Happy Holidays!

Ripley Power and Light offices will be closed…

- Friday, December 23, for Christmas
- Monday, December 26, for Christmas
- Monday, January 2, for New Years Day
- Monday, January 16, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Monday, February 20, for Presidents Day

Pay your bill online and more ... at ripleypower.com

Office Hours & Locations

We are open 47 hours each week to serve you better!

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday

You can pay your utility bill at …

- 150 S. Main St. in Ripley
- 409 S. Church St. in Halls

If you have not been receiving your bills, call our office immediately so we can verify your mailing address.

731-635-2323 ■ 731-836-7595
www.ripleypower.com

We make it easy to afford a heat pump

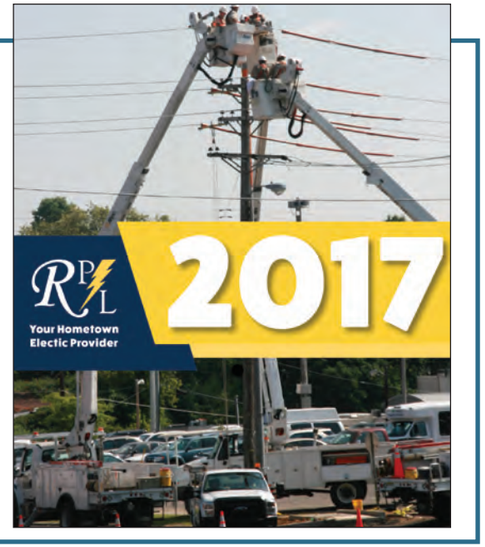
- Ripley Power and Light Co. will finance your heat pump purchase with no money down and up to 10 years to pay for it. Your payments will be on your monthly electric bill.
- We will finance your heat pump purchase if it is installed by a member of our Quality Contractor Network.
- We will give you a $200 rebate if you switch from gas heat to an electric heat pump. We will give you a $100 if you change from an electric heat pump to an energy-efficient electric one.
- Another option is to go through the eScore program and receive a $250 rebate. (You can choose only one rebate program.)

For more information about rebates, sign up for eScore or see our list of Quality Contractors, visit ripleypower.com/save.

In hot weather, a heat pump takes the heat from the air inside your home and pumps it outside while circulating the cool air throughout your home.

2017 Calendar

Ripley Power and Light Company's 2017 calendar will be arriving in your mailbox in December.



Ripley POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

December 2016

'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas …'

Ripley family fills yard with Christmas cheer

Chris and Melissa Hoffman bought their first decoration, the wire-framed Merry Christmas sign, in Gatlinburg 20 years ago.

When you drive by Chris and Melissa Hoffman's house this Christmas season, make sure you roll down the car windows so you can hear the music as you look at their decorated house and yard.

"We love Christmas; we love all of the lights," Melissa said.

That's why their home at 259 Church St. in Ripley is opulently decorated for the holiday season.

"We light up everything in the yard," Melissa said. "And every year, we try to add something more." They're slowly filling up two acres of yard.

Their oldest decoration, which was bought more than 20 years ago in Gatlinburg after they married, is a wire frame with Merry Christmas spelled out. It is covered in lights so you can't mistake its message.

The Hoffmans usually start putting up their Christmas decorations on Thanksgiving Day. Chris does most of the work outside, while Melissa is in charge inside. They have a Christmas tree in every room; each with its own theme.

Awed by your neighbor's Christmas display? Get a lot of compliments on your own decorations? Tell us about it by contacting Tracy Sellers at tsellers@ripleypower.com or 635-2323 by December 16. We'll need the family's name, exact address, and, if possible, a phone number. We'll be taking pictures for next year's Tennessee Connections!

The main tree inside is filled with ornaments with special meaning, Melissa said. "Every ornament has a story, where or why we bought it or who gave it to us." The tree has ornaments made by their two children, Chrissy and Neally, as they grew up and Hallmark ornaments her parents bought. Each year, Melissa said, her parents bought a Hallmark Christmas bell with the year on the ornament.

The Hoffmans have six grandchildren. "My oldest grandchild, Carlee, thinks it's a winter wonderland outside," Melissa said. Their elderly neighbor across the street says the display brings back many memories for her. Their next door neighbor is decorating her yard, too.

"The decorations just make people happy," Melissa said. "And we need more happiness in the world."

Next door to the Hoffmans is the home of Bob and Bobbie White. Their daughter, Tina, helps with their decorations.

Shane Kiestler, above, stands with his hives; below, he works with his bees in his beekeeper suit.

Bees help cotton farmers

Shane Kiestler's bees produce honey when they pollinate cotton fields in West Tennessee near his home on Edith Nankipoo Road in Halls.

He has 20 hives at his house, and he carries them to the fields when cotton is getting ready to bloom. The bees fly as far as five miles away, transferring pollen and opening more cotton blooms as they work, which increases cotton production.

"It helps the farmer out, and I get a little money out of it," Kiestler said.

Bees produce honey when they collect nectar and return to their hive. There, it is passed along to worker bees and naturally broken down into simple sugars and stored in honeycombs. The unique design of the honeycomb and constant flapping of the bees' wings causes excess water to evaporate and the sugars to dry out.

The end result is the thick, sweet, sticky liquid known as honey. Bees make it so they can feed themselves throughout the winter when it is too cold to fly out of their hives and search for food.

Kiestler has been a bee keeper for three years, and he began selling honey from his house last year. He hopes to begin selling more of his product to the public in different retail spaces as he expands production.

It's something he enjoys doing. "My neighbor used to make honey on a small scale, and he showed me how," Kiestler said. "I bought some equipment and started doing it myself. It's therapeutic."

Energy-efficient heat pump: Smart choice for your home

The most economical way to heat and cool your home in our climate is with an energy-efficient, electric heat pump.

"A good heat pump – if serviced properly – can last 15 years or more," said Mike Demeris, Ripley Power and Light's energy services specialist.

If you have had your heat more than 10 years and you are starting to put money into replacement parts and maintenance, you're probably better off to get a new unit. Many of the units that are now beginning to wear out have a 10-SEER rating. Though a great rating at the time, the 10-SEER is no comparison to one of today's more efficient units.

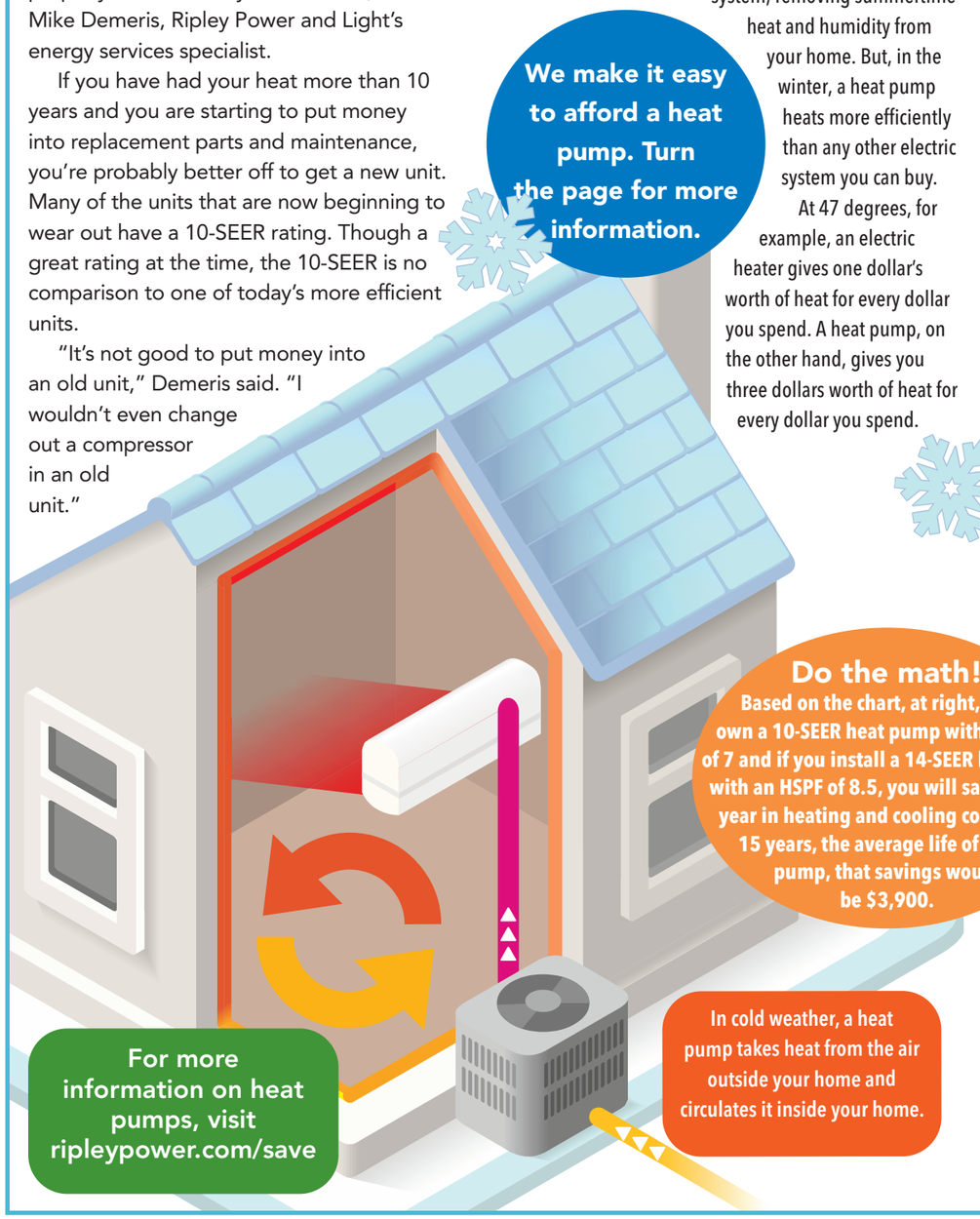
"It's not good to put money into an old unit," Demeris said. "I wouldn't even change out a compressor in an old unit."

How does a heat pump work?

A heat pump is a central heating and cooling system. It cools like any other central air-conditioning system, removing summertime heat and humidity from your home. But, in the winter, a heat pump heats more efficiently than any other electric system you can buy.

We make it easy to afford a heat pump. Turn the page for more information.

At 47 degrees, for example, an electric heater gives one dollar's worth of heat for every dollar you spend. A heat pump, on the other hand, gives you three dollars worth of heat for every dollar you spend.



Do the math!
Based on the chart, at right, if you own a 10-SEER heat pump with an HSPF of 7 and if you install a 14-SEER heat pump with an HSPF of 8.5, you will save $260 a year in heating and cooling costs. Over 15 years, the average life of a heat pump, that savings would be $3,900.

In cold weather, a heat pump takes heat from the air outside your home and circulates it inside your home.

For more information on heat pumps, visit ripleypower.com/save

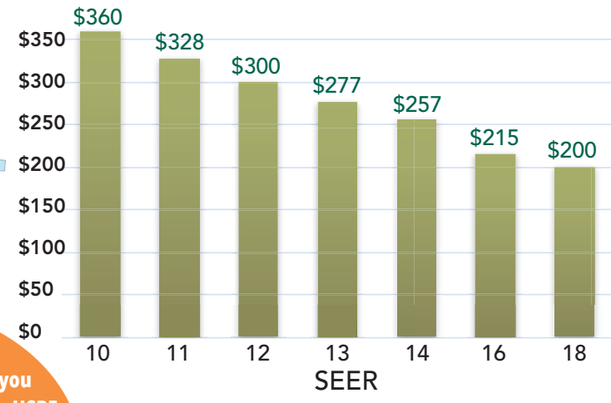
Heat Pump Efficiency Comparisons

The charts below show how much it costs to heat and cool a home based on the energy-efficiency of the heat pump. The costs are based on a house that is 2,000 square feet with 1,000 hours of cooling and 1,830 hours of heating load over a 12-month period. Electricity costs are based on 10 cents per kilowatt hour.

Lifestyles can significantly vary the amount of energy used and thus, the cost. However, these charts allow you to compare the difference in cost for the level of efficiency.

Cooling Costs

Based on SEER, the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio or Cooling Efficiency



Heating Costs

Based on HSPF, the Heating Season Performance Factor or Heating Efficiency