

# Co-op Comments

December 2017

## REC offers youth programs

Students within Rural Electric Cooperative's service territory could win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., Steamboat Springs, Colorado or Canyon Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma this summer. High school seniors could win a scholarship to help with college expenses.

A representative from REC will visit schools beginning in January to distribute information about these programs. Students may pick up the necessary information at their schools, from the Cooperative or may visit [www.recok.coop](http://www.recok.coop) and click on the "Programs and Services" tab, then select the program for details.

### Youth Power Energy Camp

Youth Power Energy Camp is available for eighth graders from within REC's service area. Eight students will be selected to attend a four-day camp near Hinton, Oklahoma to gain a better understanding of electric cooperatives, enhance leadership skills and meet new friends.

To participate in this contest, students must be attending a school within REC's service area and write a short essay on a topic provided by REC.

### Youth Tour

Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. is a week-long, all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for three students to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour. These three students will join approximately 70 other Oklahoma high school juniors this summer.

To participate, students must be classified as a high school junior and are required to write a speech on a topic provided by the Cooperative.

Six finalists will be chosen to present their speeches to determine the winners. The top three scores will win the Washington, D.C. trip, while the three runners-up will earn a week-long, all-expense paid trip to the Cooperative Leadership Conference near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.



2017 Energy Camp winners from left to right, back row: Gerardo Lopez from Lindsay, Mattie Richardson and Rhylee Tucker from Whitebead, Kye Heldermon from Alex and Aiden Davis from Lindsay. Front row, left to right: Jelani Newton from Alex, Blake Robbins from Whitebead and Kalissa Kay from Lindsay.



2017 Youth Tour winners from left to right: Tyler Wilkinson from Cement, Jessica Zalewski from Rush Springs and Cody Smith from Lindsay.

### Scholarships

In addition to trips, REC offers ten scholarships to area high school seniors. Seniors whose parents are members of REC are eligible to apply for the scholarships. Scholarships will be applied to the students' freshman year of college starting in the fall semester of 2018.

REC will award two \$1,500 scholarships and eight \$1,000 scholarships.

All materials for any of these programs will be available at area schools and on REC's website, [www.recok.coop](http://www.recok.coop). Students may also contact REC's Member Services Department with additional questions at 405-756-3104, Extension 238.

# The components of your electric bill



Have you ever wondered what costs go into your electric bill and how your electric bill is determined? Is it not just the amount of kWh used? While kWh used is part of your bill, there is another part of your bill, the customer charge, that may not be as obvious in how it is determined.

Just like you, the member, Rural Electric receives an electric bill. Western Farmers Electric Cooperative sends us a bill of which 67.3 percent is a variable cost which includes the fuel/energy charge, while 32.7 percent is a fixed cost which includes maintenance, high voltage transmission and transformer cost. However, of the member's electric bill 10.3 percent of it is a fixed cost - the customer charge - while the remaining 89.7 percent is the variable cost.

Recently, REC had a cost of service study conducted by C.H. Guernsey to identify the cost of distributing electricity to our members' homes. From the study, it was determined the fixed cost to have an active meter available and ready to deliver electricity is \$46.41 a month. Currently, REC is charging \$14 per month to provide an active meter. This is the same price charged since February of 2011. Right now, the dif-

ference between \$46.41 and \$14 is collected in the kWh sales portion of your bill.

While we haven't had a rate increase since 2011, the cost of everyday supplies needed to provide electricity continues to increase in price, so less of the fixed cost of your electric bill is going to the rising fixed cost of REC's electric bill. Poles that cost \$231 five years ago, now cost \$271. Five years ago, transformers cost \$786 and now cost \$855. Plus, reclosers which are used to protect our equipment and our members' homes used to cost \$2,295, but have been improved and now cost \$5,276.

Our goal is to provide safe, reliable electricity at an economical and stable price. With a continual increase in fixed cost, REC's Board of Trustees and management had to find a way to bridge the gap between what it costs to have a meter available and what is being recovered from the monthly customer charge. Beginning in March, there will be slight rate increase in the customer charge. For the next two years, the customer charge will increase slightly. The Board of Trustees felt this was the best way to combat the current situation while not burdening the membership. The good news is the wholesale electricity generation rate, which is the variable cost, should remain stable for the next three to five years.

REC's rate philosophy includes: rates should be fair and equitable; rates should generate enough revenue to cover the cost of providing the service; rates should reflect why costs occur and what caused the costs; while also promoting energy efficiency, remaining competitive and avoiding abrupt changes.

We encourage our members to be good stewards of their electricity and use it wisely. Keep in mind, the variable cost is the biggest portion of your electric bill and it is determined by you and how you decide to use your electricity.

## Co-op Comments

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### December 2017

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To report an outage call  
1-800-259-3504 or 1-855-399-2683  
Visit REC at [www.recok.coop](http://www.recok.coop)  
and like us on facebook





# Lighting tips for the holidays

This year is rapidly drawing to a close which means the holiday lighting season is back. Consider the following tips on safety and lighting selection before beginning to decorate. 1638600

## Safety

If the lights are ground mounted or can be installed standing on the floor or ground, skip ahead to light selection. How-

ever, since most decorations involve some installation at height, do the following:

1. Have a ground crew (one or two people) to steady the ladder and pass up the decorations...an invaluable part of safety and for keeping supplied with untangled light strings, fasteners and encouragement.
2. Remember to keep a safe distance from the overhead electric service.

3. Don't overreach. If one cannot get to a point with their body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate it.

4. Don't overextend the ladder. If the ladder is too short, rent or borrow a longer one. A ladder extended beyond its working limits is as dangerous as standing on rungs too close to the top.

5. Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.

6. Check wires for breaks and cracks in the insulation that can lead to shorts.

Most of these tips apply equally to inside and outside decorating activities.

## Light Selection

Longevity and cost of operation are the two key reasons to purchase LED lights. Unlike incandescent lights, LEDs have no filaments to burn out which allows the bulb to last at least seven years.

A reasonable estimate of power consumption is seven watts per 100 lights, compared to incandescents which used 12 watts per bulb so a string of 100 would use 1200 watts. Invest in timers to turn the lights on and off automatically to manage the cost of operating holiday lights.



## Used Poles Available

Call Warehouse if interested

405-756-3104 ext. 253

## Classified Advertisement

### AUTOMOTIVE -

**FOR SALE:** 2002 Mercury Sable, transmission out, motor is good, selling for parts. PH: 405-331-4720.

### MISCELLANEOUS -

**FOR SALE:** 8-hp Troy-Built roto-tiller.

PH: 405-204-1488.

**FOR SALE:** 8000 watt, Briggs & Stratton Elite generator, manual or electric start, used very little. \$395. PH: 405-527-7552.

**FOR SALE:** Pellet stove fireplace insert w/ stove pipe. Avalon Newport Bay model, \$400. PH: 405-990-9416.

**FOR SALE:** Lift chair, excellent condition, \$325 firm; Invacare Tracer LT wheel chair, excellent condition, \$325 firm; Honda easy start HR -214 push mower with bagger, needs work, \$50; Ultra Pro, 16-gal shop vac, \$65. PH: 405-351-0878.

**FOR SALE:** Sears 4060 submersible water pump, model # 390280080, 2-3HP, never used, \$200. PH: 405-756-4944.

### REAL ESTATE -

**FOR SALE:** By owner, 3-bdrm, 2-baths, large LR & DR, laundry room, includes appliances, central H/A, back-up heater

in LR, large front porch, cellar, three out buildings on ¼ acre four miles north of Ratliff City or three miles south of Pernel school on Hwy 76. \$85,000. Text or leave message at 580-465-4528.

**FOR SALE:** 1580 sq. ft. home, 3-bdrom, 1-bath, new roof, paint, windows, hard wood floors, great view, south of Ninnekah. Owner/agent selling, \$129,900.

PH: 405-779-3179.

**FOR SALE:** 11 acres MOL, commercial or residential, south of Wynnewood on Hwy 77, 1.5 miles on east side. PH: 580-369-8275.

## Want Ads

are *FREE* to REC members to post noncommercial items. Deadline for ads is the 8th of every month.

Call the Member Services Dept. at 405-756-3104 ext. 238.

## Happy Holidays to all our members



The Board of Trustees  
and Employees of  
Rural Electric Cooperative  
wish the best for you  
and your family during  
this holiday season.

Look for your

# Capital Credits

*on your next bill*

*If you were a member in 1985 and 1986  
your Capital Credits will be applied  
to your bill.*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Purchasing electronic gifts this holiday season? Remember to purchase ENERGY STAR®-certified electronics and give the gift of energy efficiency. Visit [www.energystar.gov/productfinder](http://www.energystar.gov/productfinder) for a full list of efficient products. Learn more at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.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 (\$25 Minimum)

### The Leopard Lasso, Wynnewood -

10% Off Purchase

### 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.