

Doug Rye *says ...*



The co-ops can help you “git ‘er done”

Everywhere I go people are talking about conservation, energy efficiency and just about anything “green.” Well, I say it’s about time because your electric cooperatives and I have been teaching you about those things for years. Regardless of one’s thoughts about global warming or cap and trade, I think that all of us would agree that conservation, energy efficiency and going “green” are the right things to do. We work hard every day to help you have the most comfortable house possible and the lowest utility bills feasible.

We honestly believe that we can teach you how to make your existing house as energy efficient as possible. And we know we can show you how to build your new house to be the most energy efficient possible and at a feasible cost. Please understand that we want you to have the very best and we are not trying to sell you anything. But understand that we don’t fix your house nor do we build your house. You have to do it or see that it gets done. At a “green” conference recently I heard some members of the audience say that the government or the utility company should provide the funds for people to fix

their houses. Well folks, it is our houses that need improvements and we are the ones who will benefit from making those changes so just “git ‘er done” and quit whining.

I guess I had better ease off a little bit by telling you how we can help you. We have proven through the Arkansas electric cooperatives’ Energy Efficiency Makeover program and the model home program that existing houses can be greatly improved and new houses can be built to be energy efficient.

It is interesting to note that all of the 20-plus model homes have operated at less monthly heating and cooling cost than projected. We doubt that it is possible to build a house any more efficient than these houses and we did it by using the available common sense techniques that we have been teaching for years. Just ask us and we will be glad to help you do the same. As always, you can call me at my home office at 501-653-7931 or contact your local electric cooperative and we will be glad to point you on your way to making your home energy efficient.

P.S. Remember, the greenest BTU of all is the one that you don’t use. And, yes, the crappie are biting.



This photo depicts a blower door test, which is used to analyze a home’s energy efficiency.

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 or ask energy efficiency-related questions, 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