

ENERGYwise

FOR YOUR HOME



Air conditioning – Don't take it for granted!

So often we take air conditioning for granted. When it's hot outside, we simply step into our comfortable air conditioned homes. However, when our air conditioner is not working – that's a problem. Whether you are looking for a new air conditioner because yours is broken, or if you are simply upgrading your older, inefficient system, your local electric cooperative is here to help you make the smartest decision and one that will get you the rebates you deserve!

Many ways to save through your electric co-op

Receive:

- \$330-630 rebate based on SEER rating (13-16+) for installation of an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) with a plenum heater by a registered* HVAC contractor
- \$30-330 rebate based on SEER rating (13-16+) by installing a high-efficient central air conditioning system, or an air source heat pump without a plenum heater, by a registered HVAC contractor
- \$35 rebate when you buy an ENERGY STAR room air conditioner
- Energy Wise rate or credit when you sign up for Cycled Cooling
- \$25 rebate for tuning up your existing air conditioner

* Note: A registered HVAC contractor is someone who is currently registered through [HVACReduction.net](http://www.hvacreduction.net). These registered contractors have agreed to the terms of the program and passed a test demonstrating their knowledge of quality installation practices. To find a registered contractor visit http://www.hvacreduction.net/gre/public_search.cfm

Consider an air source heat pump (ASHP) instead of a central air conditioner

ASHPs act like a central air conditioner in the summer time, but they can also provide heating and cooling in one efficient and economical package that looks like a central air conditioning unit. When properly installed, an ASHP can deliver one and one half to three times more heat energy to a home than the electrical energy it consumes.

In the summer, ASHPs operate like a central air conditioner. In the winter, ASHPs can heat your home by transferring heat energy from the outside air and bringing it indoors.

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Air source heat pump – cooling and heating in one efficient system

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ENERGY STAR high efficiency central air conditioning

If you've talked with an energy expert at Agralite Electric Cooperative and have decided that an ASHP is not an option for you, then consider an ENERGY STAR high efficiency central air conditioner.

You may also be interested to know that many people buy an air conditioner that is too large, so make sure your unit is properly sized.

Source: *ENERGY STAR.gov*

In order to operate most efficiently, it is essential that your new central air conditioner or ASHP is installed correctly and according to manufacturer's specifications. Agralite Electric Cooperative's quality installation program validates four components of the installation: proper sizing, air flow, refrigerant charge and duct sealing.

Consider a Ground Source Heat Pump

For the highest operating efficiency consider a ground source heat pump. Rather than rejecting heat to warm outside air, the ground source heat pump rejects that heat to the constant temperature of the ground. Ground source heat pumps tend to have a higher initial costs than air source units but operating costs are less.

Air conditioner tune-up

A tune-up of your central air conditioner or ASHP can improve the efficiency of these systems. You can receive a rebate from Agralite Electric Cooperative by having a licensed service technician perform a tune-up of an existing system that is over three years of age, in working condition and has not been tuned up in at least two years. The tune-up should consist of checking coolant level, pressure, indoor filter, and belt; lube motor, test all controls, blow out drain lines and completion of a visual inspection of entire system.

Contact us

To save energy and money, call Agralite Electric Cooperative at 1-800-950-8375 or 320-843-4150



What is cycled cooling?

Cycled cooling is for residential customers with central air or a heat pump. A radio receiver, which is installed on your house by the cooperative utilizes a radio signal to communicate with your air conditioner or heat pump. On hot, humid summer days (typically June through August) when demand for electricity peaks, a radio signal is sent to the radio receiver which tells your air conditioner or heat pump condenser to "cycle" on for 15 minutes and off for 15 minutes for up to six hours per day. (The number of controlled hours allowed per cooling season is 200 hours.) When electric demand decreases, the air conditioner or heat pump automatically returns to its regular cooling mode. Your central air conditioner or heat pump fan will continue to run even while the condenser is turned off, so you may not even notice the slight change in temperature that may occur.

Cycling during the winter months

In the winter, your ASHP is supplemented with a plenum heater and a non-electric, alternate heat source such as a propane furnace for when the outside temperature drops below an outdoor set temperature – typically 20 degrees or so. Your supplemental heat source may also be asked to operate during peak electrical demands. While peak electrical demand periods generally occur only on the coldest days of the year, other periods of control may occur. During these times, a radio signal is sent to the radio receiver to automatically switch to the supplemental heat source. Typically the supplemental heat source may be required to operate 4 -10 hours per control period (number of controlled hours allowed per heating season is 400 in October through May). At the end of the control period, a second radio signal is sent to automatically switch heating back to the ASHP.

Who can participate?

To qualify for any of these rebates, you must live in Agralite's service territory and meet any of the specific requirements set for each rebate offering.

Contact Your Tax Accountant

There may be a federal tax credits available for updating to a heat pump. For complete details, go to www.energystar.gov.