

By giving a little... you're helping a lot!

Your spare change goes a long way when you share it through North Western Electric's Operation Round-Up. By "rounding up" your electric bill payment to the next dollar each month, North Western Electric customers make a big difference with small change in area communities.

Your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters will help raise thousands of dollars every year. And those dollars are used to help your neighbors right here in our own communities. Health and rescue organizations, food banks, educational projects, child care programs and individuals with special needs are just a few of the possibilities for your Operation Round-Up donations.

Every penny contributed by North Western Electric customers is put to good use in community projects. The small administrative cost to run Operation Round-Up is paid by North Western Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Electric cooperatives across the nation are adopting the program because, when customers give collectively, it makes a tremendous difference in building stronger communities.



You can make a difference.

In addition to participating in Operation Round-Up you can help make a difference in our communities in other ways.

Many local organizations depend on volunteers to help it run. The North Western Electric Trust is no different. The Trust is governed by a board of directors -- volunteers who are North Western Electric customers. The board meets at least three times a year to review and award grants from Operation Round-Up funds. The board also appoints an employee of North Western Electric Cooperative to act as its executive director for administration and liaison between the Trust and the Cooperative.

Currently serving on the North Western Electric Trust board of directors are:

- Marie Goebel, Montpelier
- Roxie Timbrook, Hicksville
- Elaine Willibey, Bryan
- Ron Moore, Bryan
- David Richards, Sherwood
- Marilyn Short, Stryker
- Becky Rhodes, Ney

Each board term is three years.

If you would like to serve in the future on the board of directors, contact North Western Electric Cooperative.

You can also help by informing other organizations you belong to that charitable grants are available from North Western Electric Trust. Applications will be available at the Cooperative office.


Small change that changes lives



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So what is Operation Round-Up?

It's a program being adopted by electric cooperatives across the nation to help build stronger communities and make them better places to live. Customer electric bills are "rounded up" to the next dollar, averaging about 50 cents per customer per month. Dollars accumulated by Operation Round-Up are forwarded to North Western Electric Trust and put to work helping organizations/agencies and families/individuals primarily in Williams and Defiance Counties.

Here's how it works:

What happens when you participate in Operation Round-Up?

Let's say your electric bill for the month is \$76.75. As an Operation Round-Up participant, your electric bill would be "rounded up" to \$77.00. The extra 25 cents goes into the North Western Electric Trust fund, set up to handle contributions. The average roundup for each customer is about 50 cents per month – or only \$6 per year. However if all of our customers participate these small donations would add up to \$30,000

Dollars placed in the trust are used for charitable community-oriented projects

How do I know how much of my electric bill is going to Operation Round-Up?

Your electric bill is printed with the usual information. An extra line, **Operation Round-Up**, will appear on your electric bill with the amount that rounds up your bill to the next dollar.

What kind of projects will our money be spent on?

Every cent collected by Operation Round-Up is placed in a special trust fund to be used only for helping people or groups with specific needs. Since its inception in 2001, money has been granted to:

- a volunteer fire department to help purchase special equipment
- a small community to build a kids play-ground
- YMCA kids program
- help start a community crime stoppers program
- a local school's anti-violence program
- a local emergency communications agency to purchase a 911 educational unit.

The use of the funds will be at the sole discretion of the North Western Electric Trust board of directors. The North Western Electric Trust is a separate organization formed to oversee the accumulation and disbursement of these funds. Administration as well as all expenses for North Western Electric Trust is paid by North Western Electric Cooperative. This assures that all money collected by Operation Round-Up is used for charitable projects.

Who controls how this money is spent?

Grants from North Western Electric Trust to community organizations and others will be made by the Trust board of directors. The board consists of seven North Western Electric Cooperative customers. They will meet at least quarterly to review and approve applications for assistance based on demonstrated needs and funds available.

How much money is raised from "rounding up" bills?

Based on an average contribution of 50 cents per month from each participating North Western Electric customer (approximately 5,000 meters), about \$2,500 would be contributed each month, or about \$30,000 per year.

What if I don't want to contribute to Operation Round-Up?

While all North Western Electric customers were enrolled in the program, initially, some co-op customers have "opt-out," choosing not to participate. We hope most customers will continue to participate and contribute to the success of this program. Should you wish not to be a participant, call or write us and we'll remove your account from the program. You can "opt out" or "opt in" at any time.

Will grants be used to pay utility bills?

No Operation Round-Up dollars will be used to pay utility bills. Additionally, no funds may be used for political purposes.

Will I know where Operation Round-Up dollars were spent?

Many of the grants awarded by North Western Electric Trust will be publicized in the local media as well as *Country Living* magazine. The Trust will also publicize an annual report to all North Western Electric customers reviewing their activity from the previous year.