



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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

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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month



Be merry and bright, but don't let your holiday lights shine all night. Save money on your electric bill by installing a light timer for your home.

It can help lower your electric bill and reduce energy consumption. Use a manual timer plugged into an electrical outlet to automatically turn lights on and off as scheduled.

Source: Department of Energy

Offices Closed

LREC will be closed December 25 & 26 in observance of Christmas.



How is the Amount for a Security Deposit Calculated?

Security Deposit and Credit Policy

As a nonprofit electric cooperative, Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) is committed to providing the best service at the lowest possible cost to its members - and this means operating at the height of efficiency.

With that purpose in mind LREC has implemented the following procedures regarding a security deposit that will help cut costs due to losses from delinquent accounts and bad debt write-offs.

LREC, by allowing a member to use electricity during the month and billing him or her the following month, is simply extending credit to the members. Therefore, a security deposit is required on all accounts.

Security Deposit for Existing Accounts

If an existing member has more than two late payments in a twelve month period, we will request that the member pay a security deposit in order to adequately protect other members of the co-op against the possibility of non-payment on the amount owed. This deposit amount is two times the highest monthly electric bill with in the last 12 months. The reason for this is that it usually takes sixty days to disconnect a member's electric service for non-payment (Thirty days before it is billed and thirty days after the bill is mailed out). This is the industry standard that is followed by most electric utilities and sanctioned by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and not unique to LREC. The mentioned deposit is automatically added to any account that does not have a security deposit on file and has more than two late payments in the past twelve months.

Security Deposit for New Accounts

A security deposit is required on all new accounts. The amount of the security deposit will be equal to two times the highest bill for that location for existing services or \$300 for a new construction. However, this security deposit can be waived under the following *111120* circumstances:

- 1.** A new member may choose to have LREC perform a credit check to determine if a security deposit is needed (\$5 credit check application fee paid by member). If the credit check indicates that a security deposit is not required, the deposit amount will be waived.
- 2.** LREC also offers a pre-paid account similar to a pre-paid phone service. Under this option **No Deposits** are required. A member simply purchases a certain amount of electricity in advance. The member will be notified by phone or email when the balance is low. The member then can purchase more electricity. This can be done daily, weekly, monthly or as often as one wishes.



We Highly RECOMMEND

All members consider enrolling in LREC's **Automatic Bank Draft** and **Budget Billing** programs. The **Budget Billing** program averages your past twelve month's electric bill and that becomes your fixed budget amount for the year. In the month of May of each year, we compare your actual usage with your budget usage and any overage or underage will be settled at this time. This program will offer you the ease of budgeting with equal monthly payments.



The **Automatic Bank Draft** program allows LREC to draft your account on the draft date selected by you; 1st, 5th, 12th or 19th of every month for the amount of your bill. You choose one of our four convenient dates that fits your budget. Combine **Budget Billing** with **Automatic Bank Draft** and you are set for a year at a time. Members do not have to sign up for both programs, they can sign up for one or the other.

Members who sign up in the month of December for the Automatic Bank-Draft program will be put into a prize drawing for one of four \$25.00 Wal-Mart gift cards.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for **Automatic Bank Draft** or **Budget Billing**, please call 918-772-2526 or toll-free at 800-364-5732. You can also visit our website www.lrecok.coop to set-up your **Automatic Bank Draft** and **Budget Billing**, and find more information about these programs.

Members will need to continue paying their electric bill as normal until "**Bank Draft**" is printed on the bill.

Operation Round-Up Grant Program Update



Through the Operation Round-Up program, members voluntarily "**round-up**" their electric bills to the nearest dollar each month. Each participant donates an average of \$6 a year, all of which goes directly toward meeting local needs.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative members who participate in the Operation Round-Up program help make these grants possible.

The Operation Round-Up Foundation met during their regular business meeting, held on October 22, 2014 and approved six grants. During the meeting, grants were awarded to:

- Wagoner Education Foundation was awarded \$5,000 to help provide grants to projects submitted by Wagoner Teachers.

- Blue Star Mother of America, Inc. Wagoner Chapter 2 was awarded \$1,500 for their back pack program.

- Four local individuals were each awarded \$2,500 for help with medical expenses.

If you would like more information about our Operation Round-Up program, or are interested in applying for a grant, please call us at **918-772-2526** or toll-free at **800-364-LREC (5732)**. Operation Round-Up applications are on our website at www.lrecok.coop.



Capital Credit Refunds on December Bills

■ Lake Region Electric Cooperative's (LREC) Board of Trustees has authorized a distribution of \$1,066,110 in capital credits to past and present members during the years of 1983 and 2013

LREC will be refunding over one million dollars to our members this December. \$492,361 will be for 1983 capital credits and \$573,479 will be for 2013 capital credits totaling \$1,066,110. Members' individual refund is calculated on the amount of electricity you purchased in the two years mentioned. The average refund for members for 1983 is \$27.83 and the average refund for 2013 is \$23.68. If your total amount is below \$75.00 it will show as a credit on your bill and if the amount is higher than \$75.00 members will receive a check.



Being part of a cooperative, you, the members are the owners. Therefore, the margins are returned to you and are paid back to you, the members, in the form of a capital credit refund.

In the cooperative business, this is called a margin. An investor-owned

utility would call that a profit and this is where the big difference is between a cooperative and an investor-owned utility.

The board will determine when capital credits are to be refunded based on the financial conditions of the cooperative.

If you move from the area, the capital credits will remain in your name. Whenever capital credits are refunded for a given year, they are paid

to everyone who paid an electric bill that year regardless of whether they remained a member or moved.

If you do move, it is important to keep LREC informed of your current address so you will receive your capital credit check when they are refunded.

If you have any questions about capital credits, you may call our office at 918-772-2526 or toll-free at 800-364-LREC (5732).

Lake Region Electric Cooperative bill statement with capital credit refund posted

Account No.	Bill Date		Map Location		Service From	To	Days
					11/14/2012	12/14/2012	30
Meter Number	Pres Read	Prev Read	Mult	KWH Used	Rate Schedule / Reference		
01388842	93787	92201	1.0	1586	REGRT / REGULAR		
Activity Since Last Bill		\$ Amount	Current Bill Information				\$ Amount
Previous Balance		146.00	<div>ENERGY CHARGE</div> <div>SECURITY LIGHT</div> <div>CAPITAL CREDIT REF</div> <div>OPERATION ROUND-UP</div> <div>TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES</div>				132.70
Payment		-146.00					8.48
							-25.04
Other Adjustments		0.00					0.86
							117.00

Use Your Space Heater Safely

When used properly and safely, electric blankets, space heaters, and other heating devices can keep you toasty during cold winter months. Here are a few safety tips for electric blankets and heating pads to keep in mind:

- Purchase items only if they have been approved by an independent testing facility, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Inspect all cords and connections for cracks and frayed edges, which are a huge fire and injury hazard. Replace blankets or heating pads that have faulty cords.
- Discard your blanket or heating pad if you see dark or charred spots on the surface.
- Do not put another cover on the top of an electric blanket unless the safety instructions included in the packaging specifically state it is safe to do so. Some newer models protect against overheating.
- Once your electric blanket or heating pad is switched on, keep it laid flat - a folded device can cause a fire, as can a blanket that's been tucked in (which can bend wires).

- Never use heated bedding while asleep - look for a model with a timer that switches off automatically.



If you choose to use a space heater to supplement your home's heating system, some of the same rules of thumb apply, including purchasing a safety-certified model and reading the included safety instructions. More tips for space heaters:

- Keep units 3 ft. away from combustible materials - such as bedding, drapes, clothes, and rugs. Space heaters also have parts that can spark, so avoid using them in areas where you store flammable liquids like kerosene and gasoline.
- In general, plugging space heaters directly into a wall outlet is best. If you must use an extension cord, make sure it's the correct type and has the correct wire gauge size for your particular space heater. Otherwise, use a wall socket that can handle the load.
- Check safety instructions before using a space heater around water - some models are not intended for use in bathrooms.
- Be sure children are supervised around space heaters. Curious exploration can lead to electrical shock and burns.
- Finally, unplug and store the space heater in a safe place when you are not using it.



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Telephone

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Website:

www.lrecok.coop

Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &
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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