



# Powerline Press

## NEWSLETTER

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

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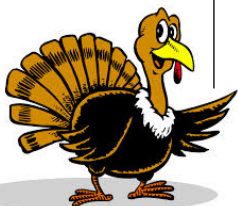
### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you are expecting guests for holiday festivities, consider giving your heating unit a break. With the oven cranked up and the house packed with people, the temperature will rise on its own. Also make sure it has a clean filter so it can work as efficiently as possible all winter long.

Source:  
TogetherWeSave.com

### Offices Closed

LREC will be closed November 28th & 29th in observance of Thanksgiving.



## Residential Electric Rates Among Lowest

Does it make any difference to belong to an electric cooperative? As a member of a not-for-profit electric cooperative, you receive electricity at the lowest possible cost! Originally, cooperatives served rural areas not profitable enough for investor-owned utilities.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative, Inc. continues to offer some of the most reasonable and lowest electric costs of utilities in the state of Oklahoma.

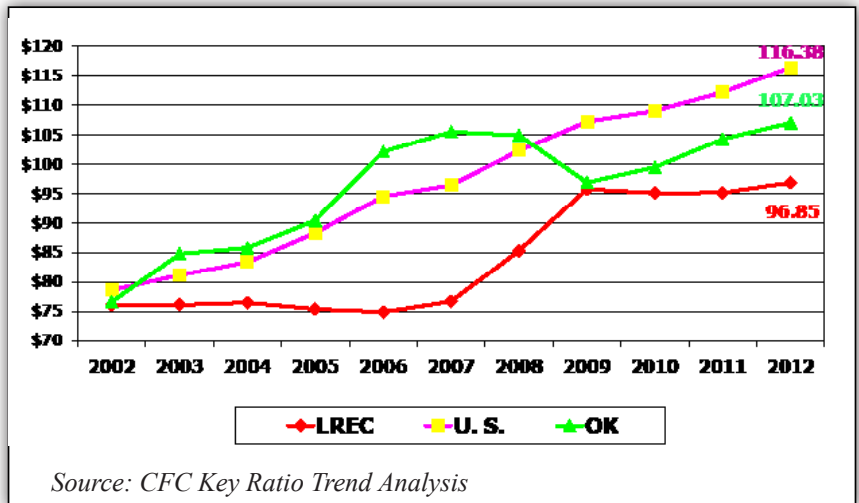
### How do we do it?

Because our members own us, our focus is service, not profit. That means we operate at cost. If there is any left over after the bills are paid, it is returned to you, the members, in the form of capital credits.

Even when future rates go up, as will the cost of most goods or services you buy, we should still have some of the most reasonable rates in Oklahoma.

### Quick Facts

- LREC members' electric bills are about 10% lower than the average among the 26 Oklahoma electric cooperatives.
- LREC's residential rates ranked 23rd lowest among the 26 Oklahoma electric cooperatives.
- LREC's rates are 17% lower than the National average.



Source: CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis

The chart on this page is based on the data provided by National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) comparing average monthly bill of 1,000 kWh of LREC members to other cooperatives within Oklahoma and the nation.

- LREC's rates have been steady from 2002 to 2009.
- In 2009, environmental cost and EPA mandates on coal power plants forced the increase in the cost of LREC's power supply and slightly increased LREC's rates.
- The rates have remained unchanged since 2009.

### What's a kilowatt-hour (kWh)?

It's the basic unit of electric power and the way we measure your monthly usage. We multiply the number of kWhs by the per unit cost\* (around seven cents/kWh on the winter rate). One kilowatt-hour of electricity will run a 15-watt compact fluorescent bulb for more than 66 hours.

## Control Energy Costs While Preparing Holiday Feasts

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that cooking accounts for 4 percent of total home energy use, and this figure doesn't include the energy costs associated with refrigeration, hot water heating, and dishwashing.

As holiday parties and potlucks gear up, keep these tips in mind to control energy costs:

- **Don't peek.** Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy to get back to the proper cooking temperature.
- **Turn it down or turn it off.** For regular cooking, it's probably not necessary to have your oven on as long—or set as high—as the recipe calls for. For recipes that need to bake for longer than an hour, pre-heating the oven isn't necessary. And residual heat on an electric oven or stovetop will finish the last 5 to 10 minutes of baking time. Just remember to keep the oven door closed or the lid on until time is up. Alternately, if you're baking in a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe calls for. Because ceramic and glass hold heat better than metal pans, your dish will cook just as well at a lower temperature.
- **Give your burners a break.** For your stovetop to function effectively, it's



*Make good use of your slowcooker, microwave, or toaster oven to save energy.*

important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay free of dirt and grime.

- **Don't neglect your slowcooker.** Or your microwave, toaster oven, or warming plate. For example, the average toaster oven can use up to half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time. Information to help you estimate how much energy your own appliances use is available on [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov).
- **Give your furnace the day off.** If your next party involves a lot of work

for your stove, think about turning down your furnace to compensate. The heat of the oven and all those guests will keep the temperature comfortable.

- **Make contact.** Electric stovetops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact with; the less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stovetop will have to expend to heat the pan. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a new pan.

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*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*



### In Control

### Prepaid Metering Program from LREC

Be in control with a prepaid metering account and get instant information about your power usage and no more billing surprises! To learn more or sign-up for prepaid metering call 918-772-2526 or visit our website [www.lrecok.coop](http://www.lrecok.coop).



Complete this survey for a chance to win  
**1 - \$100 bill credit or one of 4 - \$25 bill credits!**  
Your comments and information will only be used by LREC. Understanding our members helps us serve you better. We appreciate your input! You may also go online to complete! Simply go to: [www.coopstats.com/LREC13](http://www.coopstats.com/LREC13)  
**Deadline for entry November 30, 2013**

Account number: (as it appears on your bill)

Name: (as it appears on your bill)

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Telephone number:

E-mail address:

1. Do you own or rent your home?  Own  Rent
2. How many square feet of living space do you have?  
 Less than 1,000  1,500 - 1,999  2,500 - 2,999  
 1,000 - 1,499  2,000 - 2,499  3,000 or more
3. Approximately when was your home built?  
 Before 1970  1980-1989  2000-2004  After 2009  
 1970-1979  1990-1999  2005-2009
4. Which best describes your account?  
 Single family residence  Farm  
 Multi-family: apt/condo/duplex  Vacation or seasonal home  
 Mobile or modular home  Non-residence
5. What fuel does your water heater use?  
 Electricity  Propane  Natural gas  Other
6. Approximately what year was your water heater installed?  
 Before 1990  1995-1999  2005-2009  
 1990-1994  2000-2004  After 2009
7. What size is your water heater (in gallons)?  
 20-29  40-49  60-69  80+  
 30-39  50-59  70-79  Tankless
8. What is your home's main source of heat?  
 Electricity  Propane  Other  
 Natural gas  Wood
9. How many refrigerators or freezers are in use in your home?  
 1  2  3 or more  None
10. How satisfied are you overall with Lake Region Electric? (1 is not at all satisfied and 5 is very satisfied)  
 1  2  3  4  5
11. How do you receive internet service?  
 Dial up  Cable  Fiber-to-the-Home  
 Satellite  DSL  No internet

12. Are you familiar with LREC's new Fiber-to-the-Home services?  
 Yes  No
13. How interested would you be in LREC's new Fiber-to-the-Home services including high speed internet, cable TV and home phone?  
 Very interested  Not interested  
 Somewhat interested
14. Have you ever visited our website [www.lrec.coop](http://www.lrec.coop)?  
 Yes  No  No internet (skip to #16)
15. On the co-op's website, what features would you most likely read or use? (all that apply)  
 Online account access  Read co-op publication  
 Learn about co-op programs  Buy products/services  
 Pay bill online  Submit service requests
16. How often do you read our newsletter, "Powerline Press?"  
 Always  Sometimes  Rarely  Never
17. How often do you read the "Oklahoma Living" Newspaper you receive each month?  
 Always  Sometimes  Rarely  Never
18. Are you interested in any of these bill payment options currently offered by Lake Region Electric? (all that apply)  
 Automatic bank draft  Online bill payment  
 Levelized billing  Prepaid (Pay-as-you-go)  
 Automatic credit or debit card draft
19. Have you used SmartHub which allows you to check usage, receive notifications and access online bill payment?  
 Yes  No
20. How likely are you to use SmartHub in the future?  
 Very likely  Somewhat likely  Not at all likely
21. How concerned are you about potential future EPA regulations that may affect your electric bill?  
 Very concerned  Somewhat concerned  Not concerned
22. How many people live in your household?  
 1  2  3  4  5  6+
23. Into which category does your age fall?  
 Under 25  35-44  55-64  75+  
 25-34  45-54  65-74
24. Which best describes your occupation?  
 White collar (office, retail, sales)  Blue collar (manufacturing, construction, transportation)  
 Agriculture (farmer, rancher, livestock, crops, etc.)  Professional (advanced degree or training)  
 Unemployed/disabled  Retired

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# HERE'S SOMETHING THAT WILL REALLY WAKE YOU UP.

**POUND OF COFFEE**  
 2011: 34.5¢  
 2012: 27.0¢  
 INCREASE: 21%

**ELECTRICITY**  
 2012: 1.1¢  
 INCREASE: 21%

Keeping energy affordable. Just another way it pays to be a co-op member. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at [togetherwesave.com](http://togetherwesave.com).

**LREC**  
 LAKE REGION ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
 The "Tooltown" Energy Cooperative

# Need More Outdoor Lighting?

*Security lights for homes, farms, and businesses*



The longer evenings in winter are a good time to think about illuminating your property with a high-pressure sodium security light from Lake Region Electric Cooperative. Security lights 3268600 are a proven deterrent to crime, plus they cast a welcome glow around your yard that can prevent mishaps caused by stumbling around in the dark. Call us today about installing a security light that meets your needs. You can also visit our website [www.lrecok.coop](http://www.lrecok.coop) and sign up to have a security light installed. Monthly rates include free maintenance and installations on existing poles.

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

## Time Change Reminder

The 2013 time change is Sunday, November 3 2013. This is when we set the clocks back one hour or "Fall Back". The days will start getting shorter and members start using more electricity with lighting and heating. This can cause some members to see a change in their electricity usage throughout the winter months.



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- Stanley Young .....Dir. of Marketing
- Larry Mattes .....Editor
- Tina Glory-Jordan .....Attorney

### 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)

### 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 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](tel:800-364-LREC) or [918-772-2526](tel:918-772-2526)

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