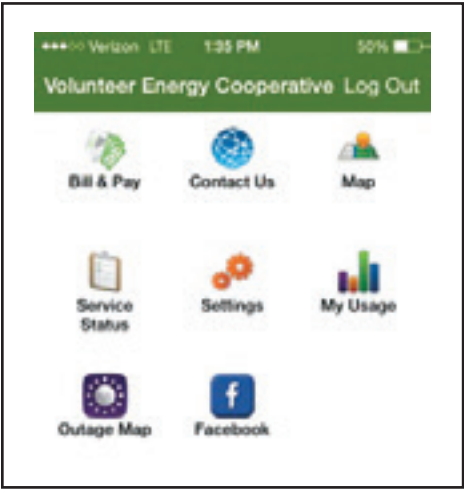


Are You Prepared for the Next BIG THING???

Customers are raving about the new VEC SmarHub app for smart phones and mobile devices. Monitor your account, pay your bill, view your usage, and report an outage with NO MORE BUSY SIGNALS, and more! Download the free app today and be prepared for the next BIG THING.



- 1. Search for **SmarHub** on the app store for your device.
- 2. Download the app, choose Volunteer Energy Cooperative as your electric provider, and enter your VEC account number. You can set up a VE-Bill account log-in if you have not already done so.
- 3. Enjoy the features of the SmarHub app.



Old Surge Equipment Need to be Upgraded

Act now to take advantage of free offers!

Power surges caused by trees or animals can contribute to damage to electrical equipment in a home. For many years, Volunteer Energy has offered customers an optional surge protection program that provides equipment to help. In 2013 a new vendor was chosen and the program revamped.

Some customers still have the old surge equipment that is aging and should be replaced. VEC officials are working to move those customers to the new Surge Guard program. For a limited time, customers who upgrade their surge contracts receive FREE installation (a \$25 value) and a FREE 8-outlet plug-in strip.

It's easy to upgrade to the new Surge Guard program:

- 1. Complete and sign the Surge Guard Agreement (available in any VEC office or online at <http://vec.org/wp-content/themes/volunteer/documents/Surge-Guard-Customer-Contract.pdf>)
- 2. Bring the Agreement to your local VEC office to pick up your FREE plug-in strip.



The Waves Serve program at Midway Middle School recently received a grant from the VECustomers Share program for their recycling program. Waves Serve is a service organization specializing in performing tasks that benefit individuals, peers, the school, community, and environment. Some service learning topics include paper recycling, aluminum can recycling, collecting and collating Box Tops for Education, Soup Labels for Education and Coke Rewards.

Our Washington Visit

Managing an electric cooperative means more than stringing wire, setting poles, and maintaining substations. Sometimes it involves much softer skills like the art of effective communication.

As we have done for many years, representatives from Volunteer Energy Cooperative visited with a number of U. S. Congressional representatives in April. We joined more than 40 co-op leaders from across the state who met with Tennessee's Congressional delegation.

It has always been important for Volunteer Energy Cooperative to maintain strong ties with our state and federal elected officials. We serve as the voice of our members and work hard to ensure that legislation is not adopted that will affect our ability to provide low cost electricity. Sometimes the most innocent-looking legislation has unintended consequences for us and the members we serve.

An important part of our mission to provide affordable and reliable energy is educating our elected officials about co-ops. These visits help them better understand the issues that concern co-ops and co-op members. We are fortunate to have solid support from our elected officials on the local, state, and Federal levels. They listen when we talk because they know we are not motivated by profit or other selfish means. We speak for our members (you!) and have their interests at heart.



Rody Blevins President/CEO Volunteer Energy Cooperative



VEC representatives pose with Representative Chuck Fleischmann during the recent Washington, D.C. trip. Pictured are: Front row, left to right - Keith Phillips (District 10 Board Member), Fleischmann, Rody Blevins (VEC President/CEO); back row - Jerry Henley (District 6 Board Member), Tim Handler (District 7 Board Member), Mike Frazier (District 4 Board Member), and Larry Storie (District 12 Board Member).

VEC
Customers Share
Your Change Changes Things



The VECustomers Share program funded \$30,600 in community service grants in April. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$5.2 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.



VECustomers Share Board Member Harold Reno presents a grant award to Terry Holt from Cumberland G.A.P. Mission.

Organizations receiving grants in May

The Great Allardt Pumpkin Festival and Weigh Off	\$1,750	Roane County Youth Leadership	\$600
Pickett County High School Boys Basketball Boosters	\$1,500	Midway High 30+ Club	\$600
Home Away From Home Head Start & Child Care Center	\$1,500	Polk County Health Council	\$600
Watts Bar Lake Association	\$1,200	Agape Preschool	\$500
Tennessee Club Lamb Producers' Association	\$1,050	West Polk County Baptist Food Bank	\$500
McMinn County Educational and Community Foundation (MCEF)	\$1,000	Martin Elementary FCCLA	\$500
Walker Valley High School Future Business Leaders of America	\$1,000	Love Nancy	\$500
Stone Memorial High School Skills USA Culinary Arts Club	\$1,000	Plateau Worship and Ministry Center	\$500
Walk by Faith Ministries	\$1,000	Fair Park Senior Center	\$500
Harrison Recreation/Harrison Intensity 5/6 Softball	\$1,000	South Polk PTO	\$500
Class of 2015 York Institute Project Graduation	\$1,000	Monterey Depot Historical Society	\$500
Meigs Senior Center	\$800	Pleasant Hill Elementary PTO	\$500
Rhea County Imagination Library	\$800	Roane Imagination Library/Mid-East Community Action Agency	\$500
Midway Bass High School Club	\$800	Cumberland County High School Health Occupational Students of America	\$500
Ooltewah High School Band Boosters	\$750	American Cancer Society - Rhea County	\$500
Maple Grove Community Seniors	\$750	Athens Civitan Club	\$400
PTO Bondecroft Elementary	\$750	Tri-County Center	\$390
American Cancer Society - Meigs County	\$750	Tennessee Select Basketball	\$350
Polk County Friends of the Library Association	\$700	Girl Scout Troop 40130	\$300
Calhoun Elementary Cheerleading Squad Booster Club	\$610	Girl Scout Troop 1581	\$250
		Bradley County Senior Citizen Unit	\$250
		Ocoee Theatre Guild	\$250
		Monterey High School Drama Club	\$250
		Monterey High School Baseball Boosters	\$250
		American Cancer Society - Polk County	\$200
		Southeast Tennessee Veterans Home Council	\$100
		Behavioral Research Institute, Inc.	\$100

Energy Efficiency Tips: Attic Insulation



Why is attic insulation important?
Heating and cooling accounts for approximately 45 percent of your home's energy usage. Inadequate insulation and air leakage are the leading cause of energy waste in most homes. Attics are often the easiest and most cost-effective place to insulate because most attics provide easy access for improvements. Attic insulation helps keep the home warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

- What does attic insulation improve?**
1. Conserves energy by slowing down heat loss and heat gain
 2. Enhances comfort inside the home
 3. Reduces the size of heating and cooling equipment needed
 4. Prevents condensation from occurring
 5. Reduces electric and gas bills

How much attic insulation should I add?
Insulation levels are specified by R-values that measure the insulation's ability to resist heat flow. The higher the R-value, the better the thermal performance of the insulation. The recommended level for most attics is to insulate to approximately R-38 or about 10 inches to 14 inches, depending on insulation type.

How much money could I save?
Properly insulating your home can save up to 20 percent on your energy bills.

Information provided by TVA's energyright Solutions for the Home program



Buy an electric heat pump, and everyone will be happy.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective June 1, 2015
2.289¢
For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org
Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.