

# High Country Home Energy Makeover Contest



## Moving Toward a Clean Energy Future for Appalachia

In 2013, Appalachian Voices launched the “Energy Savings for Appalachia” program to promote energy efficiency as a common-sense way to help shift the region to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future. We work with electric member cooperatives, like Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corp., to develop loan services that enable residents to make home energy efficient improvements. Recipients of the loan repay the loans over time with money they save every month on their electric bills.

These programs not only benefit families, but they also boost local businesses, create and sustain jobs, and reduce the pollution from extracting and burning fossil fuels. Energy efficiency lowers carbon emissions that cause climate change.

Appalachian Voices is a nonprofit organization that brings people together to protect the communities and natural resources of the region by promoting a shift from harmful energy practices to a cleaner, more just and sustainable energy future.



One of our top priorities is to end mountaintop removal coal mining. In the last 20 years, the coal industry has destroyed more than 500 Appalachian mountains and more than 2,000 miles of headwater streams. The air and water pollution contributes to significantly higher rates of birth defects, cancer, and cardiovascular and respiratory disease in the region where mountaintop removal occurs. Native forests and wildlife habitat are lost, and the cultural and economic value of the iconic Appalachian landscape are degraded.

In North Carolina, burning coal is the single largest source of electricity. Last year, Duke Energy -- the main provider of electricity to N.C. member cooperatives like BREMCO -- got most of its coal from Central Appalachia where mountaintop removal is the primary method used to mine the type of coal that produces electricity.

Reducing the region's wasted energy through residential energy efficiency programs and other means will go a long way towards moving Appalachian to a cleaner energy future.

Visit [appvoices.org/energycontest](http://appvoices.org/energycontest) for more info  
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**AppalachianVoices**  
Protecting the Central and Southern Appalachian Mountain Region