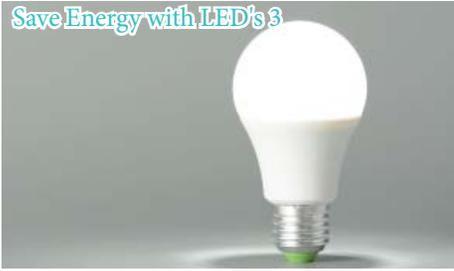


Save Energy with LED's 3



Frequently Asked Questions 3



Classified Ads 4



Co-op Comments

Outage management technologies improve reliability

“The only things certain in life are death and taxes,” as the old saying goes. Well, we can add another to the list: power outages. An outage can range from annoying to dangerous, depending upon its timing and length.

REC'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 bringing electricity to your home, protective devices are installed 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. A common setting is what's known as a triple-shot. 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 a 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.

So, what kind of technology is improving service reliability? The Smart Grid is spawning an amazing array of equipment and software 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.

Eventually, there will be a power outage despite the best efforts of REC. This is where AMI and outage management systems (OMS) earn their keep. The basic

element of an AMI is a meter can communicate with REC. The OMS maps system data and meter locations into a piece of software modeling the electric grid. When a device on the grid reports loss of power, the OMS runs calculations to determine the exact location of the fault and the number of members impacted.

Now, the whole suite of systems used by REC comes into play. REC's dispatcher can call out or redirect a crew to the exact location of the problem, and a map of the outage and number of impacted members is generated.

The end result of all this technology is the minimization of outages and their length, plus more availability of up-to-date information for the consumer.

Mother Nature is a tough opponent, and it's impossible to eliminate outages and blinks altogether. But with the way technology is advancing, we can expect to see some remarkable improvements.



The green dots indicate meters without power on REC's outage management system.

Grid resiliency and why it is important



Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric industry today. This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid, but here in south central Oklahoma, what does grid resiliency mean for you? 1068201

Resiliency is many things – it's reliability in your electric service, it's our ability to efficiently restore your power, it's being able to meet the demands of new technology and it's how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our member-owners.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cyber security threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A re-

silient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation – such as wind, solar, coal and hydro – to seamlessly work together to provide our members with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology – from demand response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles – all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures the pole is as strong – or as resilient – as it can be.

Living in Oklahoma, we know significant power outages can occur, especially during the spring and summer storm season. As we're at the mercy of Mother Nature, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched." When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward – day in and day out.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

August 2018

Co-op Comments

Official publication of Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. CO-OP COMMENTS is owned, controlled and directed by Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is printed monthly and mailed to members in Garvin, McClain, Comanche, Stephens, Grady and Carter counties in Oklahoma.

Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
13942 Highway 76 • P.O. Box 609
Lindsay, OK 73052
405-756-3104 • 800-259-3504
Outage Number: 855-399-2683
www.recok.coop



Board of Trustees

Gary Jones, *President, District 1*
Scott Christian, *Vice President, District 1*
Brent Bacon, *Sec./Treasurer, District 1*
Larry Anderson, *District 2*
Johnny Harrel, *District 2*
Terri Hays, *District 2*
Charles Crawford, *District 3*
Mark Finch, *District 3*
Randy Griswold, *District 3*
Dan Williams, *Attorney*

Management and Staff
Dale Nye, *Manager/CEO*
Linda Ray, *CFO*

Kelli Lindsey, *Administrative Assistant and Staff Coordinator*
Elaine Gilreath, *Manager of Customer Service and Data Processing*
Ed Bevers, *Manager of Engineering*
Mitch Gilreath, *Manager of Information Technology Services*
Megan Lawrence, *Manager of Member Services and Marketing*
Leonard Coffee, *Manager of Safety and Loss Control/Facilities*
David Crull, *System Superintendent*
Jason Mays, *Operations Superintendent*

Save energy with LEDs

LED lights last up to 30 times longer than incandescents, reducing the need to replace bulbs in high or hard-to-reach places. Below are LED lighting suggestions for your home.



Living Room Lamps
Table or floor three-way lamps, using LED bulbs provide 620, 1600 or 2,150 lumens of soft white light and deliver up to 25,000 hours of light.



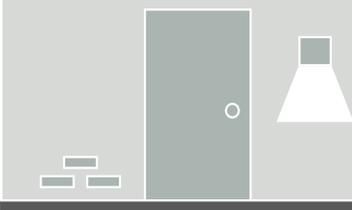
Kitchen
Dimmable recessed LED conversion lights add a warm glow of up to 1,200 lumens for kitchen workspace and add far less heat to your kitchen. Each bulb could last 10 years.



Bedrooms and Hallways
Long-life LEDs are ideal for ceiling fixtures. A 9-watt LED produces the same 800 lumens of light as a 60-watt incandescent, and use about 80 percent less energy.



Bathroom
Omnidirectional LED globe bulbs are designed to provide a warm glow ideal for bathrooms. A 6-watt bulb produces 450 lumens and last up to 15,000 hours.



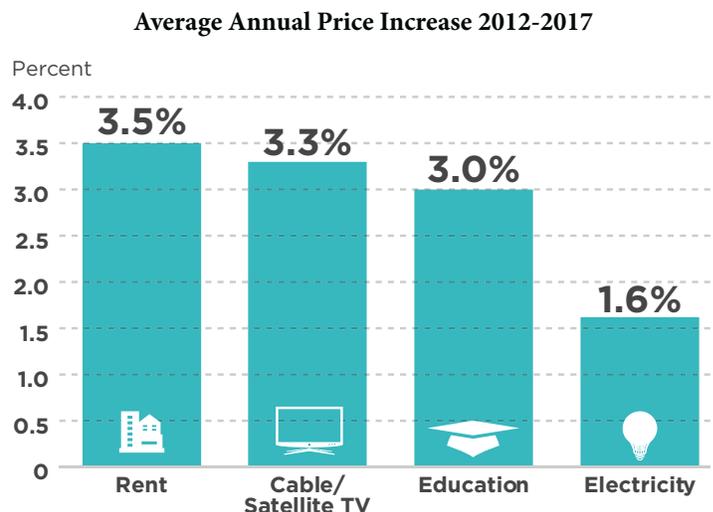
Outdoor
A 6-watt, 500 lumen LED bulb can replace a 40-watt incandescent bulb. Designed to last up to 30,000 hours, it could be a one-time switch.

Frequently Asked Questions of REC

- Q:** *Why do you need my meter number when I call to ask questions about my bill?*
- A:** *Your meter numbers allow our Customer Service Representatives to identify the exact meter our member is wanting to know more about. Your meter number can be found on your bill under Meter Number or towards the bottom of the meter; it will be a nine digit number.*
- Q:** *What payment options are available for paying my bill?*
- A:** *REC offers several convenient ways to pay your bill. A member can come into the office or use the drive-by window to make a payment, sign-up and use SmartHub online or make recurring payments with a monthly bank draft.*
- Q:** *What is the best method to report my outage?*
- A:** *Members should report their outage using REC's outage number 855-399-2683, through the SmartHub app or register to text in your outage. For more information about how to register to text your outage visit REC's website, www.recok.coop.*

Electricity remains a good value

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five-years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value.



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

Classified Advertisement

FARM EQUIPMENT-

FOR SALE: 346 John Deere square bailer. \$1750 located at 2611 Potts Road. PH: 580 658 5013.

FOR SALE: FORD diesel tractor 5000 Super Major, good rubber- runs good. \$3,200 OBO PH: 405-364-2541.

MISCELLANEOUS-

FOR SALE: 12x26 tent with 8 ft. side panels, steel frame, stakes and tiedowns, used four days \$50. PH: 405-527-7552.

FOR SALE: Invacare Tracer LT wheel chair, excellent condition; lift chair, excellent condition; Honda, easy start, HR-214

push mower with bagger, needs work. PH: 405-351-0878.

FOR SALE: Ultra Pro 16-gallon shop vac. PH: 405-351-0878.

REC hires new employee Steven Beck

REC recently hired Steven Beck to fill the open Member Services Representative position. Beck is originally from Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. He graduated high school from Pauls Valley in 2008 and then went to Oklahoma State University and majored in Agricultural Education. He graduated

from OSU in 2012 and started working for Clarita. He was the Agricultural Education Instructor at Clarita for three years before he moved to Elmore City. Beck then became the Agricultural Education Instructor at Elmore City-Pernell for three years.

Receiving his Masters of Arts in Educational Leadership from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla. Beck decided it was time for a change.

"I loved working with the students and watching them achieve goals and outcomes they never thought were possible," Beck says. "I wanted my students to accomplish and become the leaders I knew they were capable of becoming, but I was also ready for a change."

Beck lives in Elmore City and has a small show goat operation. He enjoys spending time with his family and watching college football.

"I am looking forward to the new opportunities in store here at REC and learning new things," he concludes.



Steven Beck

Co-op Connections

Use your Co-op Connections Card to save you money on lodging, photographs, oil changes and other items. You can also save on prescriptions, dental, vision, hearing, lab work and imaging and chiropractor services at participating locations.

Your card is a discount card. If you have misplaced your card, contact REC for a replacement card and use it to save yourself some money.

Account number worth \$10 bill credit

Locate your account number in an article of this issue; it will be good for a \$10 credit on your electric bill. To claim the prize, you must locate the account number - if the number is yours, contact REC by the 10th of the month and we will credit your account. Only the member assigned that number is eligible for the prize. If you don't know your account number, it can be located on your electric bill.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.

Learn more at www.energy.gov

Local Co-op Connection Card Deals

Backroads Boutique, Lindsay -

5% off everything excluding special order and sale items

Best Western, Chickasha -

15% Off Regular Room Rate

Blue Moose Outdoor

Portable Rentals, Elmore City -

5% Off Septic Tank Pumping, Tent Rental and Special Event Toilet Rentals

Chickasha Diesel Services, Chickasha -

\$50 off any big diesel oil change

Edwards Canvas, Pauls Valley - 5% Off

Jenny's Pics Photography, Lindsay -

10% Off \$50 or More Purchase of Pictures

Lindsay Tire and Lube, Lindsay -

\$5 Off Any Full Service Oil Change

M & M Furniture, Chickasha -

10% Off Any Purchase

Mazzio's Italian Eatery, Purcell -

10% Off Purchase

Photos by Ginger, Pauls Valley -

1 Free 8x10 Print With First Order of \$25

4 Seat Saddles, Boots and Hats -

10% Off \$100 or More, or 5% Off Repairs

Western Fuel Co., Maysville -

2 Cents Off Per Gallon of Propane on a Minimum of 125 Gallons. Cash Sales Only. (No Other Discounts Allowed)

Pharmacy Discounts -

Check out the discounts available using your Co-op Connections Card at participating pharmacies throughout our area. For a complete list of pharmacies, visit REC's website to see if your pharmacy is offering discounts to Co-op Connections Card holders.

