



## From the Manager's Desk

MICHAEL SWAN, PRESIDENT/CEO

### Update your contact information

It is important to ensure that Woodruff Electric has your most accurate contact information. This will ensure that you continue to receive important information about other programs and events. Accurate information helps our outage management system to pinpoint the location and the possible cause of outages, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

Many of you have been members of the Cooperative for years now, and it's likely that your account's contact information has not changed. However, we recognize that many members now use a cell phone as their primary phone service, and we may not have that number currently stored in our system.

Just remember, the Cooperative does not share your contact information with third parties. It is only used by Woodruff Electric to provide important information to you, our member. You can always update your contact information by calling us at 1-870-633-2262 or e-mailing [info@woodruffelectric.com](mailto:info@woodruffelectric.com). By doing so, you will be helping us improve our member service and efficiency, so we can better serve you and the other members of Woodruff Electric.



### Glynn and Mildred Carpenter Scholarship Deadline Approaching

Local area high school seniors whose parents, grandparents or guardians are Woodruff Electric members may apply for one of five \$1,000 scholarships that will be awarded this year. To be eligible for the scholarships, applicants must complete and submit the following requirements: applicant information, academic information, college/technical school costs, and a letter of recommendation. An application may be obtained at [www.woodruffelectric.com](http://www.woodruffelectric.com) or by visiting any local area Woodruff Electric office. The application and all required materials must be completed and returned by March 22.



**Woodruff Electric  
Cooperative Corporation**

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(870) 633-2262

Outages: (888) 559-6400

[www.woodruffelectric.coop](http://www.woodruffelectric.coop)



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## PLAN AHEAD TO CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Digging without locating underground utilities, even the smallest digging projects, could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or cause severe electrical shock. To help stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 811.

The 811 "Call Before You Dig" number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint. So make sure to plan ahead and call in advance.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

**Red – Electric**

**Orange – Communications, Telephone/CATV**

**Blue – Potable Water**

**Green – Sewer/Drainage**

**Yellow – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line**

**Purple – Reclaimed Water**

**White – Premark site of intended excavation**

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is

**Arkansas**  
**Know what's below.**  
**Call before you dig.**



important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

It is important to understand that 811 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Some examples of private utilities include: underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Once all of your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start digging, but be sure to wear all of the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.

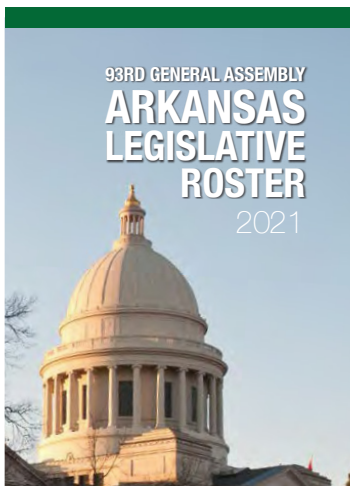
For more information about 811 and digging safety, visit [Call811.com](http://Call811.com).

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to spring forward on March 14!  
Set your clocks forward by one hour.



my co-op



## CONTACT YOUR STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

*Co-ops launch 2021 legislative directory and app*

The Arkansas Legislature began its 93rd regular session on Jan. 11, which is continuing. We are pleased to share contact information for your state government elected officials through the 2021 Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Legislative Directory. You can download the free directory app for iPhone and Android users at: [aecc.com/legislative-app](http://aecc.com/legislative-app) and follow the instructions. The directory may also be downloaded at: [aecc.com/government-affairs/legislative-directory/](http://aecc.com/government-affairs/legislative-directory/).

# Can I recycle that?

*Find your way through the rules of recycling*

Can I recycle my mail with the stapled paper and plastic envelope windows? Do I need to break down cardboard boxes before putting them in the recycling bin? Or should I just give up on recycling because it's way too complicated?

Three of every five U.S. households have curbside recycling pickup, according to a study by the Sustainable Packaging Coalition. Another 14% have curbside service available but do not subscribe.

Reasons to recycle are both environmental and financial. Recycling 10 plastic bottles, for example, saves enough energy to power a laptop computer for more than 25 hours, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Recycling can also help out with your tax bill. Local governments pay for disposing home and office waste, traditionally by burying it in a landfill. But if some of that waste could be sold for reuse, the income would reduce the cost of the waste management program.

The list of recycling rules is long and complicated, but a way to help master them is to try three different types of thinking:

**Think like a sorter:** When your curbside bin gets emptied, it's taken to a Materials Recovery Facility where it is dumped onto a conveyor belt where workers pull off items that will gum up the next step in the process, a large screen that jiggles items into a different bin. Think about items that might cause problems with sorting.

**Think local:** There are about 300 Materials Recovery Facilities around the country, and many of them have different equipment, meaning every community has its own set of rules for what can be recycled.

Find out who handles recycling in your community, and they will have a list of what can be recycled. And of course, there's an app for that. Two popular apps are Recycle Coach and ReCollect. Just type in your zip code to learn how your local recycling program treats individual items.

**Think like an accountant:** You might be thinking, "It sounds like I'm doing the work for the recycling program." And you are. You could just dump anything and everything in your recycling bin and let the workers sort it out. They would do that — for a price. You can help keep recycling costs low by following the rules.

Here are some of the most-wondered-about recycling rules:

- **Mail:** With one exception, all mail can go in the bin. Staples and plastic windows get sorted out by the machinery.



PHILIP JEFFREY

Recycling offers environmental and financial benefits for our local communities.

The exception is magazines wrapped in plastic.

**Food containers:** When you're done with the peanut butter jar, no need to rinse it out. It can go right in the bin.

**Cardboard boxes:** The only reason to break them down is to save space in your bin. They'll get well-crushed in the truck that picks them up.

**Pizza cartons:** Don't leave crusts or garlic butter containers in them, but recycling equipment can handle a greasy pizza box just fine.

**Plastic bottle caps:** Screw the lid back on, and recycle both the bottle and cap.

**Labels:** You don't need to remove them.

**Plastic straws:** Can be recycled, but smaller items tend to fall off the conveyor or through the screen sorters and onto the floor, where they get swept up and hauled off to a normal landfill.

If you want to take the next step in recycling, think about the big picture — the point is to reduce the waste from your home into the world. First, reduce — if you don't really need to buy something, don't buy it. Second, reuse — bags and wrapping paper, for example, can have more than one life.

Remember, recycling helps our environment but can also reduce the cost of local waste management programs. Check with your local waste management program to learn more about recycling rules in your community.

**For more information, visit:** [epa.gov/hwgenerators/links-hazardous-waste-programs-and-us-state-environmental-agencies](https://epa.gov/hwgenerators/links-hazardous-waste-programs-and-us-state-environmental-agencies)

