



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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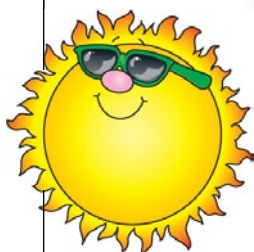
No. 8



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When shopping for a new appliance, consider lifetime operation costs as well as the up-front purchase price. Refrigerators last an average of 12 years, clothes washers about 11, and dishwashers about 10. Check the Energy Guide label for the appliance's estimated yearly operating cost, and look for ENERGY STAR units, which usually exceed minimum federal standards for efficiency and quality.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Electric Co-ops Support Local Schools

▪ Gross receipts tax provides much needed money for rural schools

When it comes to supporting local schools, electric cooperatives earn an A+. Every year, Oklahoma co-ops pay millions in tax revenues to rural schools via the electric cooperative gross receipts tax.

Electric co-ops pay gross receipts tax to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. The Tax Commission then distributes 95 percent of these funds to schools based on the number of miles of cooperative lines in each school district.

It is worth noting that investor-owned utilities pay ad valorem taxes, but only 50 to 60 percent of these funds go to schools.

In 2012, Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) paid \$710,516.61 in gross receipts tax. These funds benefit 34 schools in LREC's service territory.

The chart (*on the right*) shows the allocation of school funds in LREC's area. Tax distribution varies from school to school because some school districts have more miles of cooperative lines.

Because rural schools benefit directly from these taxes, LREC and other Oklahoma electric cooperatives firmly support this program. Over the years, various proposals to change the tax structure would have diverted funds away from rural schools. These plans were met with opposition from rural school leaders and electric cooperative officials.



Tax Allocation to Local Schools

School District	Miles of Line	Taxes paid in 2012
Kansas	48.55	\$11,825.68
Fort Gibson	113.24	\$26,557.78
Oaks Mission	82.63	\$19,380.24
Hulbert	256.20	\$60,084.43
Haskell	19.88	\$4,661.26
Tahlequah	340.80	\$80,395.71
Keys	215.93	\$50,642.08
Lowery	126.36	\$29,634.61
Norwood	94.35	\$22,128.43
Woodall	61.53	\$14,430.45
Shady Grove	68.19	\$15,992.50
Peggs	148.84	\$34,907.74
Grandview	132.67	\$31,114.18
Briggs	74.43	\$17,454.53
Tenkiller	0.59	\$138.02
Okay	66.80	\$15,667.40
Catoosa	19.21	\$4,506.19
Broken Arrow	19.30	\$4,525.54
Porter	182.69	\$42,611.33
Coweta	234.17	\$54,918.81
Wagoner	376.67	\$88,337.48
Chouteau/Mazie	16.59	\$3,890.56
Wickliffe	1.61	\$378.66
Locust Grove	154.19	\$36,162.45
Skelly	8.45	\$1,981.67
Westville	6.07	\$1,422.96
Webber Falls	11.98	\$2,807.03
Muskogee	2.94	\$688.59
Braggs	72.98	\$17,116.16
Inola/Gregory	68.29	\$16,015.27
Leach	1.26	\$296.49
Spavinaw	0.16	\$38.06
Moseley	0.14	\$32.22
Gore	0.90	\$212.10

Know the Cost of Running Your Pool Pump?

Circulating your pool's water keeps the chemicals mixed and removes debris, but pool pumps often run much longer than necessary. This includes portable above ground pools, so limit the time your pool pump is on. If the water circulates while chemicals are added, they should remain mixed; and most debris can be removed using a skimmer or vacuum. You can also save by getting the smallest size pump your pool requires, since larger pumps use more energy.



Courtesy Photo

Running a one horsepower pool pump for 12 hours a day costs about \$43 a month!

Source: www.TakeControlAndSave.coop

Water safety tips

- Do not have any electrical appliances within five feet of a pool or hot tub.
- Better yet, use battery operated, rather than electrical appliances near water.
- Any electrical outlets within twenty feet of a pool or hot tub should be equipped with a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter).
- Never swim or use your outdoor hot tub during a thunderstorm.
- Do not touch any electrical appliances until you are completely dry.



To learn more about electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

For more energy efficient ideas for pools, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's website: www.energysavers.gov. To find out more about how to save energy and money in your home, visit www.TakeControlAndSave.coop.

Copper Theft Costs LREC Money and Threatens Lives

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) has recently sustained copper theft from our system. These thefts are taking place in secluded rural areas.

The small dollar amount (approximately \$50) worth of copper these thieves are stealing is costing LREC and the members \$2,500 - \$3,000 in labor and supplies. There have been instances where the poles have been broken and transformers damaged. These unexpected costs affect you, the member. LREC is a non-profit electric cooperative owned by the members.

You can help keep cost down by calling us at 918-772-2526 or toll-free at

800-364-LREC, if you see anyone who is not identified with Lake Region near our poles or substations. Together we can cut down on crime and prevent rising costs.

Do not put yourself or family in harms way trying to report a suspicious activity.

Copper Theft:

- ▶ Can lead to power outages
- ▶ Endanger co-op members
- ▶ Increase repair costs to co-op
- ▶ Copper theft is a felony



Local Students Return From Electric Co-op Sponsored Youth Tour Trip

Three local students were among more than 1,500 high school students visiting Washington, D.C. in June for the 2013 Washington Youth Tour. This trip was sponsored by Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) along with hundreds of other electric cooperatives across Oklahoma and the country. Cortnie Cox of Hulbert, daughter of Jamie Wilder and Brad Cox; Alexis Morrison of Hulbert, daughter of Johnny and Jennie Morrison; and Autumn Craig of Stillwell, daughter of Will and Rosemary Craig, joined 72 other Oklahoma students for this great educational event.

“LREC is proud to offer these extraordinary students the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C.,” said Glen Clark, LREC Youth Tour Coordinator.

“The Youth Tour provides a great way for our future leaders to learn about government and electric cooperatives. By investing in these students, we believe we are investing in the future of our communities,” added Clark.

LREC has sponsored the Washington Youth Tour for more than 40 years. The trip is designed to educate students about our Nation’s Capital, the sacrifices made for our freedom and the value of the cooperative way of business. The students return home with a greater appreciation of our nation’s leaders, a respect for the beauty of Washington, D.C., and friendships that will last a lifetime.

“The best part of the trip was the values we learned together at our Nation’s Capital,” said Autumn.

Applications for the 2014 Youth Tour will be available in January 2014, at the LREC office, or by calling (918) 772-2526.



Left to right: Cortnie Cox, Alexis Morrison, and Autumn Craig



Please Update Your Account Information

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) requests that all members update their account information with their proper “911” (physical) address as well as telephone number and email. Our goal is to minimize outages, but when events beyond our control such as automobile accidents, lightning storms, freezing rain, or other occurrences of nature take place, it is impossible to guarantee uninterrupted service.

Up-to-date account information will help the cooperative update our billing and mapping software, making our information more accurate. LREC has also made outage reporting easier, and a more efficient process. Simply dial the number **918-772-2526** or toll-free at **800-364-LREC** (5732) and your outage will be reported automatically based on our caller ID, if we have your phone number on file.

For your convenience LREC offers a custom form on our website (www.lrecok.coop) for you to complete with your updated account information. Once you submit the form, our office receives the information and will update your account. You may also contact us by phone and update your account information, call **(918) 772-2526** or **800-364-LREC** (5732).

Energy Star AC Unit REBATE

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) members are eligible for a \$50 rebate on Energy Star qualified window unit air conditioners, as well as rebates on heat-pump systems. Helping our members use less energy and save money is important to LREC. This is why we have our energy efficiency rebate program for you, the members. We understand that during the summer months everyone would like to save money and not have such a high electric bill. By purchasing high efficiency electric appliances you can reduce your 1070401 electric use.

Contact our office or visit our website for rebate applications.

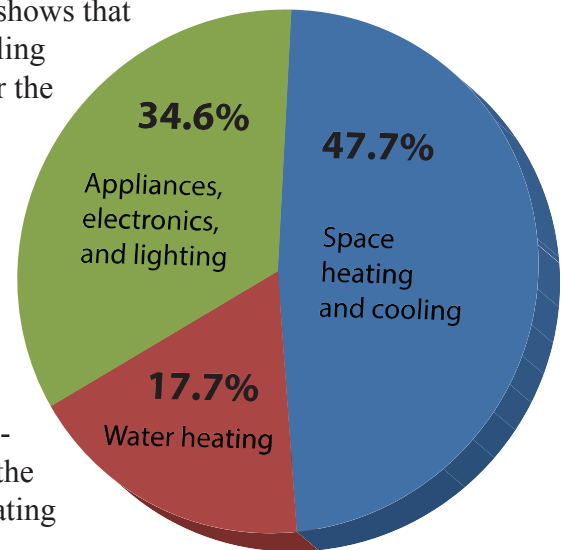
If you have any questions about saving on your cooling cost, you can call Glen Clark at 918-772-2526 or toll-free at 800-364-LREC.



How Americans Use Energy

New data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that heating and cooling still accounts for the largest amount of electricity consumption in U.S. homes.

As we use more and more electronic gadgets, (Phantom Power) that segment is closing the gap between heating and cooling.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Phantom Power: Secret Energy Users Revealed

There is an average of 15% of energy bills that is credited to invisible energy users. How is this power being charged? It may be because "off" may not mean off.

Every electronic device has a plug load, which is the amount of energy a device uses while operating. Once you turn a device off there is usually an amount of Phantom Power, which is the amount of energy a device uses while off, yet still plugged in. Visit www.takecontrolandsave.coop and use the phantom load calculator to assist in measuring your phantom load use. This calculator includes the phantom load of many common household devices.

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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 or mail during the month of publication.

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

For more information, call 800-364-LREC or 918-772-2526

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