



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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

September 2016

Vol. 7

No. 9



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

An average household dedicates about 5% of its energy budget to lighting. Switching to energy-efficient lighting is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills. By replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR, you can save \$75 each year.

Source: energy.gov



Automatic Bank Draft On Time - Every Time

Lake Region Electric Cooperative 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, water or telecom (internet) bill bank drafted from their account. With Automatic Bank-Draft, payments are transferred directly from your checking or savings account to LREC. We look forward to these draft dates helping members who receive their paycheck or income at different times.

Automatic Bank-Draft can be set up for your account by calling our office, or visiting our website and applying online. Members will need to continue to pay their electric, water or telecom bill as normal until BANK DRAFT is printed on their bill.

If a member is already participating in the Automatic Bank-Draft program, they can ask to be switched to their preferred date to have

their electric bill drafted. Call our offices today and see what Automatic Bank-Draft dates are available for you.

Members who sign up in the month of September for LREC's

Automatic Bank-Draft will be put into a drawing for one of four \$25 Wal-Mart gift cards. Members will be required to remain on this Automatic Bank-Draft program for 12 months.

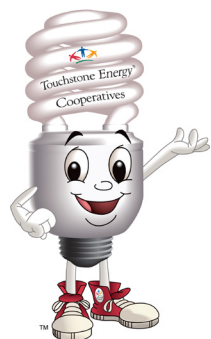


If you have any questions or would like to request an Automatic Bank-Draft form, contact our offices Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 918-772-2526 or 800-364-5732 or visit our website at www.lrecok.coop/automatic-bank-draft

Please us on Facebook

Check out Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Facebook page for new ways to connect with your local co-op. You will find updates on power outages and information on co-op events, member benefits and services, energy saving tips, and more.

If you like what you see on our page, please let us know by giving us your "thumbs up." If there is something we can do to improve we would appreciate hearing about that also.



OVERHEAD & UNDERGROUND POWER LINES

THE PROS AND CONS

OVERHEAD

PROS

- Lower cost
- Quicker construction
- Easier to spot damage and faults
- Less expensive to repair and upgrade
- Can be built in any terrain
- Any voltage can be placed overhead

CONS

- Susceptible to wind, ice and snow
- More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right of way trimming
- Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines
- Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less attractive

Photo: Artur Pokusin

UNDERGROUND

PROS

- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches
- Does not interfere with views
- No right of way (tree trimming) required
- Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Not impacted by wind, ice and snow
- Less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines

CONS

- More expensive to build
- Susceptible to flooding
- Difficult to locate faults
- Expensive to repair
- Fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages and interruptions
- Limitations on voltages that can be buried underground
- Can be vulnerable to dig-ins

Operation Round-Up



Since the time LREC was formed in 1949, we have been dedicated to improving the quality of life for the people in rural northeast Oklahoma. We do this by not only providing affordable electric service, high-speed internet, cable TV, and home phone to our members, but also by our active involvement in a number of community support programs. One of the most successful community efforts in which we are involved is the Operation Round Up® program.

Founded in 1989 by a co-op in South Carolina and adopted by LREC in 2010, Operation Round Up is a way in which we help those in our community who have fallen on hard times. The program is funded by LREC members who voluntarily 'round up' their monthly electric bills. (For example, a bill of \$97.43 is automatically rounded up to \$98.00, with the additional 57 cents going to the Operation Round Up account.) The money is pooled, and then allocated to a variety of worthy causes throughout the co-op's service area. Each participating member donates approximately \$6 annually to the fund.

Collectively, our member's generosity equates to about \$7,600 a month to aid those in need. All of the money contributed to Operation Round Up is put into the LREC Foundation fund, separate from LREC's accounts. The Foundation is administered by a 9-member board of directors, made up of volunteers nominated by the LREC Board of Trustees.

- Wagoner Area Neighbors was awarded \$3,000 for school supplies for their Back Pack Program.
- Porter Consolidated School District was awarded \$714 to assist with draperies for school windows.
- Spring Valley Volunteer Fire Department will be awarded \$6,500 for a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for firemen. (Contingent upon the receipt of invoices.)
- Tahlequah Men's Shelter will be awarded \$1,600 for a gas stove and range. (Contingent upon the receipt of invoices.)

The next Operation Round-Up meeting will be held **October 26, 2016**. For grant application or more information about Operation Round-Up, visit our website www.lrecok.coop/operation-round-up or call 918-772-2526.

Mutual Aid Crews Assisted in LREC Recovery Efforts

The Oklahoma Electric Cooperatives have a mutual aid agreement. When a cooperative needs help rebuilding their system, other cooperatives help by sending crews to aid in rebuilding the damaged portions of their system.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative had a very large system wide outage in late July. At the peak of the outage we had nearly 80% of our members without power. We had over 230 broken poles and several broken cross arms. This recent outage was comparable to the ice storm of 2007.

LREC would like to thank you, the members, for your patience during this major event. Thank you for all the positive comments on Facebook, emails, website and even the thank you cards we received in the mail.

We also want to thank our mutual aid crews who helped restore power to our members; Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Indian Electric Cooperative, Kay Electric Cooperative, Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Midwestern Power Contractors, Gray Tree Service, Northeast Rural Services, and Riggs Tree Service 1825201.

One of the seven principles of cooperatives is **cooperation among other cooperatives**. Sending a crew to help a sister cooperative is our way of doing business and we know the next time LREC members are in need, help will be on its way.



Photo by: Larry Mattes



UTILITY POLES ARE NOT BULLETIN BOARDS

Think before you post that sign!

Staples, nails, and tacks used to hang signs and fliers create dangerous obstacles for electric lineworkers.

Their jobs are dangerous enough – help us keep them safe!



What to Expect During Construction of Lake Region Fiber

Please be sure to pre-register and save \$250.00 on your installation fee!

In order to bring Lake Region fiber to our members, we are going to have to suspend and bury miles of brand new fiber optic cable in rural parts of Cherokee, Muskogee, and Wagoner Counties. This will take time, but understand we are building a fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) network that will last hundreds of years into the future.

We have started fiber construction in the areas of Ft. Gibson, 4 Mile Road and County Line Road. These areas are considered Zone 5 and 11 on our web map. Please visit our crowdfiber website, **register.lrecok.net**, if you are interested in FTTH services. The website helps you determine which expansion zone your home is located. We show prices, packages, and cable channels offered on our website.

As our crowdfiber website pre-registration shows the highest demand for service is currently in Zone 5 and 11. These designated zones will be where the construction crews start first. If you live in the areas of fiber Zone 5 or 11 you will soon start to see construction crews working in your neighborhood. These crews will be working on

LREC's utility poles installing fiber cable or burying fiber underground, please be aware these crews are working for LREC. In the process of connecting homes to the fiber network we will be installing a small gray box, called a network interface device (NID) on the outside of pre-registered members' homes.



For Zone 5 residents, the **free installation period will end on September 10th**. After September 10th and while the construction is in progress in the neighborhood, members can join the crowd at a reduced installation fee of \$75.00. Once the construction is completed, a standard installation of \$250.00 will apply plus any additional line extension fees that may be applicable.

While crews are working in your neighborhood, creating a safe construction zone is our contractor's priority. Please be aware of these crews working along the roads.

Bringing fiber to your neighborhood takes a lot of work, and we are doing everything we can to leave your property the same as when our crews entered. If you notice anything out of place after we install service, please do not hesitate to give us a call. If you have any questions about our FTTH project, please visit our website or give us a call at 918-772-2526.

Board of Trustees

Bobby MayfieldPresident
 Scott Manes.....Vice-President
 Lynn LamonsSecretary-Treasure
 Randall Shankle..Asst. Secretary-Treasure
 Gary Cooper Trustee
 James Walls Trustee
 Jack TeagueTrustee

Staff

Hamid VahdatipourCEO
 Ben McCollumDirector of Finance
 Logan Pleasant.....Director of Operations
 Stanley YoungDirector of Marketing
 Larry MattesEditor
 Tina Glory-JordanAttorney

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.