



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Replacing your conventional power strips with advanced power strips (APS) can help reduce the electricity wasted when electronic devices are idle. These power strips are a convenient and low-cost way to save.

Source: Department of Energy

Offices Closed



LREC will be closed Friday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day!

EPA Regulations and the Future of Coal

On June 2, 2014 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unveiled a rule to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from fossil-fuel based generation by 30 percent by 2030. The problem is the EPA is asking us to comply with regulations based on a technology that has not been proven at commercial power plants. This carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology may look good on paper or in the lab, but it is not ready to place into the very power plants we depend upon to keep the world running. Our fuel reliability is too important to trust to an unproven technology.

Listed are key points to the new rule:

- ▶ The rule calls for 30 percent reduction nationwide of greenhouse gases by 2030 from 2005 levels.
- ▶ The rule will primarily affect coal-based plants and could ultimately close hundreds of them.
- ▶ Ultimately, the rule will reduce the use of coal to generate electricity and increase the cost of energy for consumers.
- ▶ The rule gives each state flexibility to devise its own approach to meeting the rule through development of its State Implementation Plan (SIP).
- ▶ Each state has an emissions target, which differs from state to state depending on its mix of resources as of 2012.
- ▶ EPA requires the states to have their implementation plans in one to three years, depending



STOP YOUR ELECTRIC BILL FROM GOING UP

Tell the government you can't afford costly regulation

Take Action and visit WWW.ACTION.COOP

on circumstances and the form of the state plan. For example, a multi-state plan is allowed more time for development.

- ▶ The rule will be finalized a year from now after a 120-day public comment period.

According to a 2012 congressional budget office report, engineers have estimated CCS technology will increase the cost of producing electricity from coal based power plants by 75 percent. Who can afford that? The end result is existing coal power plants will shut down, leaving us with natural gas generation for base loads.

Dependency on natural gas delivery makes us prisoners to the market and the weather (natural gas does not flow if it is too cold or if others

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EPA Regulations

► *Continued from page 1*

closer to its source buy up the supply.)

While exact cost and rate impacts aren't known at this time, we do expect that this regulation will place upward pressure on rates in the future.

The nation's cooperatives were successful in extending the comment period to 120 days, all Oklahoma cooperatives will comment on the draft rule and continue to advocate for affordable, reliable electricity for rural electric cooperative members. The members' voices, heard through the **ACTION** campaign, helped make the difference.

Nearly 80 percent of our energy came from coal last year. It is important for members to continue to be engaged in advocating for keeping coal, a domestic, low-cost resource, in the generating mix to ensure affordable, reliable electricity for members.

We are in this together. The EPA will open a period for public comments, as they are required to do by law. 900700 we urge you to go to www.Action.coop and make your voice heard.

www.Action.coop

YouthPower Energy Camp Sparks Fun *Volleyball, Hiking, Swimming, and Pole Climbing*

Eighty 8th grade students took advantage of this year's "YouthPower Energy Camp" in Hinton, Oklahoma. The camp is designed to help students develop leadership skills and learn about the rural electric cooperative industry. Campers engaged in safety demonstrations, climbed poles, and watched a co-op crew in action. Students had the opportunity to work with new friends from across the state to form and run their own cooperative business.

Jennifer Dempsey, Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) Director of Member Services, Education and Youth, has directed the camp for several years.

"The kids at camp were outstanding – paid close attention to all the speakers, asked terrific questions and played their hearts out during our camp activities," Dempsey said.

Many of the campers were not ready for the week to end.

"Thanks for one of the best weeks of my life," one camper wrote. "I had so much fun learning about electric and going up in the bucket truck."

Dempsey said the camp instills confidence in the young adults, and more than 20 adult counselors work to ensure each camper is recognized for their potential.

"We want them to know that electric co-ops offer all kinds of great opportunities for the young people in their communities and



Left to right: Aaron McCollum, Dillon Alberty, and Tanner Keys

YouthPower Energy Camp is designed to help cooperative youth develop leadership skills, have summertime fun, and at the same time learn about one of rural America's most important industries - rural electrification.

once they know that, they will realize the value of being a co-op member extends beyond their electric service," Dempsey said.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) joined Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) in sponsoring three students to attend the YouthPower Energy Camp. The three students who attended are; Aaron McCollum, Dillon Alberty, and Tanner Keys.

The YouthPower Energy Camp is coordinated by OAEC. If you would like more information about Energy Camp you can contact the office at 918-772-2526.

Photo Courtesy of OAEC

For Lucas' sake, Teach Learn Care.



Lucas Ritz
1990-1999

TLC

TEACH what you know.
LEARN what you need to.
CARE enough to share it.

Boating and swimming are very popular, and safety precautions like life jackets are a given for millions of families who take to the water.

So the Ritz family was stunned when their son Lucas was killed while swimming with his life jacket on and being closely supervised by his mother.

The danger could not be seen, but it was silently lurking within the water of the marina that they called home – and where Lucas and other kids were swimming one hot summer day.

Electricity from a boat plugged into shore power was leaking into the water, and Lucas was killed as he swam into that energized water.

The Ritz family is working with Safe Electricity to teach about this silent killer, hoping to stem the tide of growing numbers of those affected by **electric shock drowning (ESD)**.

They urge everyone to learn about electrical hazards that can be hidden near docks, boats, and marinas and to care enough to have boats and docks safely equipped and maintained.

See Lucas' story at



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT



Electric co-ops clear right-of-ways in order to keep power flowing safely to your home.

Trees may seem harmless on a calm, sunny day. But add a bit of wind on a stormy night and those towering pillars may threaten your home's electric supply.



Your electric cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable power, and our right-of-way program is the key to fulfilling that promise.

Co-op volunteers lend a helping hand over the course of the Special Olympics

Electric cooperative employees from several cooperatives volunteered and traveled to Stillwater in May to join 100 other co-op volunteers from across the state for the annual Oklahoma Special Olympics Summer Games.

This year marked the 27th year the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) has organized a group of co-op volunteers for the event.

Co-op volunteers comprise one of the largest volunteer groups at the games each year. LREC's Glen Clark, Member Services, participated in this year's games. Clark not only encouraged Special Olympic athletes, but he shared in their excitement of competing.



LREC employee, Glen Clark judging long jump.

Photo Courtesy of OAEC



Watch an online video of Jennifer Dempsey's interview regarding electric cooperatives involvement with the Oklahoma Special Olympics.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UifL6zhU0R4>

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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.