



CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

A tradition of dependable, hometown service since 1937

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CO-OPS POWER COMMUNITIES *with Purpose*

by Abby Berry

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity; some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Central Electric is deeply committed to our consumer-members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

This month, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For Central Electric, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including Central Electric, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement.

These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At Central Electric, this happens through paying your energy bills.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
- 5. Education, Training, and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.
- 7. Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people — the local communities we're proud to serve.

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



Find hidden ENERGY SAVINGS AND EXTRA STORAGE in your attic

Q Do you have any tips on finding hidden energy savings in my home?

by Miranda Boutelle

Using your attic for storage can be problematic when trying to maximize your home's energy efficiency. Let's explore how you can improve insulation levels and properly store items in your attic. Attic insulation is one of the best low-cost ways to make your home efficient. People often associate insulation with keeping your home warmer in the winter, but it also provides benefits in the summer. Insulation reduces heat transfer from the attic to the house, which lowers energy bills for air conditioning and makes your home more comfortable.

A I've been in a lot of homes. One common hiding spot for energy savings is the attic. It is also a common location for storing holiday decorations and infrequently used sentimental items.

Attic insulation is measured in R-value, which is a measurement of how well a material resists the flow of heat. For attic insulation, thicker is better. The recommended R-value is typically between R-38 and R-60, depending on your climate. Hawaii and the southernmost tips of Florida and Texas recommend R-30. Measured in inches, that ranges from around 10 to 20 inches, depending on the type of insulation you have. In most homes, the ceiling joists are buried in insulation to achieve the recommended R-value.

The problem with attic storage is it typically doesn't offer enough space for the recommended R-value. Often, plywood or boards are placed directly on top of the ceiling joists, which isn't enough space for the insulation. Insulation can get compacted by people moving items in or out, reducing the effective R-value.

Ideally, the attic would not be used for storage so it can be properly insulated, but that's not feasible for everyone. Here are some strategies for maintaining attic storage and recommended insulation levels.

The best location for attic storage is over an unconditioned area of your home, such as the garage. You don't need insulation in attic spaces over a garage or unconditioned area because you are not heating or cooling the space below. This makes it the perfect spot to tuck away items for storage.

If that isn't an option, consider minimizing the number of stored items or the storage area's footprint. A great way to do this is by building an attic storage platform. A raised platform allows the space underneath it to be fully insulated. These platforms are available in ready-to-install kits, or you can buy materials and build them yourself.

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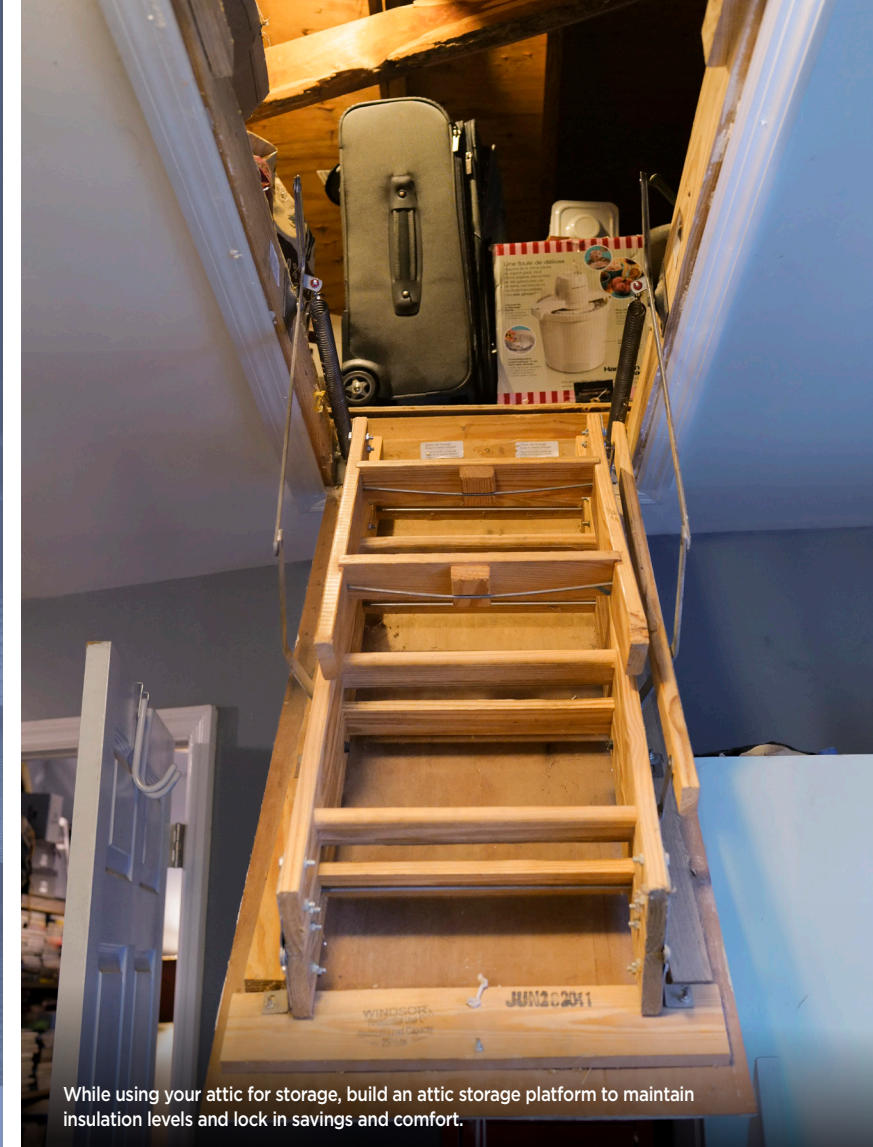
Your attic might also have trusses that allow you to build shelves and maximize space by storing items vertically.

Allow enough space underneath the platform to achieve the proper R-value. Use lumber to build a frame perpendicular to the existing joists and cover it with plywood or oriented strand board. Once your storage area is set up, add insulation inside the platform to bring the R-value up to the proper level.

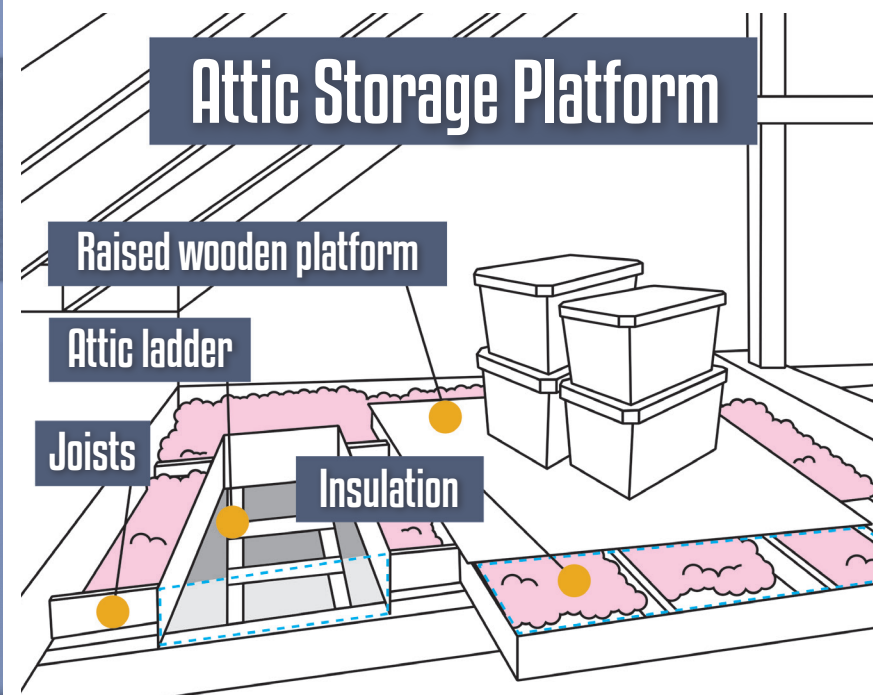
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Always wear a dust mask or respirator when working in the attic. Don't forget to weatherstrip the attic hatch to ensure a tight seal. Take a look around your attic to see if you can find any hidden opportunities for energy savings.

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



While using your attic for storage, build an attic storage platform to maintain insulation levels and lock in savings and comfort.

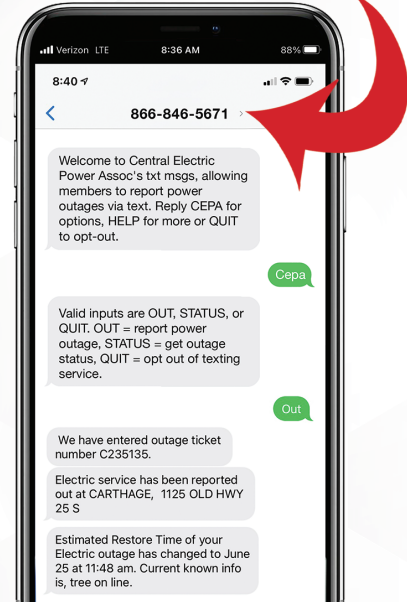


Building an attic storage platform offers extra storage space and helps maintain the energy efficiency of the attic with insulation underneath it.

Have an outage...**TEXT US!**

To sign up for texting power outages, please visit **centralepa.com**.

Once you have enrolled, you will receive outage updates. Simply text the word "**OUT**" to **866-846-5671** to report your power outage.



There are **THREE** ways to report an outage:



PHONE

601-267-3043



WEBSITE

www.centralepa.com (Click on **Report an Outage**)



TEXT

Once enrolled, simply text '**OUT**' to 866-846-5671

TVA/Central EPA Rate Adjustments Effective October 1

Effective October 1, 2024, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) will adjust their wholesale power rates by 5.25% to Central Electric Power Association to provide the needed resources to support demand and load growth. In conjunction with the TVA adjustment, Central Electric Power Association is adjusting its retail electric rates by 0.9%.

With TVA and Central EPA adjustments, our average residential

consumer with a usage of 1250 kilowatt hours will experience a \$6.57 increase in their electric bill.

It is our goal at Central Electric to provide our consumers with reliable and affordable electric service. The Association takes this responsibility very seriously and strives to hold down costs in all areas of our operation.