



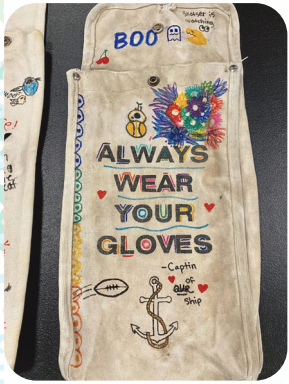
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JANUARY 2023

What better way to start the new year than with a focus on safety. Recently, the Color for Safety program caught the attention of WREA management and staff. Started by a Louisiana cooperative, the program was created with one goal in mind - to consistently remind line workers of the reasons they want to protect themselves on the job. The program encourages linemen, and other operations crews who work with energized lines, to take their safety gear bags home and allow their loved ones to decorate the bags so that each time they reach for their safety equipment, they see messages from those closest to their hearts.

When WREA linemen were approached with the idea, they were eager to participate. And the results were well worth the effort.

"The last thing we want to do as linemen is become complacent" says WREA Operations Manager, Brett Berthelson. "If we can be reminded of those that are counting on us to come home safely, we're more likely to have our head in the game every time we reach for our gloves."



Members of the WREA line crew (L to R) Justin Carroll, Brett Berthelson, Jason Kracht, Coy Sears, Chris Stanworth and Clayton Shonk showed off their decorated safety bags.

REMEMBER YOUR REBATES!

With each new year comes a reminder that WREA offers a variety of rebates for member consumers who do energy efficient upgrades to their homes or businesses. In 2024, most WREA rebate programs will remain unchanged, but with some added incentives for electric heat pumps. Although slow to evolve originally, the rebate program has begun to gain traction and has allowed members to recover 25%-50% of the purchase price on a variety of products. The savings, coupled with increased access to quality electric outdoor power equipment from local merchants, has piqued the interest of consumers. Lawn equipment like electric snowblowers, trimmers, power washers, lawnmowers and chainsaws all qualify for rebates through WREA. The electrification of common lawn tools has been a welcome change for consumers who struggle with the physical weight or yearly maintenance required by similar gas-powered tools.

In 2023, WREA returned a total of \$16,804 to residential and small-commercial members who made qualifying purchases and the number of rebate submissions continues to rise. The generous rebate program has reached industrial members as well. This week, in partnership with Tri-State G&T, WREA returned \$27,400 in rebates to Natural Soda, LLC for investing in two variable frequency drive (VFD) motors for existing equipment, which will help the units run more efficiently. The upgrades are expected to save the local processing plant approximately \$19,000 in electric costs per year and reduce carbon emissions by approximately 315 tons this year alone.

The industrial energy audit program is part of Tri-State G&T's effort to help consumers meet an increasing demand to reduce carbon emissions, all while putting money back in the consumer's pocket. Industrial members can learn more about the program by contacting WREA at 970-878-5041.

Residential and small commercial members can find a listing of available rebates under the "Products and Services" tab at wrea.org.