

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

PHOTO CONTEST
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NORTHEAST TECH
FILLS CAREER TRAINING DEMAND

MAY 2022



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Northeast Connection is published monthly to communicate with the members of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative.

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Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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2. When contacting the cooperative to report an outage, use the name as it appears on your bill, and have both your pole number and account number ready.

Please direct all editorial inquiries to Public Relations at 800.256.6405 or email publicrelations@noec.coop

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THE NUTS & BOLTS OF RELIABILITY

Paul Hillerman

Director of Fleet Services

Reliability is a word everyone wants to hear to describe their power company. You can rest assured that Northeast Oklahoma

Electric Cooperative strives every day to deliver *reliable* electric service to its members.

Reliability doesn't happen by accident. It requires a cohesive effort from all departments.

One piece of this teamwork puzzle is performed by our vehicle maintenance department. Our team of well-trained technicians prides itself on being able to service a diverse fleet that is critical to all cooperative functions. Our department works hard to reduce equipment downtime while keeping costs at a minimum. Overcoming the current challenges facing the industry require us to work together.

It should come as no surprise that escalating prices are burdensome and procurement of new vehicles and parts is a huge obstacle, given the critical infrastructure we are tasked to support. We have found that it has been a unique challenge in recent years to plan around the extended lead times we've faced on almost every order made. It is a growing concern that we will be required to maintain older trucks longer and plan much differently than we have in the past.

Expected delivery dates of 17-24 months for small bucket trucks and 38-41 months for digger derricks, underscores the importance of executing smart and effective planning. We have been proactive and have worked closely with our vendors in predicting what could happen in both the short- and long-term time frames to create a plan for a healthy, sustainable fleet.

While more extensive repairs cannot always be avoided, we understand that keeping our fleet operating at peak performance involves regular, preventative maintenance. And, thanks to our mobile capabilities, issues affecting our trucks and equipment can often be resolved directly in the field.

Continued on page 2.



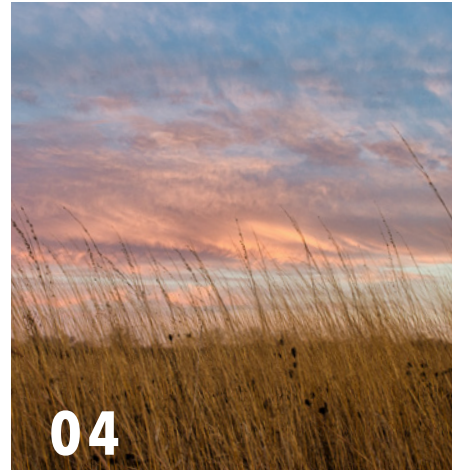
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FILLING CAREER DEMAND



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CRAIG COUNTY RECIPES



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PHOTO CONTEST



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SAVING YOU MONEY

Events are published as space allows and must be submitted at least 60 days in advance. Send information, including phone number for publication, to Northeast Connection Events Calendar, PO Box 948, Vinita 74301 or email to publicrelations@noec.coop

\$100 IS HIDING!

Search the pages of NE Connection for a 6-digit account number with an asterisk on each side. For example: *XXXXXX*. Compare it to your account number, which appears on your monthly electric bill. If they match, contact the cooperative at 918.256.6405, by June 1, 2022, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

MAY 2022 EVENTS

Mao Racing Round 2

May 1 | Jay

Mid America Outdoors

Art in the Garden

May 7 | Grove

Lendonwood Garden

Cedar Port Scavenger Hunt

May 7 | Vinita

Sharky's Bar at Hammerhead Marina

Boater Safety Class

May 7 & 21 | Langley

The GRDA Police Department

Burning of the Socks

May 7 | Afton

Safe Harbor Harbors View Marina

NEO A&M College

Commencement

May 12 | Miami

NEO A&M Miami Campus

Route 66 Film Festival

May 12-15 | Miami

Downtown

Mountain Man Rendezvous

May 14-16 | Grove

Har-Ber Village

Lobster Fest

May 20 | Grove

Grove Civic Center

Big Bass Bash 2022

May 21 | Grove

Honey Creek Outdoors

Mao Racing Round 3

May 27-30 | Afton

Safe Harbor Harbors View Marina

Memorial Day Event

May 28 | Grove

Har-Ber Village

984475

May events are subject to date change or cancellation. Please contact the host for most current event information.

THE NUTS & BOLTS

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE FRONT COVER

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Bobby Brigstock, Mechanic

Here at NOEC, we are always looking for ways to affect the bottom line in a positive way. Maintaining our own fleet is one measure we can take to help minimize expense. Another benefit of having our own service department is the ability to ensure the safety and compliance of our equipment which ultimately protects our employees.

To someone outside of our organization, each vehicle that comes through the door requiring service may be nothing more than just another piece of equipment or a number on a spreadsheet, but for members of the NOEC fleet maintenance team, they are much more. Every time we complete a job and send a vehicle back into the field, we do so knowing that we are keeping our friends and co-workers on the job and working safely.

Of course, we love what we do and take pride in a job well done but it goes beyond mere personal satisfaction. Being able to take care of our own fleet allows us to implement a more dynamic approach. We can pay greater attention to detail. Eliminating an issue before it becomes a bigger problem is priceless when it helps a friend return safely home to his or her family.

.....



Eddie Hardin, Mechanic



UNCLAIMED DOLLARS COULD BE YOURS



SCAN ME!

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative members are entitled to a portion of any profit made by the company. As approved by the NOEC board of trustees, refund checks were mailed to members in September 2021. These checks represented the following patronage capital retirement:

- 100% of remaining unretired patronage from 1988 totaling \$412,475
- 50% of 1989 patronage totaling \$310,866
- 9.59% of 2020 patronage totaling \$494,289
- Estate closings totaling \$151,000

Checks totaling \$10 or more were mailed to eligible members. Checks were not mailed to members whose patronage capital accounts totaled less than \$10. These accounts will continue to accumulate funds with each retirement. When an account reaches \$10 or more, a check will be issued following the next retirement. NOEC makes every effort to ensure members receive patronage capital that is rightfully theirs. To accomplish this, it is important for NOEC to have your current mailing address. Checks are often returned marked "undeliverable." Many of these do not have the correct 911 address. A partial listing of unclaimed checks is provided at right. Future issues of Northeast Connection will contain additional listings. If you see your name, claim your check by calling 800.256.6405, extension 9313. A complete list of returned checks is available online at www.noec.coop. Visit the link or scan the QR code above with your smartphone camera to access the listing.

FIMPLE, BOB - DISNEY OK
FIMPLE, NENA - DISNEY OK
FINCHER, JAMES R - CHELSEA OK
FINE, MERI D/JUSTIN J - PRYOR OK
FIORONI, DANIEL J - OKC OK
FIRREL, SARAH L - DISNEY OK
FIRST BANK OF BUTLER - BUTLER MO
FISCHER, RON G - SILOAM SPRINGS OK
FISHER, JOHN P - CHELSEA OK
FLAMING, JERRY - JAY OK
FLANDERS, CATHIE L - WELCH OK
FLANDERS, CHARLES J - WELCH OK
FLENER, EUGENE - WYANDOTTE OK
FLETCHER, CLARENCE C/MYRTLE A - JAY OK
FLETCHER, ZELA - COLCORD OK
FLICK, KIM/ROCKY - AFTON OK
FLUD, SIMON D - KETCHUM OK
FOLK, FRED - SALINA OK
FOLKESTAD, L E - GROVE OK
FORAKER, PATRICIA L - MIAMI OK
FORBIS, WANDA - AFTON OK
FOREMAN, BOBBIE - OAKS OK
FOREMAN, JEANETTE E - COLCORD OK
FOREMAN, TIM W - OAKS OK
FORTNER, RANDY G/DARCY L - DUENWEG MO
FOSTER, CLARA - ADAIR OK
FOSTER, TERESE - GROVE OK
FOUNTAIN, DUSTY - COLCORD OK
FOURTH NATIONAL BANK - TULSA OK
FOWLER, LEO - WATTS OK
FOWLER, M R - GROVE OK
FOWLER, TRINA D/FIMPLE, TODD - VINITA OK
FOX, JUANITA C - LOCUST GROVE OK
FOX, LAURIE L - GROVE OK
FRAME, CANDY - AFTON OK
FRANCISCO, LARA ORTEGA - AFTON OK
FRANKLIN, BILLY J - KETCHUM OK
FRAPP, VALERIE R/MURRY E - ROBBINSVILLE NC
FRAZIER, JOHN H - ARDMORE OK
FREEMAN, BILLY - MIAMI OK
FREEMAN, DAVID E - KETCHUM OK
FREEMAN, J H - TULSA OK

FREEMAN, MAX W JR - FAYETTEVILLE AR
FREEMAN, WILLIAM - COLCORD OK
FRIDAY, KIM - LOCUST GROVE OK
FRIEDRICHSEN, MORRIS L/YVONNE - DAVEN. IA
FROESE, STEVE G - JENKS OK
FRY, AMANDA/JACK - TULSA OK
FRYE, JACOB A - JAY OK
FRYE, LARRY G - JEFFERSON CITY MO
FULLER, JEAN - PRYOR OK
FULLER, RICHARD L - SPAVINAW OK
FULTS, BENNY R - DUMAS TX
GAIL, JOHNNIE P - GROVE OK
GAITHER, DON - TULSA OK
GALLANT, T B - FAIRLAND OK
GALLAWAY, WILLIAM D - CHOUTEAU OK
GALLAWAY, WILLIAM D - COWETA OK
GAMEZ, JANE F - COLCORD OK
GANN, DONNIE - COLCORD OK

GARCIA, ERNEST E - ROSE OK
GARCIA, TEODORA - MILAN MO
GARDE, SHIRLEY J - VINITA OK
GARNER, BARRY A - SILOAM SPRINGS AR
GAROUTTE, RUTH A - JOPLIN MO
GARRETT, BRIAN - MIAMI OK
GARRETT, KAREN S - COLCORD OK
GARRISON, LINN C/GALIANO V - WYANDOTTE OK
GARVIE, SYLVIA M - GROVE OK
GARZA, PAT - GROVE OK
GATEWOOD, ARVALAINE D - TULSA OK
GATEWOOD, LEON D - COLCORD OK
GENSLER, DELWIN L - TULSA OK
GENTZEN, MARY C - SAN ANTONIO TX
GIBBERTS, CHRIS - COLCORD OK
GIBBINS, DANNY S - GROVE OK
GIBSON, D K/ KENNEY - EDMOND OK
GIDEON, JUDY - WYANDOTTE OK

ENTRY FORM & MODEL RELEASE

NOEC SPRING PHOTO CONTEST | DEADLINE: JUNE 5, 2022

Wanting more information? Visit our photo contest page at www.noec.coop/photocontest.

Entrant's full name _____ Electric Account # _____

Printed, entrant does not have to be the primary account holding member.

Email address _____ Phone number _____

Guardian name _____ Guardian signature _____

Printed, if entrant is a minor.

If entrant is a minor.

Title of entry _____ Category number 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

Shown on page at right.

Photo explanation, including location and year taken: _____

Photo Release

I retain my rights to my photograph; however, by entering contest, I grant NOEC a royalty-free, world-wide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to publicly display, distribute, reproduce, and create derivative works of the entrie(s), in whole or in part, in any media now existing or later developed, for any purpose, including but not limited to, advertising and promotion of NOEC or any of its subsidiary businesses and its website, exhibition, and commercial products, including but not limited to *Northeast Connection* publications. Any photography reproduced will include a photographer credit when feasible. NOEC will not be required to pay any a consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such uses.

Entrant name _____ Entrant signature _____

Printed

Model Release

I acknowledge that Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative and their legal representatives and assigns, have the irrevocable and unrestricted right to use and publish photographs of me, or in which I may be included, for editorial, trade, advertising, and any other purpose and in any manner and medium; and to alter and composite the same without restriction and without my inspection or approval. I hereby release the Photographer and their legal representatives and assigns from all claims and liability relating to said photographs.

Model name _____ Model signature _____

Printed

Guardian name _____ Guardian signature _____

Printed, if model is a minor.

If model is a minor.

Please complete an additional model release form for each additional model present in your photo here: www.noec.coop/photocontest.

CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS

NOEC SPRING PHOTO CONTEST | DEADLINE: JUNE 5, 2022

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (NOEC), is proud of its Oklahoma roots. We know our members share this same pride. A great way to communicate that pride is through photography.

Photo entries will be judged by NOEC employees based on creativity, composition, and depiction of theme. The winning photos will be published in future *Northeast Connections*, on our website, social media, and could be used for other print or digital media. One winner in each category will be awarded a \$50 electric credit. One runner-up in each category will be awarded a \$25 electric credit.

CATEGORY 1

Wildlife & Nature

Photos in this category highlight the wild side of northeast Oklahoma whether that be weather, animals, plant life, or landscapes.

CATEGORY 2

Agriculture

Photos in this category capture the beauty of northeast Oklahoma through depictions of farm and field scenes.

CATEGORY 3

Electric Utility

Photos in this category capture the power and beauty of electric infrastructure in northeast Oklahoma.

CATEGORY 4

Oklahoma Tourism

Photos in this category should highlight relevant historical and cultural landmarks of northeast Oklahoma.

CATEGORY 5

Wild Card

Do you have a great photo that doesn't fit in the other categories? We want to see it! Be sure to abide by our submission rules below.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Email Form(s) & Photo

publicrelations@noec.coop
Too large? Send us a link!

Deliver Form(s) & Photo

212 S Main St, Grove
27039 S 4440 Rd, Vinita

Mail Form(s) & Photo

PO Box 948
Vinita, OK 74301

Photo submission rules: Only members of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative may enter. By entering contest, member agrees to the rules and selection process. Photos must be the original work of the member or their dependent. Photos commissioned or provided to member by a professional photographer and/or copyright protected photos are not eligible. Professional photographers that are members may submit their own work. You retain your rights to your photograph; however, by entering contest, you grant NOEC a royalty-free, world-wide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to publicly display, distribute, reproduce, and create derivative works of the entrie(s), in whole or in part, in any media now existing or later developed, for any purpose, including but not limited to, advertising and promotion of NOEC or any of its subsidiary businesses and its website, exhibition, and commercial products, including but not limited to *Northeast Connection* publications. Any photography reproduced will include a photographer credit when feasible. NOEC will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such uses. Photos that contain sexually explicit, nude, obscene, violent, or other objectionable or inappropriate content, as determined by NOEC in its sole discretion, are ineligible for this contest. Entries submitted by anyone less than 18 years of age must include a permission and release from their legal guardian in the form at left. For a photo in which a person is recognizable, you must secure a model release from the subject or in the case of a minor, the subject's legal guardian as provided in the form at left. Submit the completed form and a digital or print copy of your photo. There is no limit on number of submissions. Please complete a new form for each additional submission. Form copies are available on our website here: www.noec.coop/photocontest.

WIN A
\$50
ELECTRIC CREDIT!

MAY 2022 - 05 | NECONNECTION

NORTHEAST TECH

FILLS CAREER TRAINING DEMAND



For many years, high school graduates were faced with a quandary: *Go to college or get a job. You have two options.* At least that's what they were told. Turns out that neither option was always the most suitable for many teenagers when faced with stepping out into the real world for the first time.

Thankfully, the one-size-fits-all approach to continuing education has gradually been amended over the years. A growing number of students are finding their niche with career training.

And for students here in northeast Oklahoma, job-specific training may be as close as their very own backyard. With campus locations in Afton, Kansas, Pryor, and Claremore, Northeast Tech offers a convenient, continuing education alternative for high school and adult students alike.

"Across our four campuses, we offer training in nearly 40 different career pathways," said Northeast Tech Communications Director Cassie Woods. "From teacher prep to welding, health careers to truck driving, graphic design to culinary arts, and nearly everything in between, we truly offer something for everyone."



"The story that a person has to pick between college or career is just not true. We like to think of career tech as being 'and', You can learn a skill and still go to college. You can be a college graduate and still decide to enroll in training to change career paths. The flexibility that CareerTech offers is unlike any other educational system in the nation, and it offers real life change for those willing to choose this path."

Tara Thompson
Director of Operations

Woods said Northeast Tech offers three main areas of training:

- **Full-Time Classes** Full-day and half-day (morning and afternoon) classes for both high school and adult students.
- **Short-Term/Adult Education Classes** Short-term evening and weekend classes of all types, from career training to personal interest.
- **Business & Industry Services** Customized training for all workforce needs, from safety and industry training to agriculture business management and small business consulting.

CAREER TRAINING ON THE RISE

For people with some college or an associate degree, the unemployment rate was 3.5 percent at the end of 2018, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Meanwhile, demand for trade workers continues to grow. Employers in the 1980s and 1990s faced a shortage of skilled workers and tradesmen.

However, vocational education is growing to meet this shortfall. In 1999, only 9.6 million students were in a trade school. By 2014, this number increased to 16 million, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Although a college education is necessary for specific careers, other careers require specialized training that degree programs are simply too broad to address.

The Department of Education published a report that noted the projected growth for jobs that don't require a four-year degree. Transportation industry employers are expected to hire and train roughly 4.6 million workers, an equivalent of 1.2 times the current workforce, to meet the needs of growth, retirement, and turnover over the next decade. Preliminary analysis indicates that projected annual job openings are 68 percent larger than annual completions of related educational programs across selected transportation occupational groups. This highlights a significant skills gap that must be addressed to meet expected industry demand.



HISTORY OF NORTHEAST TECH

The Northeast Tech district was created by a majority vote of the people of Mayes, Craig, Rogers and Ottawa counties in February 1969. Afton and Pryor were chosen as the locations for the first two 'area' schools based on population, industrial proximity, and availability of utilities, police, and fire protection. The following year, the citizens of Grove and Cleora in Delaware county voted to join the district, expanding it to include all or parts of five counties. Both of the original campuses opened their doors to students on August 27, 1973.

The years that followed saw tremendous growth in the scope and outreach of Northeast Tech. In 1993, the voters of seven school districts in southern Delaware county voted to annex into the district, bringing the total of school districts served up to 38 in a five county area. Because of the added growth, a third campus was opened in Kansas on August 19, 1996.

In 2007, plans to expand and to build the fourth campus in Northeast Tech's district began once again. This campus would serve more students and assist in training businesses and industries in Rogers County. It opened in the summer of 2009. Then in January of 2015, the new administration office opened in Pryor and the former home for administration in MidAmerica Industrial Park was converted into a Business & Industry Training Center.

Today, Northeast Tech serves students across eight counties with its four campuses: Afton, Claremore, Kansas and Pryor. Each year, Northeast Tech trains over 1,200 students in its full-time, daytime programs and an additional 35,000 students train through its Business & Industry Services and Adult Education programs.

As the infrastructure, construction, and transportation fields are growing faster, four-year degrees are becoming less of a necessity, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau has projected that the construction sector will add 790,400 jobs from 2014 to 2024 to reach more than 6.9 million.

"One of the biggest strengths of CareerTech training is our ability to respond quickly to industry needs. Last year, for example, the demand for truck drivers became the most pressing workforce need nationwide. Our response to that was to create a short-term training program to help put more CDL drivers on the road as quickly as possible."

Tara Thompson Director of Operations

"We closely follow workforce needs when we determine what programs we are going to offer," said Woods. "For example, when the top three jobs needed in Oklahoma were teachers, nurses and truck drivers, we started a teacher prep program at two of our campuses, expanded opportunities in our LPN programs and started a district-wide truck driver training program that can turn out new drivers in less than one month."

With a nearly 90% positive placement rate, Northeast Tech is working hard to accomplish its mission of *Preparing Individuals for Successful Careers*.

"It truly is the goal of Northeast Tech to meet industry needs and make sure we are helping to keep the economy going by turning out a highly-qualified and sought after workforce," added Woods.

For more information about the various programs offered at Northeast Tech, visit www.netech.edu.



FEATURED RECIPES

CRAIG COUNTY



SAMI JO FRISBY | VINITA

MAGIC COOKIE BAR

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 C margarine or butter
- 1 1/2 C Graham cracker crumbs
- 1 (14 oz) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 (6 oz) package semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 (3 1/2 oz) can flaked coconut (1 1/2 cups)
- 1 C chopped nuts

Step 1: Preheat oven to 350°F (325°F for glass dish).

Step 2: In a 13x9 inch baking pan, melt margarine in oven.

Step 3: Sprinkle Graham cracker crumbs over melted margarine, pour sweetened condensed milk evenly over crumbs. Top with remaining ingredients; press down.

Step 5: Bake 25-30 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool and chill if desired. Cut into bars.



DAVID SEAY | BIG CABIN

MOM'S APPLE COBBLER

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 C margarine or butter
- 2 C sugar
- 2 C water
- 1 1/2 C self-rising flour
- 1/2 C shortening
- 1 C chopped nuts
- 1/3 C milk
- 2 C finely chopped apples
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Step 1: Preheat oven to 350°F. Melt margarine or butter in a 13x9 inch baking dish.

Step 2: In a sauce pan heat sugar and water until sugar melts.

Step 3: Cut shortening into flour, add milk, and stir with fork only until dough leaves side of bowl. Turn onto lightly floured board and knead until smooth. Roll about 1/4 inch thick.

Step 4: Sprinkle cinnamon over apples then sprinkle apples evenly over dough. Roll up dough like a jelly roll. Dampen edge of dough with a little water and seal. Slice dough into 8 slices 1/2 inch thick. Place in the pan of melted margarine. Pour sugar syrup carefully around roll. Bake 55-60 minutes.

CELEBRATE

ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Our Top Tips for Staying Safe at Home

1. **USE A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN FOR REPAIR WORK**
2. **WATCH FOR HOT OR DISCOLORED SWITCH PLATES OR FLICKERING LIGHTS**
3. **HAVE OLDER HOMES INSPECTED EVERY 3-5 YEARS**
4. **USE BULBS WITH THE CORRECT WATTAGE FOR THE FIXTURE**
5. **REPAIR LOOSE OUTLETS AND REPLACE WORN CORDS**

FOLLOW US!

Follow Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative on Facebook for more safety tips.



TIPS FOR SAVING MONEY

1. Service your air conditioner. Easy maintenance such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15 percent. Also, the first day of spring could serve as a reminder to check your air conditioner's evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually to ensure the system is performing at optimal levels.
2. Open windows. Opening windows creates a cross-wise breeze, allowing you to naturally cool your home without switching on air conditioners. This is an ideal tactic in spring when temperatures are mild.
3. Use ceiling fans. Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees. This can help lower your electric bill without sacrificing overall comfort.
4. Cook outside. On warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of an indoor appliance.
5. Install window treatments. Energy efficient window treatments or coverings such as blinds, shades, and films can reduce heat gain when temperatures rise. These devices not only improve the look of your home but also reduce energy costs.
6. Caulk air leaks. Using low-cost caulk to seal cracks and openings in your home keeps warm air out—and cash in your wallet.
7. Bring in sunlight. During daylight hours, switch off artificial lights and use windows and skylights to brighten your home.