

VolFirst.net

offers discounted internet service



In an effort to support those who make valuable contributions to our communities, VolFirst.net offers special discounted rates to teachers, college students and faculty members, and churches. These rates include an unlimited access dial-up account with up to 5 email addresses. The discounted rates are:

- \$14.95 per month for college students, college faculty members, and K-12 teachers and teacher aides
- \$9.95 per month for churches

The regular price of VolFirst.net Internet services is \$19.95 (paid with cash or check) or \$17.95 (paid automatically by credit card). More information on how to qualify for the special rates is available at your local VEC service center.

Sign up is easy
call (toll-free) 1-866-234-9539

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. 10 White, Putnam, and Overton Counties
- District No. 11 Fentress, Morgan, and Scott Counties
- District No. 12 Pickett County

As set forth 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 representative a written petition nominating such person as a 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 June 5, 2003 by contacting Patty Hurley, Manager of Member Services, 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 by 5 p.m. EDT, July 3, 2003.

Kenneth Vaden
Secretary-Treasurer

www.vec.org

vec@vec.org

Powerlines is produced by the Volunteer Energy Cooperative's Member Services Department as a service to customers. Comments and suggestions can be e-mailed to vec@vec.org or mailed to VEC Member Services Department, P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322.

How your ELECTRIC ENERGY DOLLAR is typically spent in the home

Appliance	Typical Wattage	Estimated Hours Used Per Month	Estimated Monthly KWH	Cost/Month at 5.98¢/KWH
Electric Blanket	150	120	18	\$1.07
Clock	3	720	2	.12
Clothes Dryer	5,000	16.5	83	4.96
Dehumidifier	257	240	62	3.71
Dishwasher*	1,200	25	30	1.79
Fan (Attic)	300	360	108	6.46
Fan (Window)	200	240	48	2.87
Fan (Furnace)	300	216	65	3.89
Freezer (15 cu. ft.)	341	293	100	5.98
Freezer (Frostless 15 cu. ft.)	440	334	147	8.79
Hair Dryer	1,000	5	5	.30
Heater (Portable)	1,500	120	180	10.76
Iron	1,000	12	12	.72
Lighting (Can Vary Widely)	2,000	60	120	7.18
Microwave Oven	1,450	10	15	.90
Mixer	100	10	1	.06
Radio	25	60	2	.12
Range with Oven	12,200	8	100	5.98
Refrigerator/Freezer (14 cu. ft.)	326	291	95	5.68
Refrigerator/Freezer (Frostless)	615	250	154	9.21
Television (B&W, 6 hrs. /day)	100	180	18	1.08
Television (Color, 6 hrs. /day)	250	180	45	2.69
Toaster	1,400	3	4	.24
Vacuum Cleaner	650	6	4	.24
Washing Machine *	300	3	10	.60
Water Heater (Can Vary Widely)	4,500	89	400	23.92
Water Pump (Deep Well)	1,000	15	15	.90

* Does Not Include Hot Water

Entertainment-3 cents
Kitchen-12 cents
Laundry-6 cents
Water Heater 25 cents
Lighting-4 cents
Heating/Cooling 50 cents



The estimated cost per month is calculated by taking the wattage (W) and multiplying it by the estimated hours used per month. We then take that number and divide it by 1,000 to get the estimated kilowatt hours (KWH) used

per month. Then we take that number and multiply by our residential rate per kilowatt hour (5.98 cents). The result is an estimated cost per month.

May 2003

POWERLINES

PROPOSED TVA RATE INCREASE

WILL IMPACT VEC CUSTOMERS



You have probably heard and read recent news accounts of a proposed rate increase by TVA. In February, VEC and other power distributors were officially notified of the proposed increase. TVA says the increase is necessary to offset the cost of complying with clean air standards.

The proposal calls for an increase of 8.1% for residential and commercial customers. The plan also calls for a 2% reduction in rates to certain industrial customers. The February notification of TVA's proposal began a required 180-day review period prior to the increase implementation in October 2003.

The proposed rate increase would affect the amount VEC pays for power it purchases from TVA. VEC would be forced to pass along this increase to its customers.

Needless to say, I am quite concerned with the proposed increase, as are many TVA distributors. The Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA), of which VEC is a member, has hired rate consultants to work with the TVPPA Rates and Contracts

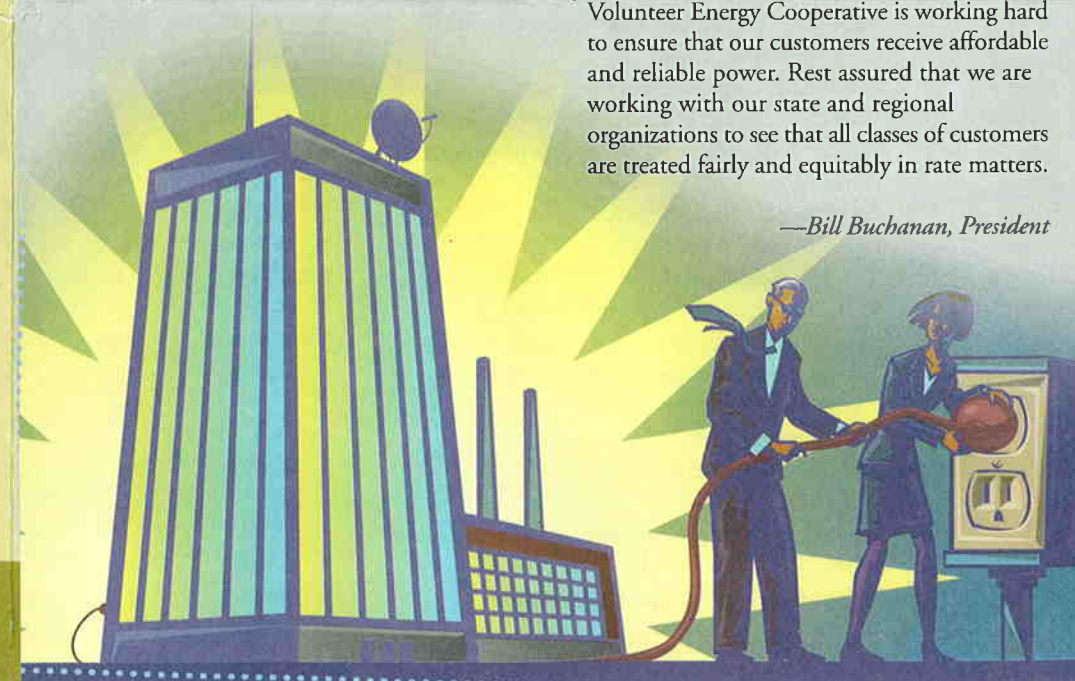
Committee in reviewing the proposed rate change with the TVA rate staff. The Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA) has also retained a consultant to observe the discussions between the Rates and Contracts Committee and TVA. We feel that there are many questions that must be answered by TVA before this rate change is implemented.

TVA says that the reduction in industrial rates will stimulate economic development and reverse a loss of jobs in the Tennessee Valley. Many TVA distributors, including VEC, have not been convinced that recent job losses are in any way tied to the cost of power.

Although TVA is citing compliance with the Clean Air Act as the reason behind the need for additional revenue, it has been suggested that the proposed increases may be driven by other factors. For example, there has been pressure on TVA to accelerate its debt reduction. And the cost of the restart of Unit One at TVA's Brown's Ferry Nuclear Plant is estimated to be \$1.5 billion.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is working hard to ensure that our customers receive affordable and reliable power. Rest assured that we are working with our state and regional organizations to see that all classes of customers are treated fairly and equitably in rate matters.

—Bill Buchanan, President



THE EASY WAY TO PAY

Bank Draft Authorization

With our bank draft program, you don't have to worry about writing a check and sending your payment to us each month. If you're going on a vacation, business trip or if you're traveling for any other reason, there's no need to worry about your power bill.

Our convenient Bank Draft Program can automatically draft your payment from your checking account. You save time, worry, and the cost of stamps and checks.

Customers with accounts in good standing are eligible. Each month you will continue to receive your bill. However, your bill will be marked "Paid by Bank Draft". When you see this message on your bill, you no longer need to write a check or mail a payment – it will be taken care of automatically!

The amount will be drafted from your account approximately two days before the actual due date. Joining the program is as easy as one... two... three. Here's all you need to do:

1. Stop by your VEC service center and complete two bank draft authorization cards.
2. Forward one of the cards to your bank.
3. Return the other card, along with a check with the word "Void" on it to your service center.

It's that quick and easy. For more information, or to sign up, just contact your local Volunteer Energy Cooperative customer service center.

VEC Customers

Share

The VECustomers Share Foundation Board awarded grants of \$32,394 at their July meeting, and \$27,694 in August. The total amount awarded through August is \$378,615.

VECustomers Share is a non-profit, tax exempt charitable organization covering a 17-county area. The foundation's funds are derived from Volunteer Energy Cooperative members who allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest \$1. The additional amount goes into the VECustomers Share fund, which is administered by the foundation's board of directors whose 12 members serve as volunteers.

VECustomers Share contributions average 50 cents each month or \$6 a year for each participating residential customer. More than 80 percent of VEC's customers are donating to the program.

The deadline for grant applications is the last day of each month. For additional information, contact Erbin Baumgardner, manager of member services, at 423-334-7050.

Organizations receiving grants in July include:

Pine Haven PTO	\$ 1,000.00
Mid-East Regional Fair	\$ 1,330.00
The Crossville Arts Council	\$ 1,000.00
Rogers Creek Elementary School PTO	\$ 1,000.00
Sharp Community Center/Disaster Shelter	\$ 300.00
Cleveland Bradley Chamber Foundation	\$ 3,000.00
Star Point Fire Station	\$ 3,000.00
Clarkrange High School Chess Team	\$ 1,000.00
Best Friends Sanctuary	\$ 3,000.00
Monterey Youth Soccer League	\$ 300.00
West Fentress Fire Hall/Disaster Shelter	\$ 300.00
Mayland Community Neighborhood Watch	\$ 300.00
Midway Youth League	\$ 1,500.00
Mayland Emergency Services Annex	\$ 1,000.00
Walker Valley High School Softball Booster Club	\$ 1,000.00
Walker Valley High School Sports Medicine	\$ 1,000.00
Plateau Pregnancy Services	\$ 2,764.00
Prospect Elementary PTO	\$ 300.00
Burks Middle School PTSO	\$ 2,000.00
Rogers Creek Youth Football & Baseball	\$ 1,000.00
South Fentress Fire Department Unit 3	\$ 1,000.00
Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue	\$ 1,000.00
Traditional Music Resource Center, Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
Cumberland County Cardiac/ Pulmonary Rehab Alumni, Inc.	\$ 3,000.00
Hiwassee Fraternities	\$ 300.00

Organizations awarded grants in August include:

Cumberland County High School Band Boosters	\$ 1,800.00
Pickett County Horseman's Association	\$ 1,800.00

Senior Lighthouse Center of Spring City	\$ 333.00
Loving Care Ministries, Inc.	\$ 1,800.00
Cumberland Plateau Amateur Radio Club	\$ 333.00
Grandview Community Center	\$ 333.00
Eckerd Youth Alternatives	\$ 333.00
South Fentress Community Center	\$ 333.00
Senior Citizens of Cumberland County	\$ 333.00
Snowhill Elementary PTA	\$ 1,800.00
Cumberland County Crewettes	\$ 1,800.00
Fentress County Senior Center	\$ 333.00
McMinn Area Cancer Relief Fund	\$ 333.00
Walker Valley High School Volleyball Team	\$ 100.00
New Hope Pregnancy Care Center	\$ 333.00
Chilhowee Middle School PTO	\$ 333.00
VFW Post 6277	\$ 333.00
Sharp Community Center/Disaster Shelter	\$ 900.00
Lake Forest Football Booster Club	\$ 333.00
Monterey Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 1,800.00
Nancy Ward Cherokee Foundation	\$ 1,800.00
Idlewild Fire Department	\$ 333.00
East Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 900.00
Our Daily Bread	\$ 1,500.00
Habitat for Humanity of McMinn County	\$ 333.00
Meigs North Parent Teacher Organization	\$ 333.00
Athens Area Chamber of Commerce	\$ 333.00
Fentress County Hospital Volunteers	\$ 100.00
McMinn County Foster Care Association	\$ 1,800.00
Midway Youth League	\$ 1,800.00
Meigs County Longbeards	\$ 1,800.00
Vocational Office Education Club	\$ 333.00
Linsdale Community Services	\$ 100.00
United Fund of Cumberland County, Inc.	\$ 100.00
McMinn County Rescue Squad	\$ 333.00

In July, Plateau Pregnancy Services in Crossville received a \$2,764 grant to purchase a copier machine for the Abstinence Education Program. Pauline Sherrer and Roger Thackston, VECustomers Share board members, present the grant to Donna Peak, executive director of the Plateau Pregnancy Services.



PRODUCTS AVAILABLE AT YOUR VEC SERVICE CENTER



Outdoor Lighting is an affordable way to extend enjoyment of the outdoors after dark. A number of lighting options are available.

Payment options are available to fit many needs. Automatic bank draft and **Equal Monthly Payment options** help customers avoid higher summer and winter electric bills.

Low-interest financing is available through TVA's **energy right®** program if a customer installs an electric heat pump in an existing home. Payments are added to the monthly electric bill as an easy way to repay.

For builders of new all-electric homes, **TVA's energy right® program** offers rebates based on the home's energy efficiency and its size.

TVA's **energy right®** program will pay an incentive toward replacing an "other fuel" **water heater** with an electric model.

VEC customers are automatically enrolled in our **VECustomers Share program**. This program rounds the electric bill up to the nearest dollar. The funds collected from this program are distributed to worthy organizations in your community to make life better for all of us.

Surge Sentry™ surge equipment protects homes from dangerous energy spikes caused by lightning, animals, and other sources.

WeatherAlert radios keep customers informed about adverse weather conditions in a specific area.

Extend the grilling season with **Electric Grills and Smokers**. Three different models are available.

Stay in touch with the world with **VolFirst.net Internet Services**. Visit our web site at www.volfirst.net.

Metered propane service is available through Volunteer Energy Propane, L.L.C. in selected areas of McMinn, Meigs, Roane, and Rhea counties.

Low-cost, hassle-free **long distance service** is available through VEC's partnership with the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative. A rate of **5.9 cents-per-minute** on in-state or out-of-state domestic long distance calls, a toll-free number, and pre-paid phone and calling cards are available.



Volunteer Energy offers **community and school programs** presented by our employees. Call to schedule a speaker or find out more information.

Volunteer Energy sponsors **youth activities** each year as a way of developing young minds in the Tennessee Valley. Youth tours to Washington, D.C. and Nashville, Tennessee show government at work.

The **VEC Lillard-Shadow Scholarship** provides financial assistance to four graduating high school seniors from across the service area each year.

Details about any of these programs are available at any VEC service center.