

# COLUMBUS<sup>®</sup> CURRENTS

## Wrapped in Savings

By Abby Berry

Ensuring your home is properly insulated can improve energy efficiency and make your home more comfortable. Insulation acts like a cozy coat that reduces heat loss during winter months and a protective layer that reduces heat gain during summer months.

Many older homes have less insulation than newer homes, but even newer homes can benefit from additional insulation. While it's not the least expensive efficiency improvement, adding insulation and air sealing your home can provide the biggest bang for your buck in energy savings and overall comfort.

The most common areas to insulate are attics, ceilings, crawlspaces or unconditioned basements, exterior and interior walls, floors, and ductwork located in unconditioned spaces.

The amount and effectiveness rating of insulation required for each area varies by climate, but many websites like The Department of Energy or Home Depot provide easy-to-follow recommendations. Visit [energy.gov/insulation](http://energy.gov/insulation) to learn about recommended R-values for specific areas of the home based on climate zones.

It's important to understand how insulation effectiveness is measured. Insulation is rated in R-value, which measures the material's resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulating effectiveness. The R-value you'll need depends on factors like climate, type of heating and cooling system and which area of the home you plan to insulate.

Insulation is offered in a wide range of materials from bulky fiberglass rolls to cellulose materials made from recycled paper products. If you're considering installing additional insulation, talk to an expert who can offer guidance on the right materials for your budget, climate and comfort needs.

Investing in proper insulation for your home not only enhances comfort but also reduces energy consumption.



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A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative 



**Power Your Future!  
Apply for Columbus  
Electric's  
Cooperative Scholarship  
Program**

Columbus Electric Cooperative offers educational scholarships to active members of CEC and their immediate family members. Scholarship recipients can receive financial assistance for up to eight semesters of higher education studies at the school of their choice. Applicants must complete an application and submit letters of recommendation.

Applications may be obtained by contacting our office, the student's high school counselor or at [columbusco-op.org/scholarships](http://columbusco-op.org/scholarships). The deadline to apply is March 4, 2025.

For questions, please call our office at 575-546-8838



**Operation  
Round-Up**

Make the commitment to give back to your community this year by signing up for Operation Round Up with Columbus Electric Cooperative. Operation Round Up rounds up your monthly bill to the next highest dollar amount making a donation to our scholarship fund. All donations are tax deductible. Sign up today at [columbusco-op.org/operation-round](http://columbusco-op.org/operation-round) or call us at 1-800-950-2667.

*Happy Retirement!*



CEC would like to wish Member Service Representative Barbara Gonzales a happy and healthy retirement! Thank you for 14 years of dedicated service to our cooperative and serving our members!



**Columbus Electric Cooperative is now accepting applications for the annual Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.**

This year, New Mexico representatives will be in D.C. June 16-21, 2025, and Youth Tour delegates will spend their time touring monuments, visiting museums, meeting with elected officials, learning about the cooperative business model, and getting to know young leaders from all over New Mexico and 46 other states!

The best part? It's **FREE!** Everything is covered by Columbus Electric Cooperative! It truly is the trip of a lifetime.

Interested? Check out our website for more information or call our office at 575-546-8838 with any additional questions. Applications for the Youth Tour are available on our website, at our Deming office or the student's high school counselor.

Space is limited! The deadline to submit your application is January 31, 2025. Don't let this opportunity of a lifetime pass you by!

**Board Highlights**

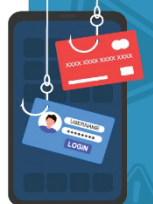


The Board of Trustees met on December 19, 2024. They approved the financial and operating reports for the month of November. The Trustees approved the 2025 Organizational Chart, the 2025 Operating Budget, and participation in Tri-State's Electrify & Save Program for 2025. This program allows us to pass on rebate offerings from our Generation & Transmission company to our members, including those for appliances, outdoor power equipment, heat pumps, and irrigation motors to name a few. Visit our website at [www.columbusco-op.org](http://www.columbusco-op.org) or call our office at 1-800-950-2667.

**TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS** 

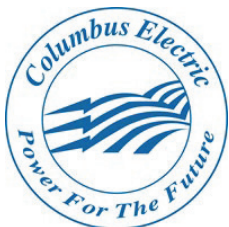
Never make a utility bill payment to anyone calling you on the phone, coming to your door (unless that is a verified bill payment method used by your utility company), texting you or emailing you. Always call your utility company at the number provided on your bill or on the utility's website if you have a question about payment or billing information. Know your utility bill payment options—online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



*Emergency Response Number*  
**1-800-228-0579**

*Toll - free Office Number*  
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[www.columbusco-op.org](http://www.columbusco-op.org)