

# Powerline Press

## NEWSLETTER



A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members. **OCTOBER 2020**

## SCAM ALERT

DOXO is a third-party online bill payment website that allows the general public to pay utility bills online through the doxo.com website. They are NOT affiliated in any way with Lake Region. We encourage our customer-members to use our “authorized” SmartHub app or our website.

The “doxo.com” service is an independent service that will charge extra fees. More importantly, Lake Region cannot control when we will receive payments made via DOXO. This can result in late payment fees or discontinued service due to non-payment. Therefore, Lake Region advises customers to ONLY utilize the PAY BILL on our website for online bill pay or the SmartHub app. If you would like more information on our app please give us a call at 918-772-2526.

## \$3,539,098 In Capital Credit Allocations Approved

Unlike investor-owned utility companies that strive to generate profits for shareholders, electric cooperatives like LREC operate on an at-cost basis. Any profits made by LREC—referred to as margins—are returned to the members. Capital credits represent these dividends. Capital credits are calculated each year in which LREC makes a profit and distributed to each member in proportion to his/her electrical usage for that year. LREC retains and uses capital credits for operating capital until the financial condition of the cooperative, determined by its banker and board of trustees, permits the co-op to issue a capital credit retirement. The board will evaluate a retirement at the November board meeting.



## Home more? Unplug unused electronics to avoid standby power usage.



### Save up to \$50 on electricity per year.

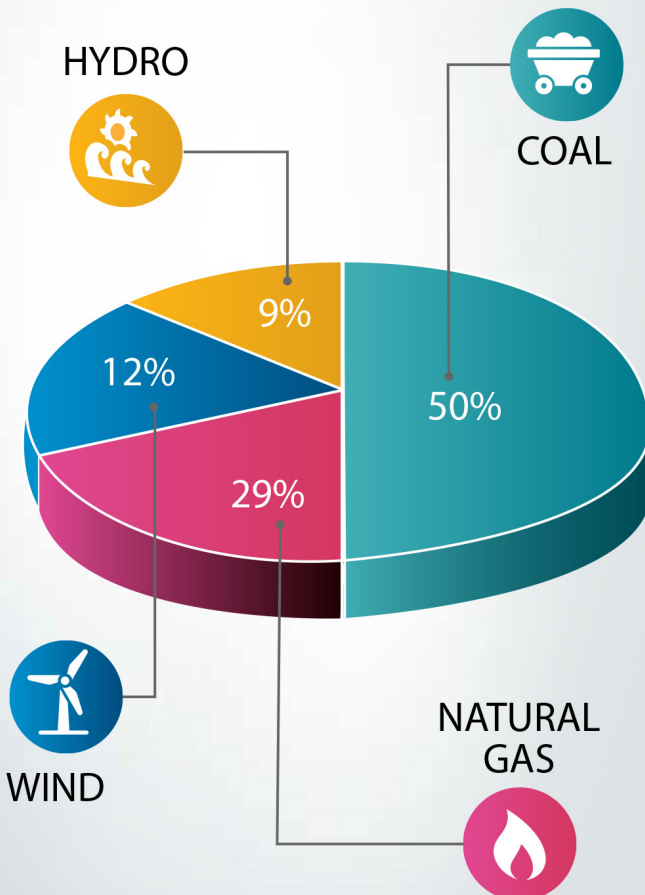
Electronics and chargers continue to consume energy even when they're not in use or are fully charged. These and other energy vampires can account for 10% of an average household's annual electricity bill. Unplug your devices or opt for an advanced (smart) power strip to automatically shut off power to unused devices.

**MORE WAYS TO SAVE >** [www.touchstoneenergy.com](http://www.touchstoneenergy.com)

# BALANCING ACT

**Affordable electricity a top priority for Associated Electric and its members**

## 2019 AECI RESOURCES TO SERVE MEMBER LOAD



photos courtesy Associated Electric Cooperative

## Member - Owned Member - Focused

When Associated Electric Cooperative generates electricity, producing affordable power is a top priority for the Springfield, Missouri-based cooperative. Their mission is to provide a reliable, economical power supply and has remained constant throughout its 59-year history of providing service to local distribution cooperatives.

Associated is owned by and provides wholesale power to six regional and 51 local electric distribution cooperative systems in Missouri, southeast Iowa and northeast Oklahoma that serve 2.1 million member-consumers.

## Members want and need affordable electricity

Each day, member-consumers across three states receive power supplied by Associated. Who are these members? Surveys conducted by Associated and member distribution cooperatives show most members are over the age of 45 and have been a cooperative member for more than 10 years. More than 50% are categorized as middle income. As a result, members need, and expect, affordable power to ensure their homes, farms and businesses thrive.

## Diverse generation helps deliver affordable power

How does Associated generate power to serve member-consumers across three states affordably? In a word: balance. Associated's commitment to reliable, responsible and affordable power requires options for generating electricity. Associated continues its time-tested strategy of maintaining a diverse and flexible portfolio of generation resources that includes coal, natural gas, wind and hydropower.

## Options for generating power lead to lower costs

Associated's goal is to match the needs of local distribution cooperative member-consumers to the most affordable generation resource. Associated invests in coal power plants that run around-the-





*Above: Associated can control its power plants from this operation center.*

“ The balance and flexibility of our diverse generation fleet allows us, at times, to have significant volumes of excess generation when the price of selling power to nonmember is beneficial. That’s good for Associated and its members. ”

*- Michael Denning, Associated’s manager of energy marketing*

clock to make them more efficient. Along with natural gas plants, they are an important part of a balanced, diverse generation mix that enables the cooperative to run the units that are less expensive at the time electricity is needed. 2188501

Coal is traditionally a less costly fuel to make electricity. However, natural gas generating can be less expensive to run than coal power plants when natural gas prices are down. During those times, more of members’ energy is coming from natural gas. The ability to choose among different ways to generate power, like coal or natural gas, is a tremendous advantage that benefits member-consumers with lower costs.

## Options for generating power lead to lower costs

Associated has generation available above its member-consumer needs. When utilities outside of the Associated system need power, they can buy the cooperative’s excess generation. The revenue from these power sales helps keep member costs lower than they otherwise would be.

## The bottom line: Balance benefits members

A balance of generating options used to produce electricity allows Associated to do what is necessary to control costs on behalf of member-consumers. Whether it is using the lowest-cost electricity pro-

duced by Associated’s power plants or selling extra power off-system to bring in revenue that relieves rate pressure for members, providing affordable power is a top priority.

## Linemen help restore power after Hurricane Laura in Louisiana



**Cooperation Among Cooperatives** – Lake Region Electric Cooperative linemen Riley Light, Trent Elliott, Frank Teague, Brad Farrar, and Arnold Ratliff have traveled to Louisiana to aid in restoration efforts. They are helping turn the lights back on for members of cooperatives that suffered damage in Hurricane Laura. Thank you to these guys who are stepping up to help our neighboring co-ops in Louisiana. We will pray for their safety and their families while they are away.

Joining the daily class Zoom call

Uploading the day's classroom assignments

Googling "How to teach common core math"

Joining a teach-from-home Facebook group

Downloading the virtual learning school app

# HOW DO YOU CONNECT?

We all use the internet differently, whether it's for remote learning, entertainment, or just making our lives easier. No matter how you use the internet, you need a connection that's **FAST** and **RELIABLE**.

**Fast Internet | Simple TV | Reliable Home Phone**

**register.lrecok.net / 918-772-2526 /** 

\* Live service not available in all areas. Must pre-register for service. 24/mo residential contract is required for free construction & installation. \$10/mo optional Wifi router fee. Other terms may apply.



**Wagoner County, HERE WE COME! Pre-register online and view map of future service area.**

### Your Board of Trustees

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### Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Telephone

**800-364-LREC or  
918-772-2526**

### Website:

[www.lrecok.coop](http://www.lrecok.coop)  
[www.lrecok.net](http://www.lrecok.net)

### Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &  
Tahlequah, OK.

### Main Office Address

P.O. Box 127  
Hulbert, OK 74441

### Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in this issue of the *Powerline Press*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill. To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

**Cooperative bylaws** are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.

