

News Release



**Electric Cooperatives
of Arkansas**

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to host energy audit/blower door class

Little Rock, Ark. — March 24, 2009 — The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas will host an energy audit certification workshop on March 30-April 3 at Ozarks Electric Cooperative in Fayetteville. The training includes a 2-1/2 day Touchstone Energy residential energy audit class, and a two-day blower door testing and infrared thermal imaging training.

According to Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, the course will provide cooperative employees with the opportunity to learn aspects of a comprehensive and professional residential energy audit – from planning to site visits and reporting.

“This knowledge will allow the cooperative employees to provide residential cooperative members with additional avenues to save energy dollars through practical energy efficiency applications,” White said.

The class participants will receive two and one-half days of classroom training and two days of field-based practical training.

White said reducing air infiltration is the most cost-effective energy efficiency measure applied in existing single-family buildings and will be emphasized during the course. Blower door testing and related activities expose the locations of air infiltration in a home.

“The course attendees will be very well equipped to assist cooperative members in not only providing a visual audit of residences, but with the blower door test will be able to detect air infiltration leaks that often decrease a home’s comfort level and raise energy costs,” White said.

Once air infiltration areas are located via the blower door test, the homeowner will then be advised of the proper methods to correct the infiltration, White said.

“Ultimately the goal of an energy audit and blower door test is to allow the homeowner to increase both the energy efficiency and comfort of their homes,” White said. “The class in February basically builds on the vast energy efficiency knowledge of cooperative employees.”

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. (AECI), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides various services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to more than 490,000 members, or customers, in Arkansas and surrounding states.

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