



Energy Efficiency  
*Tip of the Month*

Setting your thermostat to a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: U.S Department of Energy



★ ★ HAPPY ★ ★  
**INDEPENDENCE**  
**DAY**

LREC offices will close, Tuesday July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

## Local Winners Return From Energy Camp

YOUTH POWER



# ENERGY CAMP

The 2017 “YouthPower” Energy Camp was held May 30 through June 2. Eighty outstanding eighth graders attended camp and were chosen from across the state by their local rural electric cooperatives. The campers represented their co-ops at Canyon Camp, just east of Hinton, OK.

“We had a terrific time at the 2017 camp,” said Stacy Howeth, OAEC Member Services Director, and camp director. “The kids were very respectful and seemed to appreciate the opportunity to attend this year’s camp.”

While at camp, the delegates attended sessions on leadership, electric safety and potential careers available with rural electric cooperatives. The campers elected directors to represent their districts during camp. The elected Board of Directors interviewed and ‘hired’ a manager and operated a coke and candy cooperative.

Other special activities of the four-day program included hands-on electric safety demonstrations, including a pole-climbing demonstration and bucket truck rides from the linemen, a slip-n-slide kickball tournament, hiking, an energy battle tournament and a trip to Celebration Station for arcade games, go-carts



Left to right: Bryce Kindell, Aydon Pleasant, Gauge Merz

and pizza.

YouthPower Energy Camp is designed to help cooperative youth develop leadership skills, have summertime fun and at the same time, learn about one of rural America’s most important industries - rural cooperatives. If you are interested in this camp, please contact Glen Clark, Member Services at 918-772-6930.

The “YouthPower Energy Camp” is coordinated by OAEC and sponsored by the rural electric cooperatives.

## Power outage? Report it **FAST**

with Lake Region Electric Cooperative’s smarthub app!

Use the app to quickly connect to your co-op member service portal where you can report a power outage, make a payment, view electric usage, communicate directly with co-op. Look for “SmartHub” in the Apple Store or the Android Market. Search: SmartHub.



Photos provided by: OAEC

# Setting Off Fireworks on the 4th? Look for Power Lines

If the fireworks show is in your yard this July 4, steer clear of power lines. Most people celebrate by watching a local, professional show—supervised by firefighters. But if you’re starting the performance early with consumer fireworks, here are some tips:

- ★ Your fireworks might be legal, but that doesn’t mean they are safe. The U.S. Fire Administration reports thousands of fireworks-related injuries each summer. The biggest threat: firecrackers, followed by bottle rockets and sparklers, which burn at about 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Fireworks are especially dangerous when used near power lines, so stay clear. Light fireworks only in open areas where no power lines can be seen, and call your cooperative immediately if your celebration gets tangled in an overhead wire.

- ★ Children should be spectators, not participants, in the show. Never give children fireworks or sparklers.
- ★ Read and carefully follow directions and warning labels. Most injuries result from improper use.
- ★ Keep spectators at least 20 feet away and not downwind from where the fireworks will be set off.
- ★ Light fireworks only on a smooth, flat surface away from all flammable materials, including dry leaves.
- ★ Never try to relight fireworks that don’t function and keep a bucket of water nearby in case of fire.



## Outage management technologies improve reliability

Lake Region’s primary goal is to deliver the highest possible quality of electric service at the lowest possible price. Perhaps the key measure of quality in the eyes of members is the number of times their lights blink or go out.

Let’s talk a bit about how the grid is designed as a backdrop to how technology is improving reliability by reducing blinks and outages. Along the power lines that bring electricity to your home, LREC installs protective devices in the form of fuses and reclosers (high-voltage circuit breakers). Fuses and reclosers serve the same purpose as the fuses and circuit breakers in your home.

A fuse is a one-shot device. When a fault occurs, the fuse blows and everyone downstream from it loses power. Reclosers are multi-shot devices, meaning they can operate a certain number of times before they stay open and an outage occurs. Here’s how that

works. A tree limb contacts the power lines and creates a fault. The recloser senses it and opens, creating the first blink.

Here’s where a recloser differs from your home circuit breaker. It waits a certain amount of time (typically a few seconds), then recloses to try and complete the circuit. If the fault is still there, it opens again. This creates the second blink. Triple-shot settings allow the device to reclose a third time and if the fault is still there, it stays open and the members downstream experience a power outage.

Blinks are a nuisance, but they eliminate a lot of extended outages by protecting wires and equipment from serious damage.

The Smart Grid is spawning 3073101 an amazing array of equipment and software that are already improving



reliability. When combined with field construction practices, like building multiple ways to feed power loads and the deployment of advanced metering systems (AMI), the future of reliability is bright.

Check out our plans and preregister at [register.lrecok.net](http://register.lrecok.net) to take advantage of the low \$50 deposit for fiber-to-the-home expansion zones.

## RESIDENTIAL

### ► Internet

50 Mbps (300 GB per month) \$49.95

75 Mbps (600 GB per month) \$69.95

100 Mbps (1000 GB per month) \$99.95

## BUSINESS

### ► Internet

100 Mbps (600 GB per month) \$99.95

100 Mbps (1000 GB per month) \$174.95

## RESIDENTIAL

### ► Landline Telephone

Unlimited Local & Long Distance \$39.95

## BUSINESS

### ► Landline Telephone

Unlimited Local & Long Distance \$49.95

## HD Cable TV

### ► Starter Package

120 Channels 52 HD \$65.00

A list of all cable TV channels offered can be found on our website: [www.lrecok.net](http://www.lrecok.net)



Lake Region Fiber is not yet available in all areas. \$8.99 equipment maintenance fee applies to all plans. Visit [register.lrecok.net](http://register.lrecok.net) to see if service is available at your locations. \$50 deposit fee is limited time offer and is required for expansion zones. View expansion zones map at [register.lrecok.net](http://register.lrecok.net)



CONNECT EVERY  
DEVICE IN THE HOUSE

STREAM WITHOUT  
BUFFERING

SHOP WITHOUT  
WAITING

UPLOAD VIDEOS &  
PHOTOS IN SECONDS

# Baby, It's Hot Outside!

## Try these Stay Cool Strategies for Summer Savings

Like most things in life, saving money on air conditioning bills is most likely if you have a plan. Plan a strategy for keeping your home cool this summer without breaking the bank. Here are five tips:



1. Make sure your central air conditioning system and window unit are operating efficiently by giving them a tune up. Remember to

change your filters every month.

2. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees while you're home, and higher before you leave the house for the day.

3. Turn ceiling fans on when you enter a room and off when you leave. There's no benefit to running a fan when nobody is around.

4. Close your drapes or blinds when it's sunny outside to block the heat from entering your home.

5. Avoid cooking in your kitchen on hot, summer days. Instead, grill outdoors, serve cold dishes, order take-out or heat food up in the microwave oven.

Find more summer energy-saving tips, articles, videos at [www.touchstoneenergy.com/together-we-save](http://www.touchstoneenergy.com/together-we-save), or visit [www.lrecok.coop](http://www.lrecok.coop).



## Make Sure Your **Average Monthly Billing** Amount Matches your Energy Usage

With Average Monthly Billing, Lake Region Electric Cooperative charges you a set amount each month, so your budget won't be hit hard by a large heating or cooling bill during the peak months of summer or winter.

Your monthly bill is averaged over the year using the previous year as a guide. Please be aware that if you use over your monthly averaged bill you will have a **balance forward** amount on your bill. This balance will forward every month if not paid, until May.

If you pay only your budgeted amount every month and do not monitor your total energy usage, you may have a very large bill (balance forward) during the once a year catch-up month. May of each year will be a catch-up month. If you have paid more than what you have used, your account will be credited for the over-payment. If you have used more than

what you paid, your account will be charged for the difference. This process will repeat every year.

Lake Region does not want to surprise our members with a large catch-up bill. Please be aware and monitor your electric usages with your average monthly billing plan. If you would like to adjust your average monthly payment throughout the year, please call our office and discuss your billing options.

With our Average Monthly Plan, your electric bill is calculated by adding your current actual electric bill to your previous 11 months total and dividing by 12. The purpose is to help make your electric service costs easier to budget because you receive approximately the same size bill each month. This plan is especially valuable for anyone on a budget or limited income.



Bill Date		Map Location		Service From	To	Days
05/26/2017				04/12/2017	05/14/2017	32
Pres Read	Prev Read	Mult	KWH Used	Rate Schedule / Reference		
20990	20678	1.0	1312	REGRT / BUDGET BILL		
Bill	\$ Amount	Current Bill Information				\$ Amount
	254.00	BALANCE FORWARD				92.00
	-162.00	ENERGY CHARGE				139.44
	0.00	OPERATION ROUND-UP				0.56
	92.00	TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES				140.00
		ACCOUNT BALANCE				232.00
BUDGET BILL		Total Amount Due Now				232.00
		Late Payment Charge After				DRAFTED ON 06/19/2017
ON 06/19/2017 ***		Total Amount Due After				BANK DRAFT 232.00

### Board of Trustees

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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](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** or **918-772-2526**

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