

Doug Rye Says  
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## **Energy Commandment No. 2: “Thou Shalt Invest”**

Well, I trust that you all had a good holiday season and are ready for the new year. It is time to go back to work and back to the 10 Commandments of Energy Efficiency that we started talking about last year.

There are a lot of things happening in our country today that I do not understand. I do not understand how I bought gas at \$1.49 a gallon in December when I paid \$3.99 just a few months earlier. I don't understand how wealthy corporations now have to have billions of dollars from the taxpayers to stay afloat. And I could mention many other things I simply don't understand. It is better that I stay with the things I do understand. I know that making energy improvements is the best investment in the country today. I know that it is the only thing in your house that will save you money month after month and will have a payback. I also know that your home will be more comfortable as a result of these improvements.

Last week Mr. Tom Hunt, who is my co-host on the *Home Remedies* radio show, said he is saving \$50 per week on the cost of gasoline compared to a few months ago. He said that added up to \$200 per month. “What if we took that \$200 per month and made energy improvements to our house?” he said. I responded: “Tom, you are a genius.”

Well, folks both Tom and I don't need these commandments because we built our houses to be super efficient from the beginning. So, please remember that these columns are for you and we, like your electric co-op, want to help you.

Energy Commandment No. 2: “Thou Shalt Invest.” Whether it is \$5 per month or \$200 per month, start setting some money aside for energy improvements. It is perfectly all right to do the least costly items first. For \$20, you can buy and install several compact fluorescent lights. For \$40, you might buy all the caulk you need to seal up air leaks as we discussed in the November column.

**NOW OPEN YOUR MIND AND THINK OF THIS.** For an investment of less than \$100 and a few hours of elbow grease, you might well reduce your average monthly utility bill by \$10, \$20, \$30 or more a month. Where else could you invest \$100, get your money back in three to 10 months and continue getting that savings forever?

So start putting that money aside now, continue reading this column and you will be a genius of energy efficiency, just like Tom

*Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Saline County and the popular host of the “Home Remedies” radio show, works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug’s video, call Doug at 1-501-653-7931. More energy-efficiency tips, as well as Doug’s columns, can also be found at [www.ecark.org](http://www.ecark.org)*