

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

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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Adding insulation to your home? An R-value indicates insulation's resistance to heat flow, a higher R-value means more effective insulation. Every type of insulation has a unique R-value depending on material, thickness, and density. Your ideal R-value depends on whether your home is new or existing, your heating fuel, and where you live. Learn more at energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Changes to Rebate Program for 2012

Lake Region Electric Cooperative offers a variety of rebates and services through our Take Control & Save Energy Efficiency Program. These rebates come from Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI), our energy producer, who we buy our power from. AECI has updated the criteria for certain rebates and will end some of the rebates this year.

1) The clothes washer and dishwasher rebates will end June 1, 2012. Rebates will be honored through Sept. 1, 2012 for those appliances purchased prior to June 1, 2012.

2) Increases in EER requirements on Ground Source Heat Pumps and Dual Fuel Heat Pumps to Energy Star rating plus 2 points began on Jan. 1, 2012. Rebates will be honored through April 1, 2012 for those units meeting old 2011 requirements and installed prior to Dec. 31, 2011.



Courtesy Photo: General Electric Appliances

You can access the new rebate applications on our website, www.lrecok.coop. If you have any questions about rebates, please contact our office at 918-772-2526 or toll free at 800-364-LREC.

Local Students attended Leadership Summit



Photo by: Glen Clark

K.C. Barnes and Tony Schroder

Lake Region Electric Cooperative sponsored K.C. Barnes and Tony Schroder, both of Porter, Oklahoma, to attend this year's Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit. Thirty teens from more than a



dozen electric cooperatives gathered for a full day of hands on training, discussions, and team building activities. The training featured innovative and exciting discussion led by Rhet Laubach, personal leadership insight speaker.

Each teen received a \$250 scholarship for participating in this year's summit. The day-long training wrapped up at the Cox Convention Center where the students enjoyed watching the Oklahoma City Barons Hockey team play.

Nominating Candidates for LREC Trustee

Lake Region Electric Cooperative members will vote for two trustees at this year's annual meeting on April 28, 2012 at the Hulbert Public School Auditorium. Any member who is interested in running for a trustee position, including incumbents, must submit a nominating petition before March 29, 2012. Each petition must include 15 or more member signatures. The petition forms are supplied by Lake Region Electric Cooperative, available at the Hulbert office.

Important Dates

March 9, 2012: Deadline for selecting Youth Tour essay finalists.

March 28, 2012: Final judging presentation of Youth Tour finalists at Hulbert office.

March 29, 2012: Nominating petitions for Lake Region Electric Cooperative trustees due at cooperative office in Hulbert.

April 28, 2012: Lake Region Electric Cooperative's annual meeting at the Hulbert Public School Auditorium.

Operation Round-Up Update



lar each month.

Each participant donates an average of \$6 a year, all of which goes directly toward meeting local needs.

For participating members, it is only small change, 1 cent to 99 cents per month, but when you multiply that by the thousands of generous Lake Region Electric Cooperative members who participate in Operation Round-Up, it is making a significant impact on our local communities.

These grants have provided medical care and equipment, food, clothing, housing, educational assistance and many other needed services and products. The Operation Round-Up Foundation met during their regular business meeting, held on January 25, 2012, to approve eight grants. During the January meeting, grants were awarded to:

Cherokee County 4-H was awarded \$5,000 to help with expenses associated

with this year's 4-H Summer Camps, Leadership Conference Roundup, and the 4-H Community Education Garden.

Tahlequah Public Schools Special Olympics was awarded \$2,000 for expenses associated with the State Special Olympics Games in Stillwater.

A family was awarded \$2,500 to help with damages caused from a house fire.

An individual was awarded \$2,500 for medical expenses.

Tahlequah High School Save-A-Senior after graduation event was awarded \$1,000.

Wagoner Grad Nite 2012 after graduation event was awarded \$1,000.

Keys High School Project Graduation after graduation event was awarded \$1,000.

An individual was awarded a \$1,000 to help with damages caused from a house fire.

Electric cooperatives were founded on the principle of Concern for Community, and LREC cannot see a better way for members to help those in need and, in turn, make our local communities better places.

Springtime A/C Check Well Worth the Money

The best way to save on energy expenses this summer might be to have your air conditioning system inspected. A professional HVAC technician will inspect all of the components of your system and let you know



if any repairs are needed. This way you will have a heads-up before the cooling season begins and you are stuck without air conditioning on the hottest day of the summer with an unexpected breakdown.

A note: It is usually cheaper to pay per inspection rather than to sign an annual contract for A/C and heating maintenance.

Either way, paying a pro to maintain your heating and cooling system is worth the money 4472600.

Sign Up in March for Automatic Bank-Draft and You Could Win One of Four \$25 Wal-Mart Gift Cards

Electronic payment options like Automatic Bank-Draft can save members time and money by avoiding the use of checks, stamps and driving expenses.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) continues to offer its members beneficial and convenient services related to receiving and paying their monthly bills. We offer Automatic Bank-Draft four times a month for members to have their electric bill drafted from their bank account. Automatic Bank-Draft payments are transferred directly from your checking or savings account to LREC. Automatic draft dates are the 1st, 5th, 12th or 19th of each month. Members will have the option of setting the date they want their monthly bill to be drafted. If a member is already participating in the Automatic Bank-Draft program, you

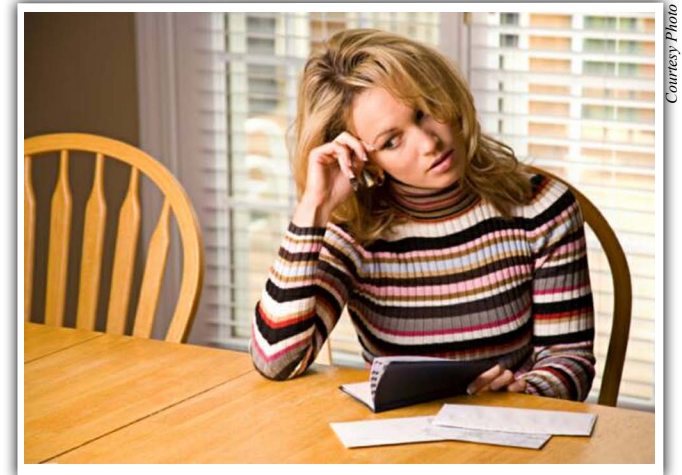
can ask to be switched to your preferred draft date.

Automatic Bank-Draft can be set-up by visiting one of our offices or calling our main office to request a form. Members can also apply online at www.lrecok.coop. Members will need to continue paying their electric bill as normal until "BANK DRAFT" is printed on the bill.

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

If you have any questions about the

Automatic Bank-Draft program, please contact our offices Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 918-772-2526 or 800-364-LREC or visit our website at www.lrecok.coop.



Connect with new Co-op Connections Card benefits

Cash rewards and new health discounts on chiropractic, dental, and vision care

The New Year welcomes several exciting new benefits from the Co-op Connections Card. One of the major changes is the new My VIP Savings program, which gives co-op members the chance to earn cash back on many online purchases.

To participate, members must go to the Co-op Connections homepage, www.connections.coop, and click on one of the My VIP Savings links. First-time users will be prompted to establish an account, and then it's on to shop at more than 1,000 merchants, including Apple, Best Buy and Wal-Mart. Members must enter a company's website through the My VIP Savings link to earn rewards, the amounts of which vary by merchant.

Another new development is the Healthy Savings Discount program, offering discounts for chiropractic, dental, and vision care, as well as lab work and hearing aids.

"We felt the dental benefit was the perfect program to add to the Co-op Connections Card," said Kenda Hoffman, vice president, client benefits, at New Benefits, Touchstone Energy strategic partner. She cited a recent report that nearly one in three Americans lack dental insurance.

Humana Dental Access offers discounts of up to 40 percent on most services at some 100,000 providers nationwide.

Coast-to-Coast vision will enable co-op members to save on eyewear at national chains including LensCrafters and Target. There are also discounts for contact lenses and laser eye surgery.

To take advantage of the new benefits, co-op members will need to show their providers a card with the new benefit information on the back. Members are urged to visit one of Lake Region Electric Cooperatives' offices to receive an updated information sticker to place on their Co-op Connections Card.

For questions about the Co-op Connections Card and its benefits, please contact Larry Mattes at 918-772-2526 ext. 6942.



Stay Safe around Overhead Power Lines

It can be all too easy to overlook things that we see every day, such as overhead power lines. However, failure to notice high voltage power lines can be a deadly oversight.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative encourages everyone to look up and around you. Follow these guidelines as you prepare to work on outdoor projects this year:

Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long tools like ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning poles. Be sure to lower your long equipment when you are moving it. Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.

Be careful when working on or around your roof, installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes, installing or cleaning gutters, or doing repair work. Never go up on the roof in windy or bad weather.

Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines.

Never trim trees near power lines, leave that to the professionals. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.

Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could come in contact when more weight is added to the branch.

For more information on electrical safety and to see videos about power line safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

I CHANGED MY AIR FILTER. AND MY WARDROBE.

Saving money on my electric bill seemed like a good enough reason to update my closet. Find out what you can do at TogetherWeSave.com.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Spring Forward

We spring forward this year on March 11th, kicking off months of extra sunlight in the evening. These extra daylight hours save electricity by allowing members to turn the lights on a little later in the evening.



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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](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.