



THE ENERGY EXPERT

Help is available for home weatherization

New federal incentives are helping homeowners save money on future energy bills by making energy-efficient improvements. The following is a brief look at energy-related tax credits and the Federal Weatherization Assistance Program.

Federal tax credits

The tax credits, good for 2009 and 2010, apply to windows, doors, insulation, metal and asphalt roofs, heating and air conditioning systems and some water heaters. Solar panels and some alternative-energy systems qualify for even more.

To get the most from the tax credits—and to prevent misunderstandings later—do some homework before settling on a product that you hope will qualify. Some tips:

- The credit isn't for a flat \$1,500. You can claim a tax credit on 30 percent of the cost of the windows, water heater and other products that qualify, up to \$1,500 altogether. So you have to spend

\$5,000 on energy-efficient improvements to claim a tax credit of \$1,500. If you buy \$3,500 worth of windows, for example, your credit will be only \$1,050.

- You can't count the cost of installation when you apply the tax credit to your new windows, doors, insulation or roof. The benefit is for products only. That means you have to ask the salesperson to separate installation costs from the price of the product alone. The good news: Installation does qualify for the tax credit if you're buying a new air conditioning or heating system, a water heater, solar panel, geothermal heat pump or a wind energy system.

- Not every energy-efficient product in the qualifying categories is eligible for the tax credit. In fact, even some of the super-efficient products that have earned the government's Energy Star label do not qualify for the tax credit. So if you want to claim the credit, you'll have to buy specific products with specific ener-

gy ratings.

- For every product that qualifies, the manufacturer offers a certificate that proves that the product meets the requirements—and you can download that certificate from the company's Web site. Save it—along with your sales receipt and the label on the product that explains its energy-efficient qualities. You'll need that if the IRS has a question about your claim later.

- There's no federal tax credit for appliances like washing machines and refrigerators, no matter how energy efficient they are. That's not to say it's not a good time to buy them, though. You'll find them on sale and they'll save you a

bundle on electric bills over many years.

Federal Weatherization Assistance Program

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) says weatherization—the process of sealing air leaks and properly insulating a home—can produce an average energy savings of \$358 per year. Most people, if asked, want to save money and make their home more energy efficient, but not everyone can afford the cost of the improvements. The goal of the program is to help low-income homeowners make needed energy improvements.

As a result of the federal stimulus package, DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program is expanding with a goal of weatherizing 1 million low income homes per year. The stimulus package allows an average of \$6,500 to be spent on each home that qualifies.

Before any improvements can be made, an application is filed and homes are either approved or denied. Approved homes will receive a professional energy consultation that analyzes energy bills, a blower door test to locate air leaks and advice on how to be more efficient. After the approval, initial consultation and testing, workers arrive to make energy-efficient upgrades such as insulation, sealing air leaks and installing energy-efficient heating and cooling systems.

To find out if you qualify for Weatherization Assistance, start by calling the Community Action Agency that serves your county. If you do not know the name of your local agency, call the Mississippi Department of Human Services Division of Community Services toll-free at (800) 421-0762 or visit www.mdhs.state.ms.us. Click on MDHS Stimulus Information.



By Paul Myrick
Assistant Manager

Bylaws outline annual meeting, election

Article III

Meetings of Members

Section 3.01: Annual Meeting

For the purposes of electing directors, hearing and passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting, the annual meeting of the members shall be held on the second Thursday of the month of November each year, at such place in one of the counties of Mississippi within which the Association serves, and beginning at such hour, as the Board of Directors shall from year to year fix; Provided, that, for cause sufficient, the Board of Directors may fix a different date for such annual meeting not more than thirty (30) days prior or subsequent to the day otherwise established for such meeting in this Section. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time and place shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Association. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to make adequate plans and preparation for the annual meeting, and to encourage attendance by the membership at these meetings.

Article IV

Directors

Section 4.03: Tenure and Qualifications

(a) At each annual meeting of the members, directors shall be elected by ballot, by and from the membership of the Association, one director to be elected from each of the counties of Copiah, Covington, Newton, Scott, Simpson, Forrest, Jasper, Jefferson Davis, Smith, Lawrence and Rankin Counties, Mississippi, each director to be elected for a term of three (3) years, in accordance with the following formula, to-wit: (1) At the annual meeting of November 1984, and every three (3) years thereafter, one director shall be elected from each of the counties of Copiah, Covington, and Newton Counties, Mississippi, each of whom shall serve for a term of three (3) years from date of election as provided by law. (2) At the annual meeting of November 1985, and every three (3) years thereafter, one director shall be elected from each of the counties of Scott, Simpson, Forrest and Jasper Counties, Mississippi, each of whom shall serve for a term of three (3) years from date of election as provided by law. (3) At the annual meeting of November 1986, and every three (3) years thereafter, one director shall be elected from each of the counties of Jefferson Davis, Smith, Lawrence and Rankin Counties, Mississippi, each of whom shall serve for a term of three (3) years from date of election as provided by law. If the election of directors shall not be held at the annual meeting or if such annual meeting is not held, each director shall hold office until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. (b) At any meeting, ballots shall not be necessary in the event the number of persons nominated for directors does not exceed the number of directors to be elected, but in such case if there be no objection, the directors may be elected in any other proper manner. Drawing by lot shall resolve, where necessary, any tie votes. If an election of directors shall not be held on the day designated for the annual meeting, a special meeting of the members may be held for the purpose of electing directors within a reasonable time thereafter. (c) No person or non-natural person as described in subsection (e) of this section shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Association who is not an active member in good standing of the Association, has not been a bona fide resident of the county from which they are to be elected for six months immediately preceding the nomination to directorship, or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in



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a competing enterprise. (d) No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who has been finally convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude. (e) In order to be eligible to become or remain a director of the Association, a person must be a member of the Association and receiving service therefrom, and not be a close relative as defined in Section 4.08 of an incumbent director, or the director being replaced. However, the operating or chief executive of any member which is not a natural person, such as a corporation, church, etc., or its designees, shall, notwithstanding that they do not receive service from the Association, be eligible to become a director, from the county in which such member is located, if they or such designee (1) is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction or use of the premises served by the Association, and (2) is a permanent resident within the county where such member is served by the Association; provided further, that no more than one (1) such person may serve on the Board of Directors at the same time. When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one but not both may be elected a director. (f) No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of, or to hold any other position of trust in the Association, unless such person has the legal capacity to enter into a binding contract. (f)-(1) No employee of the association shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the association. (g) Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for director lacks eligibility under this Section or as may be provided elsewhere in these bylaws, it shall be the duty of the chair presiding at the meeting at which nominee would be otherwise voted upon to disqualify such nominee. Upon the establishment of the fact that any person being considered for, or already holding, a directorship

or other position of trust in the Association lacks eligibility under this Section, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to withhold such position from such person, or to cause them to be removed therefrom, as the case may be. (h) Nothing in this section contained shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors, unless such action is taken with respect to a matter which is affected by the provisions of this section and in which one or more of the directors have an intent adverse to that of the Association.

Section 4.04: Committee on Nominations, Credentials and Elections

(a) Committee on Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, at its regular August meeting of each year, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than 5 nor more than 11 members who shall be selected so as to insure equitable geographic representation. No existing Association employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for director may serve on such committee. The committee shall receive and consider nominees submitted by members of the Association. The committee shall meet at a time and place set by the Board of Directors. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Association within fifteen (15) days after the date of their appointment a list of nominations for directors. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the membership meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately those candidates nominated by the Committee on Nominations and those candidates nominated by petitions which have been received on or prior to the second Thursday of September of the year of such members meeting. Any 50 members acting together may make nominations by petition and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations by the committee is posted. Any petition for nomination shall be submitted on a form designated and provided by the Association. Each member signing such petition shall place thereon the date of signing, address, and account number of the member. At the membership meeting, the chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor. No member may nominate more than one candidate.

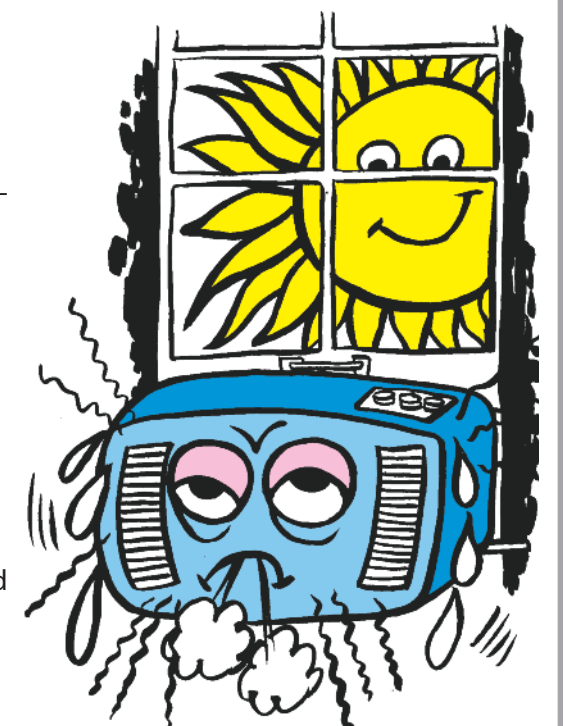
June heat wave ramps up power use

Be forewarned: The record-setting heat wave that settled across Mississippi in late June will be reflected in July's energy bills.

Daytime temperatures climbed as high as 100 degrees in Southern Pine's service area, forcing air conditioners and other home appliances to run longer—and consume more electricity.

You can help reduce your energy use by setting your home's thermostat on the highest comfortable setting. Southern Pine recommends 78 degrees or higher. Also, clean or replace your cooling system's air filter to improve its operating efficiency. Wash in cold water and supplement with electric fans on the hottest days.

There's more about energy efficiency at
www.spepa.com.



Plan, Prepare, Practice Before the Storm.

Before dark clouds gather, take precautions. Create a family action plan and prepare a severe storm supply kit. Practice your plan to be sure everyone knows what to do and where to go. For more information on how to stay ahead of the storm, contact your electric cooperative.



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