

Conservation Kit Promotion Saves VEC Customers Real Dollars

In January 2008, VEC began participating in a TVA promotional program that included mailing a free conservation kit to customers who complete a do-it-yourself home energy audit. So far, the promotion has resulted in big savings for VEC customers.

The conservation kit includes two compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs) that help customers save money on lighting. A total of 1,540 bulbs have been mailed out as of June 1st. Customers who have replaced traditional light bulbs with the CFLs as of June 1st will save approximately \$47,832.12 in energy costs over the life of the bulbs.

The environment wins, too. CFLs mailed to VEC customers through June 1st amount to a savings of 856,300 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions or about 7.86 pounds for every VEC customer. The calculations were made using the Environmental Defense Funds online calculator (www.edf.org).

These calculations reflect only a small part of the total savings that can be realized if customers who have received the conservation kits take advantage of all the tools they received, says VEC Vice President of Marketing and Economic Development Patty Hurley. "The kit also includes items such as a water aerator, a furnace filter whistle, and other useful items." In addition, each customer has received a customized report based on the information provided for their home that provides additional ways to save money on their energy bills.

Hurley said that the free conservation kit promotion has been extended until September 30th, so there is still time for VEC customers to participate. Customers can call their local VEC office or visit VEC's web site at www.vec.org to request the do-it-yourself home energy audit.

According to the EDF website that was used to make the calculations, savings are calculated for electric bills and CO₂ emissions over the lifetime of the compact fluorescent bulbs. The calculator assumes that incandescent bulbs are replaced with compact fluorescent bulbs with one-fourth the wattage (e.g., a 60-watt incandescent bulb is replaced with a 15-watt compact fluorescent bulb). Calculations are based on the state average CO₂ emissions per kW-hour for 1998-2000 from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), Updated State-and Regional-level Greenhouse Gas Emission Factors for Electricity (March 2002). The formula corrects these figures to account for loss that occurs during transmission from power plants to end users of electricity.

FRAUD ALERT

Volunteer Energy Cooperative employees do not telephone customers and attempt to get credit card or bank account information in an effort to collect past due accounts.

If you receive a suspicious phone call from someone claiming to be a Volunteer Energy Cooperative employee, do not give the caller any sensitive information and contact your local Volunteer Energy Cooperative Customer Service Center.

VEC Helps Present Keys to New Habitat for Humanity Homeowner

Volunteer Energy Cooperative and the Bradley County Sunrise Rotary Club co-sponsored a Habitat for Humanity Home in Bradley County. On June 9 representatives participated in a "Celebration of Homeownership" Ceremony with the home's new owner, Tammy Blackwell.

The VECustomers Share program donated \$10,000 to the project. The following VEC employees and friends volunteered their time and effort to assist with building the home: Melvin Flowers, Matt Hoffman, Rocky Ballew, Kelly Green, Charles Hurley, Connie Landrum, Jeremy White, Eddie Geren, Scott Dulaney, Mark Pirkle, Robert McCarty, Rody Blevins, Don McCoy, Eddie Flowers, John Selvidge, Patty Hurley, Kristy Kelly, and Tracey Wilson.

Scott Humberd, VEC's board of directors member who represents Bradley County, Bill Sparkman, who represents Bradley County on the VECustomers Share Board, and VEC Vice President of Marketing and Economic Development Patty Hurley were on hand to present the keys and congratulate Tammy Blackwell and her daughters Jada and Jaelyn.



SNAKE POWER



A four-foot-long snake was to blame when almost 2,000 Volunteer Energy Cooperative customers in McMinn County lost power for several hours in late May. The snake slithered into VEC's Sanford Substation in south McMinn County on May 30 and made contact with a breaker that overheated and caught fire sending sparks and arching electricity into a nighttime spectacle. This photo shows VEC's Wayne Jarvis working to repair damage. The incident caused extensive damage to the substation and left some customers in the area without power for several hours.

We Want You to Enjoy Lower Electricity Bills



There aren't many businesses out there that want to help you spend less money on their products or services. But Volunteer Energy Cooperative isn't a normal business. As a cooperative we are owned by the people we serve and operated to give the best possible service at the lowest possible price.

Right now Volunteer Energy Cooperative is joining with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), as well as other cooperatives and others in the electricity industry to conserve electricity. It makes good sense for all of us.



Rody Blevins President/CEO

The cleanest, most environmentally friendly, and most economic kilowatt hour of electricity is the kilowatt hour we don't have to generate. By using electricity more wisely and by using the most efficient products we can, we can dramatically decrease the environmental impact of generating electricity and you can save money in the process.

In this edition of *Powerlines* you'll see another article that tells how the deadline to participate in the free home energy audit program has been extended until September 30. It also gives examples of what tremendous impact seemingly small steps toward energy conservation and energy efficiency can make.

VEC and TVA are offering this program free of charge and that's not the only way we try to help you give us less of your money. Did you know heating and cooling represents about 50% of the average home's energy use? VEC and TVA team up to help you upgrade your current heating and cooling system with a more efficient one through the *energy right*® program. It's a convenient way to finance the purchase of efficient heating and cooling equipment with a competitive interest rate and no up-front costs.

In most cases the savings on your electric bill will go a long way toward offsetting your payment.

VEC also often uses this monthly newsletter to give you seasonally appropriate information about how you can use less electricity and save money on your monthly electricity bill. Even more advice is offered on our website at www.vec.org.

At VEC we work hard to keep our rates as low as possible – but that is only half the battle in the fight against high electric bills. Using energy more efficiently and learning how to prevent waste will go a long way in helping you win the battle against high electric bills. And in this battle, we are on your side.

VEC Customers *Share*

VEC Customers Share
NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Your Spare Change Can Change Someone's Life

Through the generosity of Volunteer Energy Cooperative customers who allowed their electric bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar, the VECustomers Share program funded \$34,700 in community service grants in May. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$2.6 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.

Organizations receiving grants in May include: Pickett County Rescue Squad - \$3,000; Midway Quarterback Club - \$2,000; Charleston Elementary School PTO - \$2,000; Cumberland G.A.P. Mission, Jamestown - \$1,500; Friends of the Library of Spring City - \$1,000; Make-A-Wish Foundation of East Tennessee, Hamilton County - \$1,000; Art Guild of Fairfield Glade - \$1,000; Art Circle Public Library Summer Reading Program, Crossville - \$1,000; Meigs County Family, Career and Community Leaders - \$1,000; Walker Valley High School Band Boosters, Cleveland - \$1,000; Plateau Pregnancy Services, Crossville - \$1,000; Hamilton County 4-H - \$1,000; Meigs County Historical Society - \$1,000; Meigs County Fair Association - \$1,000; Fentress County Children's Center of the Cumberlands - \$1,000; Brown Middle School PTO, Harrison - \$1,000; Military Memorial Museum of Upper Cumberland, Crossville - \$900; Tennessee Christian Academy, Cleveland - \$700; Polk County Youth Baseball - \$525; Spring City Dixie Youth - \$500; Brown Elementary School Football Boosters, Crossville - \$500; Rock City Fraternal Order of Police #22, Hamilton County - \$500; Benton Elementary School PTO - \$500; Tri-State Resource and Advocacy Corp, Inc., Hamilton County - \$500; North Cumberland Elementary School Garden Club - \$500; Bon Air Mountain Historical Society, Sparta - \$500; Meigs County FFA - \$500; Monterey High School Baseball Boosters - \$500; Meigs County Quest for Success - \$500; Mended Hearts Chapter 127, Cookeville - \$500; Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 297, Crossville - \$500; First Baptist Church TeamKids Fall Fest, Spring City - \$500; The Lighthouse Counseling and Life Skills Center, Hamilton County - \$500; Mt. Carmel Ladies of Action, Decatur - \$500; Wilson Elementary School AB Honor Roll Club, Crawford - \$490; Cub Scout Pack #3013, Ocoee - \$450; Bosom Buddies, Spring City - \$400; Grandview Community Club - \$400; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #7189, Decatur - \$385; Copan Multicultural Dance Group, Fairfield Glade - \$375; Set Apart Youth Group, Monterey \$300; Polk County High School Volleyball Club - \$300; Monterey High School FCCLA - \$300; Future Business Leaders of America, Monterey - \$250; Linsdale Community Services, Delano - \$225; Helping Hands, Crossville - \$200; Tennessee Knucklers Team, Crawford - \$200; Helping Hands Ministry, Crossville - \$200; and Senior Center Line Dance Group/Class, Cleveland - \$100.



VECcustomers Share Board member Don Padgett, right, presents a grant check to Ray Broyles, program director for the Fentress County Children's Center.

VEC Board Members Running Unopposed

The following candidates have expressed their intention to run for the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors.



Scott Humberd
District 2
Bradley County

Scott Humberd is the incumbent Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors member representing District 2 which covers Bradley County. The Cleveland resident is a graduate of Bradley Central High School and earned his Bachelors of Science in Secondary Education and his Masters of Science Degree in School Administration from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

He and his wife, Deborah, have three children, Jason, Sarah, and Geoffrey. Humberd is the Director of Technology for Bradley County Schools and also serves as President of the Board of Directors for the Cleveland/Bradley County Teachers Federal Credit Union. He also served five years in the U.S. Navy Sea Cadet Corps in Chattanooga. He is a member of Broad Street United Methodist Church.



Jerry Henley
District 6
Bledsoe and Rhea counties

Jerry Henley is the incumbent Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors member representing District 6 which includes Bledsoe and Rhea counties. The Spring City resident is a graduate of Spring City High School and attended Tennessee Technological University.

He and his wife, Rayna, have two children, Penny Baugh and Jeri Allen. Henley works at Southeast Bank & Trust and served as mayor of Spring City from 1973 to 1977. He has also served as president of the Spring City Kiwanis Club and as president of the Spring City Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of Spring City United Methodist Church.



Laney Colvard
District 8
Cumberland County - West

Laney Colvard is the incumbent Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors member representing District 8 which covers west Cumberland County. He is Vice-Chairman of the VEC Board of Directors. The Crossville resident graduated from Bledsoe County High School and earned his Bachelors of Science and Law degrees from the University of Tennessee.

He and his wife, Charlotte, have one child, Lana. Colvard is an attorney and a member of Cumberland Homestead Baptist Church.

Disposal of CFL Bulbs Properly



Volunteer Energy Cooperative is actively involved in promoting the use of compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs) as a way to save energy. We have received some questions regarding the proper disposal of CFLs that are no longer working. These bulbs contain a small amount of mercury and should be disposed of in an environmentally responsible way. More information is also available at www.energystar.gov.

A VEC representative contacted the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) regarding methods for disposal of CFL bulbs. TDEC provided the following information:

At this time the options for recycling CFLs in Tennessee are:

1. Recycle CFLs at a household hazardous waste collection. See <http://state.tn.us/environment/swm/hhw/hazcoll.shtml> for a collection center near you.
2. Recycle CFLs by using a turn-key mail back package. Fluorescent bulb recyclers offer several package options.
3. Contact your local solid waste and recycling programs for other recycling options. (Some counties manage recycling programs for fluorescent bulbs.)

The Product Stewardship Institute is facilitating dialog about fluorescent bulb recycling. PSI works with state and local government agencies to partner with manufacturers, retailers, environmental groups, federal agencies, and other key stakeholders to reduce the health and environmental impacts of consumer products.

Save Time at www.vec.org

VEC wants to assist you with ensuring your new service is properly installed and safe. That's why we require each new service to adhere to certain quality standards.

VEC specifications for some of the most commonly-used new services can now be found at www.vec.org. You can access information about: Temporary Service Meter Pole Installation, Mobile Home Meter Pole Installation, Underground Service with Overhead Transformer Installation, Underground Service with Underground Transformer Installation, Underground Service with Underground Transformer & Concrete Pad Installation, and Additional Trench Detail.

Customers can use the VEC website to get a head start on some of the most common installation requirements. Contact your local VEC service center if you have specific questions or a unique situation.