



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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

March 2014

Vol. 5

No. 3



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Appliances account for about 13 percent of your home's energy use. If they have energy-saving settings, use them! If they are nearing 20 years old, consider replacing them with a new, energy-efficient model. And remember to try smart power strips for smaller appliances and electronics that continue to draw power even when turned off.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Ever Wonder How Your Electricity is Generated

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) purchases our wholesale power from Associated Electric Cooperative (AECI) based in Springfield Missouri. AECI is a wholesale power generation and high voltage transmission cooperative.

AECI's electricity is produced using a mix of fuels and technologies from coal, natural gas, hydropower, wind and affordable electric purchased on the open market.

For more than 50 years, AECI has provided reliable, wholesale power generation and transmission to its six transmission co-op member/owners. They supply 51 local electric cooperatives in Missouri, Iowa, and Oklahoma.

Hydropower - AECI receives supplemental and peaking power from Southwestern Power Administration, the federal power marketing agency that supplies power from 17 reservoirs across Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Missouri. While hydropower is one of our cheapest resources, it is limited commodity dependent on rainfall and the capacity of lakes and dams to store the water.



AECI Power Plant in Cloweeu, Oklahoma

Coal and Natural Gas - Coal generation supplies the bulk of members' electricity, typically about 80 percent. Lower natural gas has led to increased natural gas generation. Coal and natural gas are typically less expensive fuels for electricity generation than intermittent wind or solar. Power plants can operate around the clock and do not depend on the ability of storage like wind, water, and solar power. Fossil fuel based

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LREC Members Donate Spare Change to Help the Community

"Neighbors helping neighbors," is one of the principles of rural electric cooperatives. Lake Region Electric Cooperative's **Operation Round-Up** program is one successful example of cooperative members helping the community.

Operation Round-Up allows members to round up their monthly electric bills to the next whole dollar amount. Each participating mem-

ber contributes less than a dollar each month, averaging around six dollars a year. The change is put into a special charitable fund and awarded in grants to individuals, organizations, and causes in our local communities.

► **Operation Round-Up grant recipients listed on page 2**



Nominating Candidates for LREC Trustee

Lake Region Electric Cooperative members will vote for two trustees at this year's Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held on April 26, 2014 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 21, 2014. 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 14, 2014: Deadline for selecting Youth Tour essay finalists.

March 21, 2014: Nominating petitions for Lake Region Electric Cooperative Trustees due at cooperative office in Hulbert.

March 26, 2014: Final judging presentation of Youth Tour finalists at Hulbert office.

April 26, 2014: Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting at the Hulbert Public School Auditorium.

Operation Round-Up Update

The Operation Round-Up Foundation met during their regular business meeting, held on January 22, 2014, and approved ten grants. During the January meeting, grants were awarded to:

- ☐ An individual was awarded \$2,500 for medical expenses.
- ☐ An individual was awarded \$2,500 for expenses due to a death in the family.
- ☐ Zoe Institute, Inc. was awarded \$5,000 for their Hands of Grace Food Distribution.
- ☐ Wagoner Area Neighbors was awarded \$5,200 for their Labor for Food Distribution.
- ☐ Wagoner High School Grad Night was awarded \$1,000 for their after graduation school party.
- ☐ Cherokee County 4-H was awarded \$6,500 for their summer camp leadership conference round up.

☐ Tahlequah Senior High Save-A-Senior program was awarded \$1,000 for the graduation night school party.

☐ Tahlequah Middle School Science Club was awarded \$1,000 for a field trip.

☐ Tahlequah Public Schools Special Olympics was awarded \$2,000 to help with expenses assisted with taking student athletes to the State Special Olympics.

☐ Tahlequah Friends of the Library was awarded \$5,000, upon receipt of invoices for material and labor for renovation of front desk area.

For years, the electric cooperative business model has served as a valuable instrument to improve the quality of life in our communities in which we serve. LREC cannot see a better way for members to help those in need, and in turn, make our local communities better places.

Electricity is Generated *Continued from page 1*

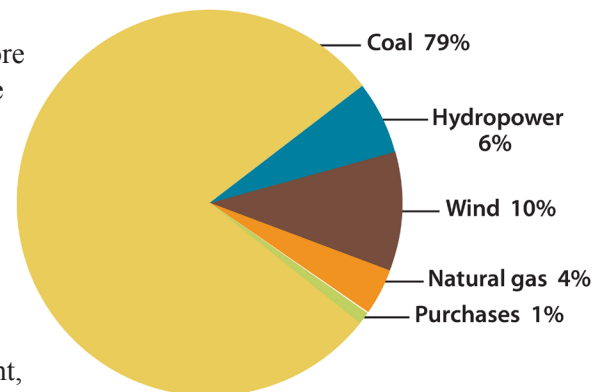
generation is currently the most reliable form of electricity for members.

Wind - Rural electric cooperatives took the lead in Missouri wind power when AECI teamed up with Wind Capital Group to bring four wind farms to Missouri. The four wind farms total 300,000 kilowatts and can supply enough electricity for around 53,000 cooperative households.

AECI has signed two more long-term wind power purchase agreements, contracting from BP Wind Energy's Flat Ridge 2 farm, and from Wind Capital Group's planned Osage County wind farm being developed in northeast Oklahoma, west of Pawhuska.

Because wind is intermittent, however wind cannot be relied on

to produce electricity during periods of peak demand. Some forms of electric generation that can be relied on to produce when it is called for, such as coal to natural gas, backs up wind generators to ensure reliable power for members.



Source: Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.

When to pull the plug



Saying goodbye to an old friend can be daunting. But pulling the plug on an outdated refrigerator or dishwasher might save you

money; new appliances are often considerably more energy-efficient.

A new refrigerator consumes 75 percent less energy than a 1970s model. Replace a vintage clothes washer and save \$60 on utility bills and nearly 5,000 gallons of water a year, according to the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. Not every new appliance is a good bet; always look for the ENERGY STAR label. It signals energy-efficient models.

► **Ready to save?** Walk through your home to find opportunities to *pull the plug*!

In the laundry room, a full-sized ENERGY STAR-certified clothes washer uses 15 gallons of water per load, compared to the 23 gallons used by a standard machine. During the machine's lifetime, this saves 27,000 gallons of water.

Replace your kitchen's classic refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR-certified model to save between \$200 and \$1,100 in lifetime energy costs. Today's average refrigerator uses less energy than a continually lit 60-watt light bulb. Resist the urge to move the old refrigerator to the basement or the garage. Instead, say goodbye and recycle the energy-guzzler.

Was your dishwasher built before 1994? If so, you're paying an extra \$40 a year on your utility bills compared to neighbors with an ENERGY STAR-qualified model.



Courtesy photo

By default, new televisions are set to dynamic, high-contrast settings. This consumes more power than standard, lower-contrast settings. Calibrate your TV by adjusting the contrast and brightness to a moderate level.

► Screen Savings

Televisions might be a little more baffling. As screen sizes increase, energy consumption may also rise. You can still be a savvy shopper. ENERGY STAR-certified TVs are about 25 percent more efficient than conventional models. LED screens use 20 percent less energy than LCD TVs.

Once you purchase a TV, calibrate it by adjusting the contrast and brightness to a moderate level. By default, new televisions are set to dynamic, high-contrast settings. This consumes more power than standard, lower-contrast settings.

► Smart Settings

Attached to old appliances? You can still save with smart settings. For example, heating water creates the greatest expense when washing dishes or clothes. Set your water heater at 120 degrees and be sure your clothes washer or dishwasher is full whenever used.

Sources: Energy Star, Consumer Electronics Association, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, U.S. Department of Energy, Natural Resources Defense Council

Here are a few other ways to save without buying new appliances

- **NOT TOO COOL FOOD:** In the kitchen, don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37 to 40 degrees for the fresh food compartment and 5 degrees for the freezer section.
- **TOAST, DON'T ROAST:** Use toaster ovens or microwave ovens for small meals rather than your large stovetop or oven.
- **AIR DRY DISHES:** Use the dishwasher's "eco" option or use a no-heat air dry feature. Scrape food pieces off the plates, rather than rinsing them.
- **COLD CLOTHES:** In the laundry room, wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible. Adjust load settings for smaller loads.
- **LOSE LINT:** Clean the lint screen in the dryer after every use to improve the dryer's efficiency.

For other tips on how to save energy visit www.TogetherWeSave.com

Powering Up After a Storm



Lights out? Thirty-one percent of power outages are triggered by the weather. Line workers must battle the elements to find problem areas and restore service as quickly and safely as possible.

“We know our members want to know why the lights are out and when they’re coming back,” stated Martin Walls, Director of Operations at Lake Region Electric Cooperative “First we must find the problems. Then we follow a series of steps to bring the lights back on.”

Efforts are made to restore power to the largest number of members as quickly as possible. Then crews fix problems impacting smaller groups of members.

Restoring power

When an outage occurs, line crews work to pinpoint problems. They start with high-voltage transmission lines. Transmission towers and cables that supply power to thousands of consumers rarely fail. But when damage occurs, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

Next, crews check distribution substations. Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of members. When

a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to discover if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in communities or housing developments.

If local outages persist, supply lines (also called tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your home may need to be repaired. Always call LREC at **918-772-2526** or **800-364-LREC** to report an outage. This helps crews isolate local issues.

Stay in the Know

Members can view the outage map at **www.lrecok.coop**, which shows areas that are experiencing outages. LREC members can also opt-in for outage text alerts and restoration updates by setting up 245105 their SmartHub app.

Follow these safety steps at home during a power outage:

- Before calling LREC to report an outage, first check to see if your home’s circuit panel or fuse box hasn’t tripped or blown a fuse. This can also cause a power failure. If tripped, reset the breaker or replace the blown fuse.
- Turn off and unplug all unnecessary appliances and electrical equipment. When power is restored, turn on items one at a time.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. An unopened refrigerator keeps food cold for about 4 hours. A full freezer keeps food cool for about 48 hours.
- Individual households may receive special attention if loss of electricity affects life support systems or poses another immediate danger. If you or a family member depends on life support, call LREC before a power outage happens.

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Office Hours

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Telephone

800-364-LREC or
918-772-2526

Website:

www.lrecok.coop

Locations

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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.