



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

To save energy this month, try lowering your water heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy you consume. Turn the water heater's temperature to the warm setting, which is around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy – and help you save on your monthly bill.

Source: Department of Energy

Offices Closed

LREC will be closed November 27th & 28th in observance of Thanksgiving.



Fiber vs. Cable vs. DSL – What you Need to Know

The average LREC member may not know the difference between cable, DSL, satellite and fiber optic internet broadband access. This is quite understandable because most users are only concerned about the end result. The truth is that while all can provide you with high-speed internet capabilities, these services are very distinct and their differences could be the determining factor in which type of internet access you choose.

DSL

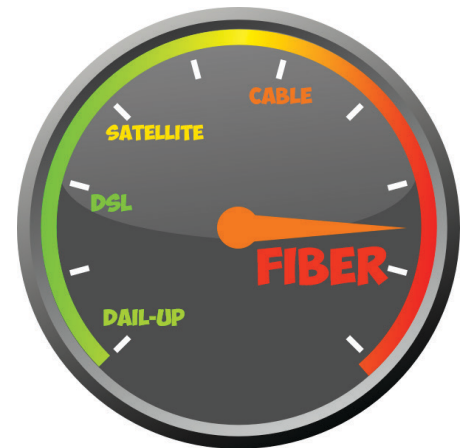
A **DSL connection**, uses the existing copper wire of your phone line to deliver high speed internet access. While not as fast as cable, this type of connection is incredibly faster than dial-up. One critical factor that will impact your decision on DSL is the distance between your home or office location and the provider's central office. The further you are from the main line, the weaker the signal, and the slower the connection. Residential DSL service ranges from 128 Kbps to 3 Mbps.

CABLE

A **cable connection** utilizes the coaxial cable that connects to your television set. In contrast to DSL, the quality of a cable connection does not depend on distance so your speed is guaranteed regardless. However, unlike DSL, which runs on a dedicated line, cable connections are typically shared amongst your neighbors, making it a slightly less secure option. As far as speed goes, cable access ranges from about 3 to 16 Mbps, which is essentially 4 to 5 times faster than DSL.

FIBER

Fiber optic offers many advantages over conventional copper cable lines. It is able to transmit data much faster over greater distances and because the cable is smaller in diameter and weighs less, it makes an ideal alternative for a wide variety of cabling solutions. Since the conductor is glass and cannot generate electricity, fiber is immune to all sorts of interference. This means that it can come in direct contact with lightning, all while still putting out a superior perfor-



mance. Because fiber optic cables cost less to maintain, this helps make the price competitive with cable and DSL. Fiber optic speeds range from about 20 to 100 Mbps, which is essentially 33 times faster than DSL and 6 times faster than cable. Fiber would make the best choice for obtaining the fastest possible speed.

The hardest part may be finding fiber service in your area. That is why Lake Region Electric Cooperative is stepping up and helping our members have access to these types of internet speeds with our fiber-to-the-home network. If you would like to check if you have fiber optic internet where you live visit our website at www.lrecok.net.



Convenient Payment Options

When seasonal temperature changes cause your electric bill to rise, consider spreading those costs out over several months with Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Average Monthly Billing program.

Average monthly billing makes it easier to balance your energy spending. You will know what to expect on your electric bill because the amount will be approximately the same month after month -- even throughout peak cooling and heating periods. It does not reduce your electric bill, but will smooth out your charges and help you manage your electric bill. There is no charge for using the average monthly billing plan. This is a service that we provide to our members to make it easier to budget their electric bills. Please call us today for complete details on all our payment options at **918-772-2526**.

What Does Five Dollars Get You?

For only \$5.00 you become a member of Lake Region Electric Cooperative. When you first established electric service with LREC, you filled out the membership application.

The \$5.00 membership fee you paid with your first bill means you are provided low cost, reliable, and safe power from a company that is dedicated to member service. You also have a voice in the cooperative by voting and electing your board of directors at LREC's annual meeting each year in April. Remember you are always welcome to attend 271400 LREC's annual meeting of the membership.



The Powerline Press Q&A

Question: With tax refunds coming in the next few months. Can a member pay ahead on their electric bill?

Answer: Yes, you can pay ahead on any service you have with LREC. You do not have to be signed up with a prepaid meter or have automatic bank draft set-up. You can pay as much as you want on any of your accounts. The money will be credited to your account and will carry over to your next billing cycle. LREC has several members who carry a credit due to paying more than they are billed. You can pay ahead on your account at your local office, over the phone, or with our SmartHub online service and smartphone app.

Do you have a question for your local electric cooperative? Would you like to see it featured in a future newsletter? Please send your questions to:

Powerline Press Q&A
P.O. Box 127
Hulbert, OK 74441

or e-mail lmattes@lrecok.coop

Know How To Report a Power Outage

Lake Region Electric Cooperative would like nothing more than to guarantee electricity 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, occasionally, outages do occur mostly due to weather. The best defense is to be prepared and know how to report an outage with LREC.

Ways to Report an Outage

Call Us

Call LREC at 918-772-2526 or toll-free at 800-364-LREC. You can speak to a member service representative or report the outage through our automated system. After you call LREC, you will hear a welcome recording message. To use our automated phone system to report an outage press one. The automated system has caller ID which will match your phone number you are calling from to the phone number listed on your account. If your account has your updated phone number, no other information is needed to report your outage. Then you can submit your outage with your phone number. If we do not have



your phone number on file, you will have to have your account number to submit an outage with our automated system. Your account number is listed on the top of your billing statement.

Report outage online through Co-op website

You can visit our website and click on the green Pay Now button on the home page and set-up a SmartHub account and submit your outage through the website.

SmartHub App.

Members with smartphones or tablet devices can download the SmartHub app. Look for “SmartHub” in the Apple Store or in the Android Market. Search: SmartHub. If duplicates appear, the correct App. is provided by our partner, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). The app will be **FREE** to download and install. You can then submit your outage with your SmartHub App.

Update Your Account Phone Number

If we do not have your phone number on file LREC’s automated phone system will not recognize your account when you call. The automated system has caller ID which will match your phone number you are calling from to the phone number listed on your account. Please contact our offices to update your billing information. You can also update your phone number on our website at www.lrecok.coop.



Don't Take RISKS

When gearing up for winter weather, by raking leaves, trimming trees, planting shrubs, or cleaning gutters, it's important to remember that the electricity powering your home comes from overhead lines or buried cables near your house.

Electrical safety tips outside your home include:

► When planting trees or shrubs in your outdoor space call 811 to request an underground locate before you dig. With just one call this free service notifies all utilities so they can locate their underground services.

► After your locates are complete leave space around ground level transformers and electric meter or around electrical pedestal when planting.

► When moving ladders or trimming tools be especially careful that they do not come in contact with overhead lines.

► Use wood or fiberglass ladders if you must work near electric wires. Never use aluminum or metal ladders near electric lines.

Now is a great time to look for potential electrical safety hazards in your home by checking for:

Overloaded outlets.

Plugs forced into outlets where they do not fit.

Electrical cords laying under rugs or carpets where they could overheat.

Extension cords, intended for temporary use being used as permanent household wiring.

Appliances with frayed or damaged cords that could cause a shock or fire.

Electrical appliances located where they might come in contact with water.

To ensure an enjoyable fall and winter season be sure to keep electrical safety a top priority in your home.



courtesy photo

Time to fall back



Turn your clocks back one hour to standard time at 2 a.m. Sunday.

November 2, 2014

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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

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 or 918-772-2526

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