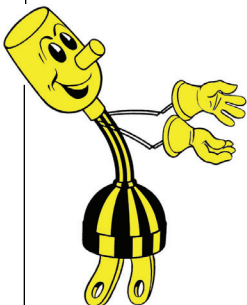




**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**

When it is hot outside, appliances and lighting can actually heat up our home more than we think. To save energy, minimize the activities that generate additional heat, such as burning open flames, continuously running a computer, or using hot-hair devices like curling irons. This will ultimately keep your house cooler.

Source: Department of Energy



Prepaying for Electric Curbs Consumption

Members who prepay for electricity reduce their consumption by 10 percent, according to a survey by DEFG, a management consulting firm specializing in services offered by utilities.



Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Prepaid program allows members to:

- \$ Say goodbye to deposits, late fees, and monthly bills**
- \$ Customize a payment schedule that works best for you**
- \$ Buy electricity when convenient**
- \$ Monitor your electricity consumption**

What is Prepaid Metering?

Prepaid metering offers the opportunity to pay when you want, in the amount you want. Instead of receiving a traditional paper bill that is generated once each month, usage is calculated daily. Prepaid customers never pay a late charge and are not charged costly disconnect and reconnect fees if the account runs out of credit.

Is There a Deposit for Prepaid Service?

Prepaid customers are eligible to have their deposit waived or refunded and applied toward your current energy costs. This puts your deposit money working for you NOW instead of being held on your account to

secure future service.

How Do I Know When My Balance Is Low?

Prepaid customers choose how they are notified when their balance is running low. Notifications can be received via email, automated calling service, or text message. Each prepaid customer chooses the balance at which they begin to receive notifications.

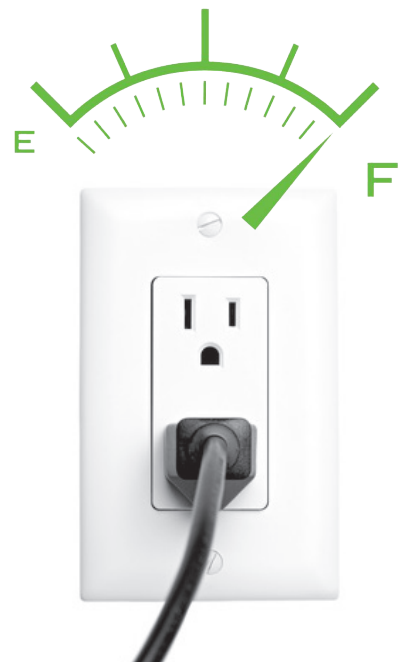
How Do I Make Payments?

Payments can be made in person, by telephone, or online.

How Do I Sign Up?

Just call Customer Service at **(918) 772-2526** for details. You will be asked to have your

account current including any unbilled usage. For many customers, the deposit is enough to cover these charges.



EPA's Greenhouse Gas Regulations Fail to Consider the Economic Impact of Americans

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) CEO, Jo Ann Emerson, made the following statement about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final rules regulating greenhouse gas emissions from new, existing, modified and reconstructed power plants.

"Any increase in the cost of electricity most dramatically impacts those who can least afford it, and the fallout from the EPA's rule will cascade across the nation for years to come.

"While we appreciate the efforts intended to help offset the financial burden of rising electricity prices and jobs lost due to prematurely shuttered power plants, the final rule still appears to reflect the fundamental flaws of the

original proposal. It exceeds the EPA's legal authority under the Clean Air Act, and it will raise electricity rates for our country's most vulnerable populations while challenging the reliability of the grid.

"We will continue reviewing this extremely complex rule and have additional comments on behalf of America's not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives in the coming days."

NRECA recently commissioned a study that underscores the devastating relationship between higher electricity prices and job losses. The study, *Affordable Electricity: Rural America's Economic Lifeline*, measures the impact of a 10 and 25 percent electricity price increase on jobs and gross domestic

product (GDP) from 2020 to 2040.

Even a 10 percent increase in electricity prices results in 1.2 million jobs lost in 2021 across the country with nearly 500,000 of those lost jobs in rural communities. And 20 years later, the economy fails to fully recover.

For more information and an interactive map, visit <http://www.nreca.coop/111d>.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states.

A Co-op Day

So how did you spend your day? Chances are cooperatives were a big part of it from dawn until bedtime. Take a moment to read this quick overview of how co-ops might be impacting you every day.

Your morning orange juice might have come from Florida's Natural, a producer-owned cooperative based in Florida. If your morning coffee came from Equal Exchange you get bonus points because they source their coffee from farmer-owned co-ops in developing countries. If you like milk in your coffee or cereal, more than 86 percent of all fluid milk flows through a co-op!

The wheat in your muffin or toast was most likely processed through a farmer-owned grain elevator in the Midwest. If you had cranberries in that muffin, they

likely came from Ocean Spray, or maybe you used Land O'Lakes Butter or Welch's Concord Grape Jam – all producer-owned co-ops that make the products we love on our toast.

Perhaps this is the day to make some improvements to your home. Ace Hardware, True Value and Do It Best are all examples of purchasing co-ops. These are small businesses that come together to form a co-op so that they can compete with big box retailers that are not owned by people in the local community.

You might need to stop by the credit union for a loan or pick up some cash for that home project. More than 100 million people in the U.S. are members of a credit union, - credit unions are co-ops.

On your way home, you may stop at one of the 300 community-owned cooperative grocery stores in the country. Many of the meat products and vegetables are also sourced from co-ops.

After dinner, perhaps you are watching TV from one of the more than 1,000 small cable companies that serve rural



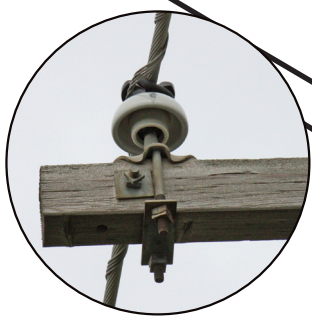
Some of the nation's most popular grocery brands—including dairy case favorite Land O'Lakes—are the products of farmer-owned cooperatives.

America that have come together to form a co-op that helps keep costs as low as possible. Or maybe you are surfing the Internet through services provided by your local telecommunications co-op.

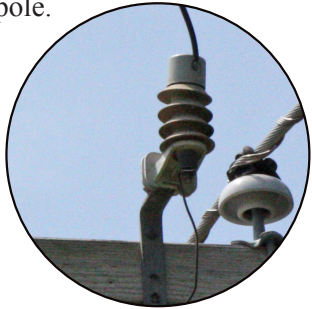
And when it's time for "lights out," you can flip that switch knowing you're receiving safe, reliable electricity from your local electric cooperative, your friends at Lake Region Electric Cooperative. From morning until night, 2273004 you can have a very cooperative day.

What's on an Electric Power Pole?

Primary wires are on top of the pole and usually carry 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation to a transformer.



Insulators prevent energized wires from coming in contact with each other or the utility pole.



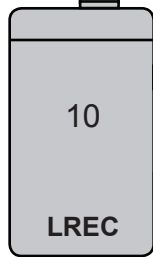
Lighting arrestors protect the pole and equipment from lightning strikes.



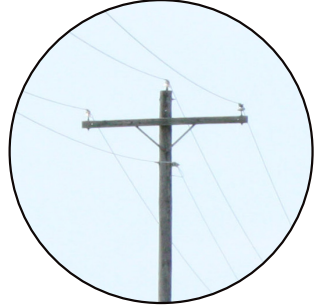
Transformers convert higher voltage electricity carried by primary wires and lowers the voltage for use by members.



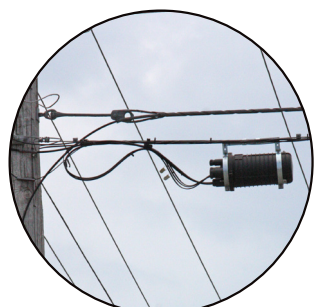
A **ground wire** runs the entire length of the pole. It directs any unwanted lightning electricity on the pole safely into the ground.



Cutout acts like a fuse and opens when there is a problem with the line or a section of it.



The **neutral wire** acts as a ground and a return line back to the substation. It also helps balance out the amount of electricity or load on the system.



Telephone and cable wires are typically the lowest wires.



Guy wires help stabilize utility poles.

Operation Round-Up Update

Grant Money Helps Local Individuals with Medical Expenses

LREC's Operation Round-Up program is a co-op community assistance 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.

LREC members who participate in the Operation Round-Up program help make these grants possible. This program is making a significant impact in the local communities.

The Operation Round-Up Foundation Board met during their regular business meeting, held on July 22, 2015. During the meeting, grants were awarded to:

- ◆ Three local individuals were awarded \$2,500 each for medical expenses.
- ◆ Eternity Fraternity, Inc of Wagoner was awarded \$1,440 for security cameras and construction tables.
- ◆ Blue Star Mothers of Wagoner was awarded \$1,500 for supplies and postage for freedom boxes being shipped to military overseas.
- ◆ Wagoner County Area Neighbors was awarded \$2,600 for back to school supplies for their backpack program.
- ◆ Cherokee County Christian Ministerial Alliance was awarded \$1,200 for back to school supplies for their backpack program.



Electric cooperatives were founded on the principle of concern for community. The Operation Round-Up Board meets quarterly to review requests. The next Operation Round-Up meeting will be held October 28, 2015.

For grant application or more information about Operation Round-Up, visit our website www.lrecok.coop or call 918-772-2526.



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Monday-Friday
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Telephone

800-364-LREC or
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www.lrecok.coop

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Tahlequah, OK.

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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.