

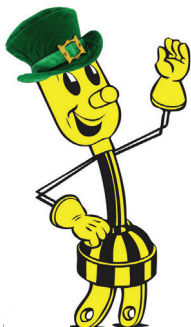


Tip of the Month

Energy Efficiency

Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries – and an ENERGY STAR charger for them – which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Source:
energy.gov

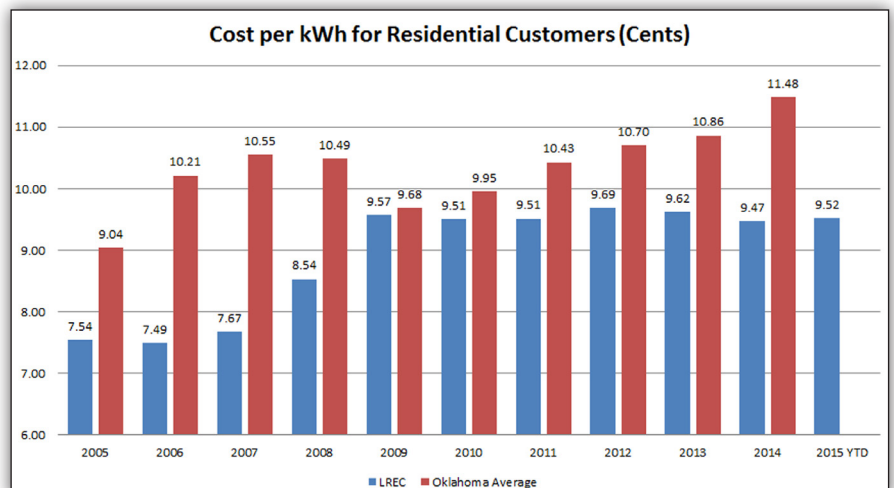
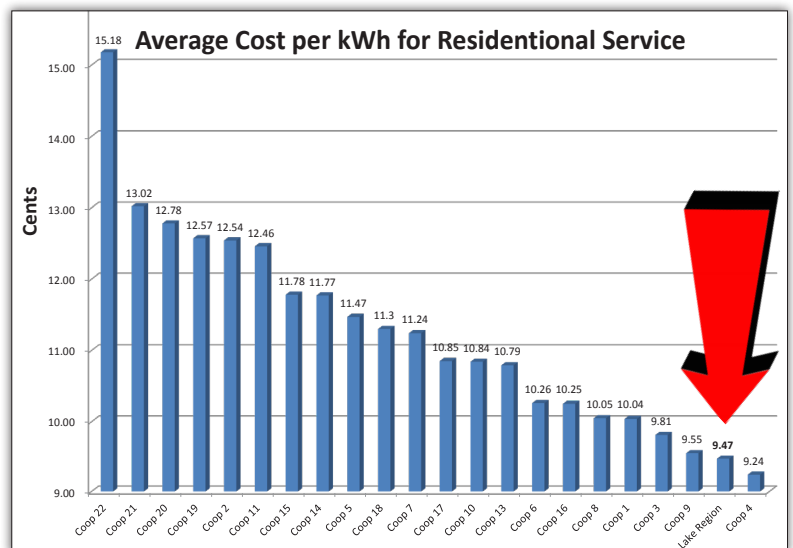


LREC Electric Rates One of the Lowest Among other Oklahoma Electric Co-ops

Lake Region Electric Cooperative's goal is to provide safe, adequate and reliable electric service to its members. Our 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 is the second lowest in Oklahoma and 16% lower than the state average.

The top chart compares LREC rates with all the other electric co-ops in the state. As you can see our average rate is 9.47 cents per kWh. Our current rate is much lower than several other co-ops in Oklahoma. The next chart shows LREC's rates compared to the state average residential electric rate. 1060200



Nominating Candidates for LREC Trustee

Lake Region Electric Cooperative members will vote for three trustees at this year's Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held on April 30, 2016 at the Hulbert Public School Auditorium. Any member who is interested in running for a board of trustee position, including incumbents, must submit a nominating petition before March 25, 2016. Each petition must include 15 or more member signatures. The petition forms are supplied by Lake Region Electric Cooperative, available March 1, at the Hulbert office.

Important Dates

March 1, 2016 : Nominating board member petitions available at Hulbert office.

March 18, 2016: Legislative breakfast at Hulbert senior citizen building, hosted by LREC.

March 11, 2016: Deadline for selecting Youth Tour essay finalists.

March 25, 2016: Nominating petitions for board member due at Hulbert office.

March 30, 2016: Final judging presentation of Youth Tour finalists at Hulbert office.

April 30, 2016: Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting at the Hulbert Public School Auditorium.

Avoid a bad decision when your water heater breaks

■ Save money and help the environment with a replacement, your co-op can help.

If you want to save money on your energy bills and reduce greenhouse gas, and other emissions, to help the environment, a good step would be to have a replacement plan for your water heater when it fails.

A key part of that plan is to get advice from your electric cooperative on replacing your water heater.

The problem is, replacing a water heater is often a panic decision, water heaters seem to break at the worst time, and you are more likely to be thinking about the family coming to visit the next day than the best energy efficient decision.



Most people replace their water heater in an emergency situation. Moving forward, co-ops want to be more involved in helping with that purchasing decision. Water heating is a major part of your utility bill each month.

LREC has a rebate programs that make it easier to buy a high efficiency water heater.

The bottom line: Before purchasing a new water heater for your home, talk to the energy experts at Lake Region Electric Cooperative at 918-772-2526.

Visit us at the Tulsa Home & Garden Show!

Free Garden Gloves and Rain Gauges for Show Guest

Pick up your free gift at the Green Country Area Electric Cooperatives booth located in the River Spirit Expo Building. Lake Region Electric Cooperative will have employees working the booth on Saturday. Please stop by and say hello or discuss any co-op concerns or issues.



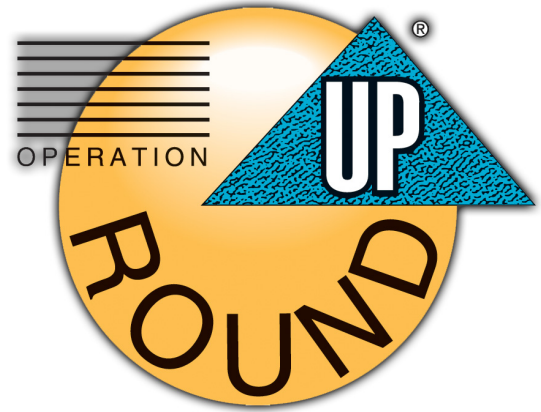
Operation Round Up Awards \$71,025 in Grants to Local Organizations

2015 was a great year for Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up program with \$71,025 awarded in grants. Every penny of each grant went to nonprofit organizations, local individuals and families, right here in our service area.

Operation Round Up was introduced at LREC in 2007 and is quickly becoming a source of funds for struggling nonprofit programs and families. Members have to agree to have their electric bill "**round up**" each month to

the nearest dollar – an average of \$6 per year to be donated to the charitable Operation Round Up program. Today, over 15,719 members participate in Operation Round Up – that is 62 percent of LREC's membership. The program could not continue its success without the generosity of so many members. Thank you!

If you would like more information on Operation Round Up, please visit our website: www.lrecok.coop/operation-round-up



Operation Round Up Update from January Meeting

The Operation Round Up Foundation Board met during their regular business meeting, held on January 27, 2016. During the meeting, grants were awarded to:

- ◆ One individual was awarded \$2,500 for medical expenses.
- ◆ Hulbert Public Schools was awarded \$500 for a Hulbert Literacy Fair.
- ◆ Tahlequah High School Cheerleaders were awarded \$250 for their American Cheer Power National Championship in San Antonio, TX.
- ◆ Keys Back Pack Program was awarded \$1,000 for food to fill their after school back packs for hungry children.
- ◆ Cherokee County 4-H was awarded \$5,000 for their summer camp, Youth in Action District Leadership Conference and Round-Up trip.
- ◆ Tahlequah Public Schools - Special Olympics was awarded \$2,000 for their State Special Olympic games trip to Stillwater.
- ◆ Tahlequah Middle School Science Club was awarded \$1,200 for an educational field trip to Mississippi.
- ◆ Zoe Institute of Tahlequah was awarded \$2,500 for food distribution packs.
- ◆ Wagoner High School was awarded \$1,000 for the after graduation night, Grad Night event.



Wagoner Students attended Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit in OKC

LREC sponsored Morgan Randolph and Bryce Brown, both of Wagoner High School, to attend this year's Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit in Oklahoma City. Thirty teens from more than a dozen electric cooperatives across Oklahoma 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. Leadership summit students, parents, and a co-op sponsor finished out the day by attending an Oklahoma City Blue basketball game.



Morgan Randolph



Bryce Brown

Each teen also received a \$250 scholarship for participating in this year's summit.

LREC is happy to provide local students the opportunity to expand their leadership abilities by taking part in these types of programs.



WIN A WEEK-LONG TRIP

Youth Tour is a program that provides local students an opportunity to earn an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. by competing in LREC's annual Youth Tour contest.

Glen Clark, Youth Tour Coordinator, has visited or will visit area schools to share a presentation on the history of electric cooperatives and the annual Youth Tour contest. Three finalists will be selected for the trip on March 30th.

If you are a high school junior or know a junior who would be interested in a trip to meet members of congress, visit museums, historic sights, and make new friends, please call your high school counselor and ask about the Lake Region annual Youth Tour Trip and how you can enter this year's contest.



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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.