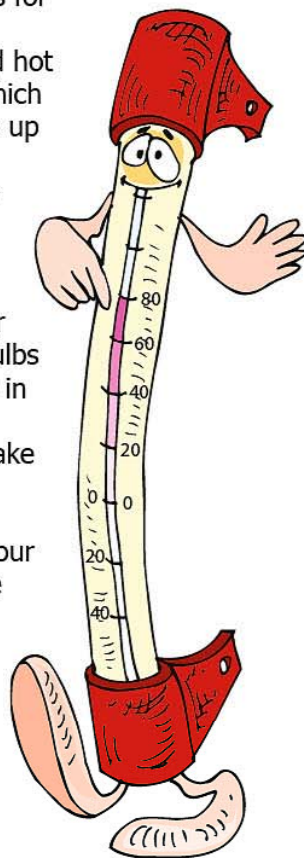


Temperatures Are Rising – But Your Electric Bill Doesn't Have To

The following tips will save you energy and help your budget during warmer weather.

- Replacing your old central air conditioner with a new *energy right*® qualified model can reduce your cooling costs by 20 percent. VEC and TVA are offering financing as low as 6%.
- If possible, keep your room air conditioner out of the sun. Room air conditioners work best when kept cool. Installing one in a north-facing wall is usually ideal.
- If you have central air conditioning, you can save approximately an additional six to seven percent off your cooling costs for each degree you set it above 78 degrees.
- If your air conditioner does not have a thermostat, adjust it to a lower setting or use it with a window or ceiling fan to cool things down.
- During hot weather a ceiling fan will create a cool breeze and keep the air circulating in your home.
- Get rid of hot air. Use an exhaust fan to blow hot air out of your kitchen while you're cooking. The savings on your cooling costs far outweigh the electricity used by the fan. Also, take lukewarm showers and baths to avoid humid air, which holds more heat.
- A dehumidifier can add substantially to your electric bill. Make sure you have the appropriate-sized dehumidifier for your home.
- Close blinds, drapes and shades during the hottest part of the day. This keeps the strong sunlight from heating your home.
- Use your microwave or countertop appliances for cooking instead of the oven or stove.
- What says "summer" better than burgers and hot dogs? Instead of using your oven or stove which can generate heat on an already hot day, fire up the outdoor grill for cooking.
- Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to save money on your electricity bill. If you have children in the house, this is also a good safety measure.
- Install compact fluorescent light bulbs in your most-used fixtures and lamps. Fluorescent bulbs put out less heat, plus you'll save \$30 to \$40 in energy costs over the life of each bulb.
- Check your heating and cooling system to make sure it is operating at peak efficiency.
- Postpone laundry and dishwashing until nighttime to avoid generating extra heat in your home. Also, consider taking advantage of the warmer air and dry your laundry outside.
- Don't forget about your own energy. Wearing lighter clothing can help cool you down without turning on the air conditioner. Also, remember to stay hydrated during extreme temperatures.
- If you have a pool, turn off your filter overnight when the pool is not in use.



Use Emergency Generators Carefully

You can use a portable emergency generator to supply electricity to your appliances if an emergency exists during a power outage. But, if used improperly, they can kill you and the people who are working to restore power. They can also damage the appliances you connect.

Home emergency generators are usually powered by gasoline, which must be properly handled as well.

Connecting a generator to the main electrical supply for your house requires the services of a qualified, licensed electrician. **Before connecting the generator to your household circuit, notify your local VEC Customer Service Center.**

If you connect an emergency generator to the main electrical supply coming into the house, the electrical generator could feed back into Volunteer Energy Cooperative's system and electrocute workers who are repairing the electrical lines.

Determining Wattage Requirements

You must also never exceed the rated capacity of your generator. Overloading can cause serious damage to the generator or appliances. Before operating a generator, list all of the appliances that are going to operate at the same time. Then determine the starting wattage requirements and the running wattage requirements. The starting load lasts only a few seconds, but is very important when figuring your total wattage to be used. Your generator must be rated to handle the total wattage.

Extension Cords

When using an appliance or tool at a considerable distance from the generator, a 3-wire extension cord that has a 3-prong grounding plug and a 3-slot receptacle that accepts the tool's plug should be used. A cord of adequate size must be used.

Under no circumstances should an extension cord be run from one house to another.

VEC Works With Local Contractors to Help Lower Your Electric Bill

Not many companies work as hard as Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) to help customers spend LESS money on its product. One way VEC works to help customers use less electricity – and lower their electric bills – is by participating in energy efficiency and energy conservation programs with local contractors and TVA.

VEC recently hosted seminars with local contractors who specialize in heat pumps, home insulation, window replacements, and other energy-saving home improvement products to help them stay abreast of the most-up-to-date techniques and products and to show them how to help customers receive financing and rebates through VEC/TVA programs.

The two seminars – one in Decatur and one in Crossville – focused on VEC's heat pump financing and In-Home Energy Evaluation programs. The programs offer VEC customers attractive financing rates, expert advice and inspections, and rebates for qualifying home improvements that save energy and money.



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative

Heat Pump Financing

One of the programs highlighted was VEC/TVA's heat pump financing program which offers customers the opportunity to finance the purchase and installation of a new, energy-efficient heat pump with interest rates as low as 6%.

Payments are added to customer's monthly electric bill.



VEC Energy Services Specialist Paige Finnell, updates area contractors on energy efficiency programs during a contractors' seminar hosted by VEC.

In-Home Energy Evaluations

VEC's In-Home Energy Evaluation program provides expert advice on how to save money on their monthly electric bill and rebates homeowners who make qualifying energy-efficiency improvements to their homes.

For more information on how to take advantage of these or other VEC programs, for energy-saving tips, or for information about Quality Contractor Network members, visit www.vec.org.

VECcustomers Share Your Change Changes Things



The VECcustomers Share program funded \$31,200 in community service grants in February. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$4.8 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last day of each month. For additional information, contact the office of Marketing and Economic Development, at 423-334-7051. Applications are also available online, at www.vec.org.



VECcustomers Share Board Member Bill Womac (second from left) presents a grant check to Teresa Yates, Opal Deverall, and Lydia Nail of the Polk County Alumni Association.

VEC Sponsors Cumberland County Couple at Youth Leaders Conference

Andrew and Sarah Baisley of Crossville were sponsored by Volunteer Energy Cooperative to participate in the Young Leaders Conference February 21 and 22 at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Franklin. The Baisleys joined more than 400 other attendees from across the state for the annual weekend featuring motivational, recreational, and educational events.

The Young Leaders Conference brings couples and individuals together from rural communities to learn about cooperatives, share their views about agriculture, and discuss current issues facing rural Americans. This year's event, themed "Cooperatives: Building a Better Tennessee," covered a variety of subjects aimed at educating leaders about cooperative and agricultural issues.

The Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) co-sponsors the annual conference with Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers organization. Volunteer Energy Cooperative is a member of TCC, an organization composed of a variety of cooperatives across the state including electric, dairy, farm supply, telephone, and tobacco cooperatives as well as farm credit banks and the Farm Bureau.

The Baisleys and other attendees enjoyed sessions that covered topics ranging from leadership skills to apps and unmanned aerial vehicles. The conference also included a tour of LP Field – home of the Tennessee Titans, as well as addresses from State Senator Jack Johnson and Butch Jones, head football coach of the University of Tennessee Volunteers. At lunch on Saturday, TCC presented a \$1,000 contribution to the John Willis Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor Jerry Kirk, retired Tennessee Farmers Cooperative Communications Department manager and editor of the Tennessee Cooperator. He was also the editor of Tennessee Magazine in the late 1980s. The fund provides financial assistance to deserving college agriculture students in the state.

VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins said VEC is proud to sponsor the Baisleys and contribute to their leadership abilities.

"Helping to prepare tomorrow's community leaders is an important job and we're happy to do our part," Blevins said. "The conference events as well as the opportunities to network with other young leaders from around the state are great experiences for the conference attendees."



Andrew and Sarah Baisley, of Crossville, were sponsored by VEC to attend this year's Young Leaders Conference in Franklin.

TCC board member Keith Harrison, who is also the Tennessee Farm Bureau's marketing, advertising, and promotions coordinator, said delegates to the Young Leaders Conference are the future leaders of cooperatives across the state.

"It's amazing how most of the attendees have connections to all the cooperatives that are a part of TCC," Harrison said. "And it's important for these future leaders to be involved and trained to prepare them for leadership roles when their turn comes."

Notice of Election

In compliance with the bylaws of Volunteer Energy Cooperative, Article IV, Directors; Section 4.05, Notice of Directors to be Elected, I hereby give written notice that the following Directors' terms will expire this year:

District No. 1 – Hamilton County

District No. 5 – Meigs County

District No. 9 – Cumberland County - East

As set for the in Article IV, Section 4.06, in order for a member to become a qualified candidate for Director, he/she shall file with the Secretary of the Cooperative or with his/her duly appointed candidate, signed by him/her and not less than fifty other members in good standing whose premises served by the Cooperative are located in the directorate district of the candidate.

Qualifying petitions and other information pertaining to the elections can be obtained on or after May 28, 2014 by contacting Patty Hurley, Vice President of Marketing and Economic Development, P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322, or by calling 423-334-7050.

Qualifying petitions must be filed with the Secretary of the Cooperative or his designee at the VEC Corporate Office in Decatur, Tennessee by 5 p.m. EDT, June 4, 2014.

Sammy Norton
Secretary-Treasurer



Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective April 1, 2014

2.984¢

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org



Organizations receiving grants in February

Pine Haven Elementary School National Junior Honor Society, Jamestown	\$2,000	Spring City Chamber of Commerce	\$750
Midway Quarterback Club	\$1,750	Monterey Ministerial Association	\$750
Youth Achievement Foundation, Crossville	\$1,500	Scott County Homeless Shelter	\$750
Lake Tansi Security Enforcement	\$1,250	Spring City Middle School 8th Grade Washington, DC Boosters	\$715
Health Occupations Students of America, Decatur	\$1,250	Rhea County Domestic Violence Council	\$535
Royal Family Kids Camp, Cleveland	\$1,250	Spring City Youth Athletic Association	\$500
Burks Elementary School 5th and 6th Grade Science Club, Monterey	\$1,200	Fairfield Glade Resident Services	\$500
South Polk County Elementary School PTO	\$1,050	Cleveland/Bradley County Chamber Foundation	\$500
Polk County Alumni Association	\$1,050	Calhoun Elementary School PTO	\$500
Cherokee Removal Park - Blythe Ferry	\$1,000	Meigs County Senior Center	\$500
Cumberland County Imagination Library	\$1,000	Bibs 4 Babes, Cleveland	\$500
Peavine Care Center, Crossville	\$1,000	Monterey Project Graduation	\$500
Midway Youth Cheerleading Association	\$1,000	Meigs County Middle School PTO	\$500
The Samaritan Center, Ooltewah	\$1,000	Meigs County Historical Society	\$500
Hamilton County Special Tactics and Rescue Service	\$1,000	Cleveland Storytelling Guild	\$500
McMinn County Education Foundation	\$1,000	Hiwassee Longbeards, Riceville	\$500
Lady Wildcat Softball Booster Club, Benton	\$900	Spring City Softball	\$350
Cherokee Beekeeper Association, Riceville	\$750	Cookeville Housing Services Corporation	\$300
		Cumberland County Community Band	\$250
		Roane County Knights Lacrosse	\$250