
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Kramer, Thomas J
L A Clarke & Son Inc.
Leadbetter, Debbie
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Lydon, Michael Edward
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Macnay, Donald L MD
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Martin, Frederick William
Martin, Gloria Mary
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Melton, James W Sr.
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Mickelsen, Paul R
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Payne, Sylvia
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Policano, Larry Samuel
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Spires, Edward F
Sprague, Peter Fuller
Stewart, John H

Stirling, Ray M
Story, Warren L
Strang III, Harvey L
Swartz, Richard Lee
Sydnor, Donna M
Tamony, Joseph M
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The Spotsylvania Co. Inc.
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Tillman, Kay
Tinsley, Ariel E
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Triplet Milling Co.
Trotter, Colleen
U S Trans. System Inc.
Umet Trust
United Telesystems Inc.
Vaapco Inc.
Vanscyoc, William John
Vaughan, Charles
Virginia Granite Company
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Waldron, Monika B
Walnut Hill Farm
Walsh, William G
Warren IV, George Wm
Washington Lumber Co.
Washington, Earnest G
Wayland Sr., George E
Wayne Homes LLC.
Williams, James E
Williams, John E
Wilmore, Marie M
Withers Enterprises
Witt, John Temple
Woodson, Sam
Wren, Barbara
Wright, Gloria L
Yowell, Everett H

How Safe Is Your Home?

Protect your home from dangerous power surges

Power surges and transient spikes can be devastating. That's something that over 6,000 of your fellow REC members have known for a long time and that's why they have enrolled in REC's HomeGuard® Surge Protection Program. Before the next storm season rolls around, why not make sure you have this proven system in your home? Safeguard your home with one of the best surge-protection systems available.



HOMEGUARD FEATURES:

- **Stops transient power surges* and helps save appliances and electronics from irreparable damage.**
**Brief, but extreme, burst of energy that can be caused by lightning*
- **Offers two-stage protection from both the meter and outlets for extra safety and assurance.**
- **Provides equipment that meets stringent UL guidelines.**
- **Guarantees a solid replacement-cost warranty for any properly connected equipment it fails to protect.**
- **Devices have a lifetime warranty themselves in addition to the customer's equipment.**

HomeGuard basic home starter kit consists of a tough meter-base-mounted surge protector for the exterior of your home and a package of five additional surge suppressors for inside. Protect your home today for as little as \$5.95 per month depending on the installation package you choose. Call 800-851-3275 or order online at <https://www.myrec.coop/store>. •

HOMEGUARD®



HOMEGUARD® SURGE PROTECTION

- 1 TWO-STAGE PROTECTION**
- 2 REPAIR-OR-REPLACE LIFETIME WARRANTY**
- 3 ONE CALL TO REC HANDLES IT ALL!**

 **Rappahannock Electric Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

800.851.3275
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Monday - Friday
www.myrec.coop



Boy Scout Troop 789, Beaverdam, purchased a camping trailer with ORU-awarded funds.



**YOUR
Small Change
MAKES A
Big Difference.**

With the support of 1,895 Rappahannock Electric Cooperative members, **Operation Round Up®** (ORU) was able to raise just over \$10,000 in 2009. Through the Community Awareness of Rappahannock Electric Charity, Inc. (C.A.R.E. Charity, Inc.), ORU was able to help two worthy non-profit organizations in 2009.

2009 FINANCIAL REPORT

Sign-up efforts continue, and as more REC members volunteer to have their electric bills rounded up to the next whole dollar, ORU will be able to assist more non-profits and individuals. Yearly contributions average \$6 per member and are tax deductible.

Below is the C.A.R.E. Charity, Inc., financial report for 2009. Thank you for your support, and if you are not a monthly contributor to Operation Round Up, please consider calling our office, checking the box on your bill-payment stub, or enrolling online at www.myrec.coop.

2009 Community Awareness of Rappahannock Electric Charity, Inc. Financial Report

Balance forward from 2008	\$ 2,676.25
2009 Donations	\$10,075.98
2009 Outside Donations	\$ 5,904.46
2009 Disbursements	
Organizations (2)	\$12,200.00
Total Disbursements	\$12,200.00
Expenses	\$ 25.00
Balance	\$ 6,431.69



Beaverdam Fire Company makes use of stoves purchased with ORU funds.

**"I never thought
it would happen
where I live."**

CRIME SCENE

**21,811 violent crimes
were reported in Virginia
in 2008 and 44.9%
occurred in the home.**

Are You Alarmed?

www.RappahannockSecurity.com

Services Offered:

- Fire, smoke & heat monitoring
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ENERGY INNOVATION: ASK THE ENERGY EXPERT


AIR CONDITIONING




By Rich Mialki Jr.

Did you know you can lose up to 60 percent of your cooled air before it reaches the register if your ducts aren't insulated or are leaking and if air travels through unconditioned spaces such as the attic or crawlspace? Leaking cooled air into unconditioned spaces can add hundreds of dollars to your energy bills. Insulating ducts that are in unconditioned spaces is usually very cost effective. Sealing your ducts to prevent leaks is even more important if the ducts are located in unconditioned areas like the attic or vented crawl space. Visit our Web site at www.myrec.coop and click on the Save Energy tab. We have many helpful do-it-yourself guides under the energy links section on how to weatherize your home by doing simple projects like sealing air leaks. •






ONE
SMALL
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X 103,376.



**Rappahannock
Electric Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Flip a switch. Screw in a CFL.
Actually program your programmable thermostat. It all pays off. For all 103,376 of us. What can you do?
Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



OFFICE
CLOSING
MEMORIAL
DAY

In honor of Memorial Day, our offices will be closed on Monday, May 31. If you experience an outage or power emergency during this time, our dispatch department is always available 24 hours a day to take your call.



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