



# CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

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## Energy Efficient WINDOWS

**Q** My windows are old and drafty, and I'm thinking about replacing them. Can you recommend a few options I should consider?

**A**

Upgrading or improving your windows is an important component of your home's energy efficiency. According to the Department of Energy, heat gain and loss through windows consumes 25% to 30% of residential heating and cooling energy use.

Start by identifying the kind of windows you have. Are they single pane or double pane? Looking closely at the window's edge, you can see the number of windowpanes. Are the frames metal, wood, or vinyl? Some manufacturers etch the make and model numbers in a corner of the glass, so you can look up the manufacturer for more information.

Single-pane windows and double-pane windows with metal frames are the least energy efficient. The lower the efficiency of your existing windows, the higher the potential for energy savings.

There are several options for improving your windows, ranging from replacement windows to storm windows to budget-friendly repairs.

### Window Efficiency

Several components can make windows more efficient. High-quality frame materials insulate and reduce heat transfer. Two or more panes of glass with space in between (filled with air or gas) improve the window's insulation capability. Warm edge spacers hold the panes of glass the proper distance apart and help insulate the edges of the panes. Low-emissivity coatings applied to the glass can reflect infrared light, keeping the heat in during the winter and out during the summer.

Window efficiency is rated in U-factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient, or SHGC. U-factor measures heat transfer through the window, which relates to how well it insulates. The lower the U-factor, the more efficient the window. The SHGC measures how effectively the window blocks heat from the sun.

### Replacement and Maintenance

If you want to replace your existing windows, I recommend shopping for ENERGY STAR®-certified windows. ENERGY STAR® sets specific U-factor and SHGC requirements based on your geography, so you get the best fit for your location. Replacement windows offer additional benefits, like improved operability and aesthetics. As with many industries, the window industry has been impacted by price increases over the past few years, so keep in mind, this can be an expensive upgrade.

Storm windows are a lower-cost solution for some homes. Traditional storm windows are made with clear glass. Low emissivity

storm windows have energy savings similar to replacement windows at about a third of the cost.

Storm windows are mounted to the interior or exterior and are available in operable styles, so you can still open and close your windows. Look for ENERGY STAR®-certified models.

If you want to maintain the historic architecture of your existing windows, low-e storm windows are a great option. Some companies can refit your existing window frames with custom double-pane glass and weatherstripping.

As with any home improvement project, be sure to get multiple quotes to compare pricing and scope of work. You may find additional savings with rebates from your electric co-op, or state or federal tax credits for window upgrades.

If new windows or storm windows are not in the budget, your best bet is to maintain your existing windows. Keep the paint and caulking on the exterior in good condition. That will help prevent damage from the elements. Caulk around the inside trim, ensure sash locks are installed properly and seal tight when locked. There are a variety of weatherstripping types for windows to keep drafts at bay.

Whether you replace or make improvements to what you have, adding efficiency to your windows will add year-round comfort to your home.

*Miranda Boutelle is the chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company.*

# COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERS APPLICATION

(Please limit your information to this sheet)

## ARE YOU A LEADER? IN YOUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY?

### Our Cooperative Youth Leaders program

offers the tools and knowledge that will enable you to sharpen your leadership skills in your classroom, community, church, and family. Since 1986, students in Mississippi have competed for the opportunity to participate in this unique leadership program. This program is an educational and fun experience that makes a lasting impact on young people.

Our program is for high school juniors interested in enhancing their leadership skills.

Once you are selected as a Central Electric representative, you will attend:

#### Cooperative Leaders Workshop

The three-day workshop features a true cooperative learning atmosphere. More than 80 students from across the state will experience cooperative team-building exercises, a breakfast with their legislators, a visit to the Capitol, a town hall meeting, and motivational speakers. We will also have time for games and interaction between the students.

You will have the opportunity to earn a \$500 or \$1,000 scholarship.

#### Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

Each year, Mississippi's student delegation joins more than 1,800 high school juniors from 44 states across the nation at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., where they learn about cooperatives and rural electrification from a national perspective.

The Youth Tour is a wonderful sightseeing experience that also offers an opportunity for making new friends.

The Youth Tour is organized by the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi (ECM) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

#### It is an honor to be selected

The group of young Mississippians participating in the program represent electric cooperatives across the state. Students are selected through various forms of competition conducted by the local cooperatives.

Annually, more than 1,000 young people are involved in the program selection process statewide

#### Cost

Students' expenses for both events are funded entirely by Central Electric. There are no hidden costs; Central Electric pays for all travel, lodging, meals, educational materials, and admission fees. Our support of the program demonstrates a commitment to our young people and a desire to provide an effective, high-quality leadership program to help prepare them for life's challenges.

#### How to get involved

Central Electric's Cooperative Youth Leaders program Director will contact an official at each of our local schools and provide program details. If you are interested in being a representative, contact your school guidance counselor or fill out and return the application on the following page.

Are you currently a high school junior and your parent(s) or legal guardian receives electric service from Central Electric Power Association? If so, you are eligible to apply to represent Central Electric Power Association in the Cooperative Leaders Workshop February 21-23, 2024, and the NRECA Washington, D.C., Youth Tour June 17-22, 2023.

#### Cooperative Youth Leaders program guidelines

1. Applicant must be a high school junior (11th grade) whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) receives electric service from Central Electric Power Association.
2. The top applicants will be selected by an independent panel of judges to participate in an interview process. Following the interview process, winners will be selected to represent Central Electric Power Association in the Cooperative Leaders Workshop in Jackson and the NRECA Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.
3. If selected, student must commit to attend both the Cooperative Leaders Workshop February 21-23, 2024, in Jackson, MS and the NRECA Youth Tour, June 17-22, 2024, in Washington, D.C.
4. Application must be filled out by the student and postmarked by **Friday, September 22, 2023**. Please email your application to [jcpatterson@centralepa.com](mailto:jcpatterson@centralepa.com) or mail to:

#### Cooperative Youth Leaders

Attn: Jessica Patterson  
Central Electric Power Association  
Post Office Box 477  
Carthage, MS 39051



*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer*

Please contact Central Electric's youth leadership program coordinator if you have any questions.  
**Jessica Patterson, program director**  
601-267-5671 • [jcpatterson@centralepa.com](mailto:jcpatterson@centralepa.com)

Like our Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Cooperative Youth Leaders page [www.facebook.com/ECMYLP](https://www.facebook.com/ECMYLP) and follow us on Instagram [@msyouthleaders](https://www.instagram.com/msyouthleaders).

Student's full name \_\_\_\_\_

Name student goes by \_\_\_\_\_

Student's mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Student's 911 address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) or legal guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Name Central EPA bill is listed in \_\_\_\_\_

Account number \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Student's t-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/legal guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any school and community activities/memberships and leadership positions:

Please list any awards or special recognition:

What are your college and career goals?

What are two characteristics of a good leader and why?

What is an interesting fact about yourself?



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