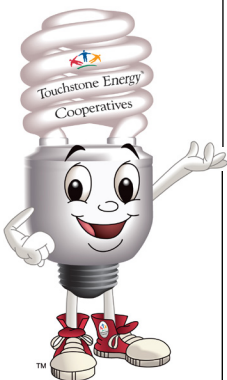




**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**

Cooler temps will be here soon! No matter what kind of heating system you have in your home, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. Contact a licensed professional to inspect your system before the winter chill arrives.

Source: U.S Department



Electric Vehicle Charging Station Available at Hulbert Office

Lake Region Electric Cooperative has installed a ChargePoint electric vehicle charging station in the parking lot of the Hulbert office.

Commitment to our communities and their future is a part of the co-op's green movement, it's also a Cooperative principle, and that makes this project even more special.

Also, all ChargePoint stations are connected by the ChargePoint: Find EV (Electric Vehicle) Charging app. This app can be used by Android or iPhone smart phones. Using this app, you can find other charging stations in the area, check to see if the charging stations are in use, and more, directly from your





Tesla Model S Charging at LREC office

smart phone. You can also use your ChargePoint card at LREC's location as well.

The charging station will provide the co-op with information about EV energy consumption and its potential use as a future load management tool. The electrification of vehicles is the next step in the future, and Lake Region is excited to see more EV technology in our area.








PROVIDING POWER FOR 20,052 LAKE REGION OWNERS. AND COUNTLESS FUTURE GENERATIONS.

That's why your local not-for-profit Touchstone Energy cooperative will always have the reliable information you need about optimal renewable energy options for our region. To learn more about what's available, go to TouchstoneEnergy.com.

YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.



Lake Region Keeps Electric Rates Low

Lake Region Electric Cooperative's goal is to provide safe, adequate and reliable electric service to its members. Our electric rate structure is designed to reflect the co-op's delivery and power supply costs, including a minimum rate of return as required by our lenders. As a nonprofit electric cooperative, any profits that are made are returned to co-op members through Capital Credits every December.

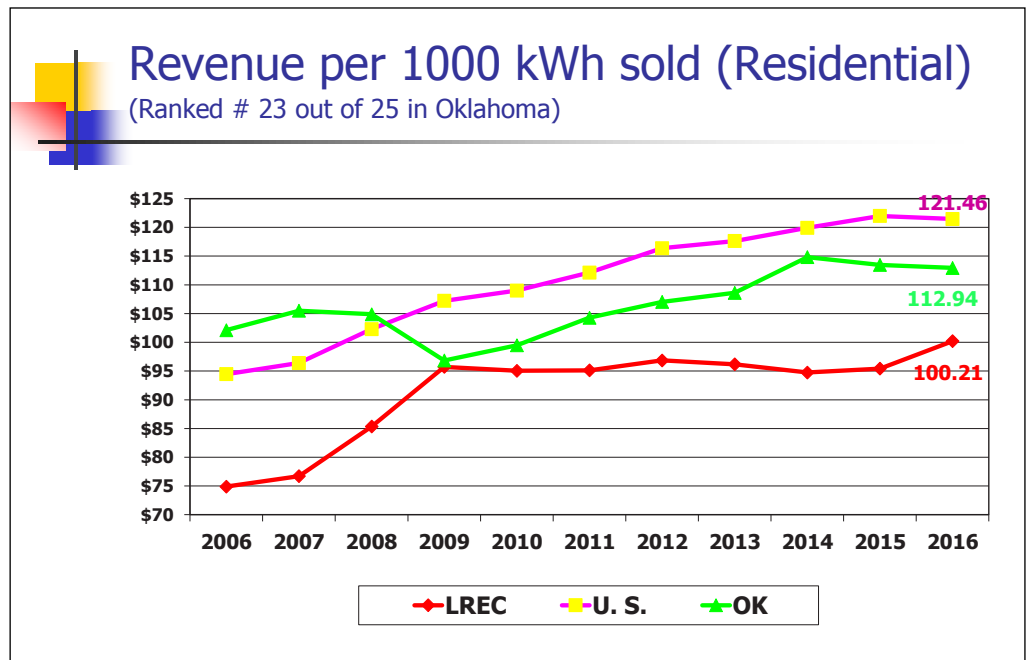
Members of LREC are very fortunate to have one of the lowest rates in the state of Oklahoma among other electric cooperatives. LREC electric rates are ranked 23rd out of 25 Oklahoma electric cooperatives.

The chart compares LREC rates with the other electric co-ops in the state as well as other co-ops in the United States. An average member uses 1,150 kWh per month. The above chart closely equates an average monthly bill.

"Keeping our rates low and our level of service high is our commitment to our customer-owners," said Hamid Vahdatipour. "Our cooperative team works hard to diversify our energy mix to ensure our rates are competitive while allowing for system growth and improvement."

What are you doing to keep rates low?

The Board of Directors and the management team at Lake Region closely manages all of our controllable expenses; labor, equipment, training, etc., to make sure that we remain careful stewards for the membership's business. Certain costs are outside of our control, such as the cost of power. However, even with power costs, Lake Region offers programs for energy efficiency via our energy efficiency programs, energy audits, rebates, and a host of other solutions to assist our members in reducing electricity usage.

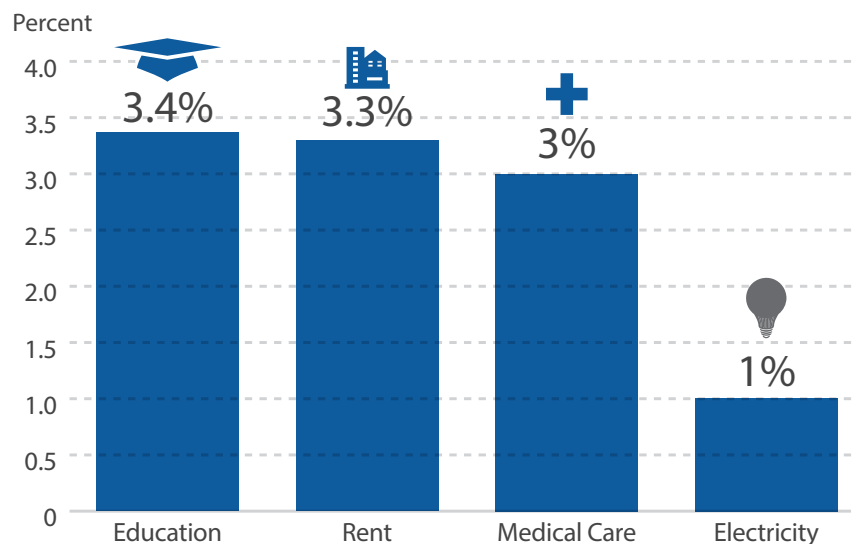


Source: National Rural Utilities Finance Corporation

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

Average Annual Price Increase 2011-2016



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index



Big TV Equals Bigger Bills

Consider operating costs before you buy

If you find the giant TV of your dreams on sale over the holiday, take a minute to check how much electricity it uses before you buy it.

It used to be that a huge television screen would use as much energy in a year as your refrigerator. But manufacturers have done a good job of making models that consume much less electricity and have a minimal effect on your electric bill.

The exception is the plasma TV: That one is still something of an energy hog.

A few tips if you're buying a TV during the next big electronics sale:

Buy a screen with LED technology. Like the LED light fixtures in your home, this technology uses less energy, and the lights burn for longer.

Study the yellow-and-black EnergyGuide label that the U.S. government requires on every new TV. It will tell you approximately how much running that set will cost you in utility costs so you can compare products.

Another label to look for when you shop for a new TV: The Energy Star label. This one's not required, but TVs that



qualify to display it use about 27 percent less energy than others.

If you're also buying a set-top box, Blu-Ray player, and soundbar, look for Energy Star-qualified models. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save nearly \$140 over the life of the products.

Small Change That Changes Lives

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 some community support programs. One of the most successful community efforts in which we are involved is the Operation Round Up® program.

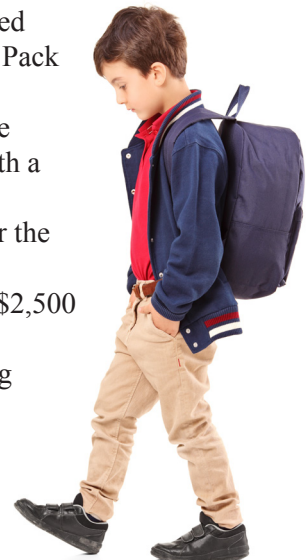
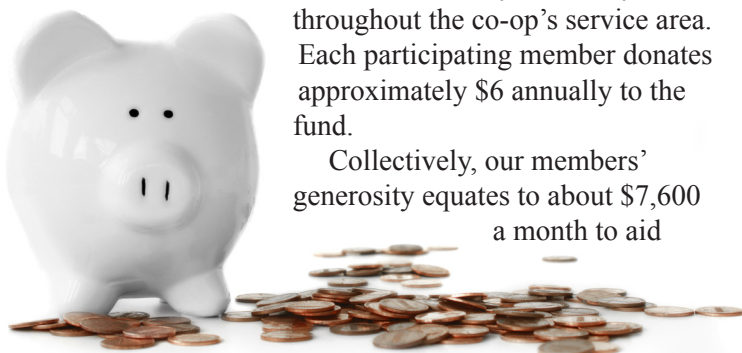
The program is funded by LREC members who voluntarily 'round up' their monthly electric bills. (For example, a bill of \$97.43 is automatically rounded up to \$98.00, with the additional 57 cents going to the Operation Round Up account.) The money is pooled and then allocated to a variety of worthy causes throughout the co-op's service area. Each participating member donates approximately \$6 annually to the fund.

Collectively, our members' 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.
- Tahlequah Public Schools Alternative Education was awarded \$900 to assist with a rope course.
- Zoe Institute was awarded \$1,200 for the Back to School Blessing event.
- Two individuals were both awarded \$2,500 for medical expenses.

The next Operation Round-Up meeting will be held October 25, 2017. For grant application or more information about Operation Round-Up, visit our website www.lrecok.coop/operation-round-up or call 918-772-2526.



Bus-Stop Safety Reminders

With children back in school, this is a good time for parents to teach children about school bus safety.



- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing.
- Wait for the bus to come to a full stop and its doors to open before stepping off the curb.
- Although other vehicles are required to stop when a school bus does, don't rely on that. When crossing the street in front of a bus, make eye contact with the driver and look all ways at traffic before stepping out.
- Stay in your seat, keep your head, arms and hands inside and keep aisles clear of books and bags.
- Wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat and leaving the bus.

Fallen Power Line Safety

- Stay far away from fallen power lines and from anything that is touching them. Assume the lines are energized and dangerous.
 - Fallen lines are most common after storms and high winds. Debris from a storm can hide fallen power lines. Fallen trees may contain energized power lines.
 - Shuffle, don't run, from a fallen power line. Shuffle with your feet together and on the ground. Running or taking large steps can increase the chance that you will be shocked or even killed.
 - If a power line falls on your car, stay inside unless the car catches fire. In such a case, jump clear of the car without touching metal and the ground at the same time. Report outages 909205 and hazards!
- Call LREC if you see an electrical hazard such as a downed power line. Our phones are answered 24 hours a day seven days a week.

LREC Offers Rebates to Members Installing Energy Efficient Electric Water Heaters

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is phasing out the sales of Marathon Water Heaters. We are no longer a Marathon retailer. We will still honor warranties and stock replacement parts.

Starting in September LREC will offer a \$150 rebate on 30 gallons or larger electric water heaters for members of the co-op. Limit two rebates per electric meter. Members can download and complete the water heater rebate form on our website:

<https://www.lrecok.coop/rebates>

Please keep your brand name, model and serial numbers handy, so you complete the rebate form, and we can process your rebate quickly. The rebate will be credited to your electric account.

For more information or to request a rebate payment, call 918-772-6930.



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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 or 918-772-2526

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