

## If YOU Are Ready to Get Serious About Energy Conservation, WE are Ready to Help

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) customers who have been considering spending \$150 or more on money-saving improvements to their homes, can get rebates and free in-home energy evaluations to help choose the improvements that will get the biggest possible return on their investment.

VEC and TVA are teaming up for the free program which has been extended through September of 2010. A trained energy-efficiency evaluator will come to your home and recommend steps you can take to save money on your energy bills. If you spend at least \$150 on recommended improvements, VEC and TVA will rebate up to 50% of the cost of qualifying improvements up to a maximum of \$500. (Some restrictions and limits may apply. Call for details.)

Owners of manufactured or stick-

built homes who have had permanent VEC electric service for at least one year and who have not participated in the energy right® heat pump program at the same address for at least six months are eligible to participate. Homeowners must agree to a free in-home energy evaluation by a VEC-approved evaluator, must read and sign an agreement to proceed, and must use TVA/VEC-approved contractors. (Some improvements can be completed by the homeowner with pre-approval from VEC.)

For more information or to request a free in-home energy evaluation, contact Kristy Kelly in VEC's Marketing and Economic Development Department at 423-334-7055. You can also call your local VEC Customer Service Center and, when prompted, enter extension 7055.



## TVA Wind Power Contract Shows a Commitment to Clean, Renewable Energy

Brisk winds across the Illinois plains are now blowing clean, renewable energy into the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) service region.

On Tuesday, May 11, TVA began transmitting to its customers 300 megawatts of renewable wind power received from Iberdrola Renewables Inc.'s Streator Cayuga Ridge wind park in Livingston County, Ill.

This marks the first delivery under seven contracts TVA recently signed to purchase up to 1,380 megawatts of renewable wind energy from the Midwest.

Activation of this new wind-power source is one more step in TVA's plans to expand its clean and renewable energy options.

The Iberdrola Renewables purchase agreement is the largest of TVA's wind-power contracts, which altogether may provide enough electricity for about 325,000 average-size homes in the TVA service region.

The next planned purchased of

wind-generated energy for the TVA power grid will be 115 megawatts scheduled to arrive this fall from Horizon Wind Energy LLC's Pioneer Prairie wind farm in Howard and Mitchell counties in Iowa.

Because of inconsistent and generally lower-speed winds in the Southeast, local wind-power projects are less reliable and feasible than in other parts of the nation. TVA is contracting for electricity from wind-energy projects in regions such as the Midwest and Great Plains, where winds are generally stronger and more consistent.

The contracts result from a request for proposals in December 2008 to purchase up to 2,000 megawatts of new renewable or clean energy for TVA's generating system. TVA's current renewable energy portfolio includes about 4,800 megawatts from hydro,

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[www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org)

**VEC**  
VOLUNTEER ENERGY COOPERATIVE

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## The Work of Electric Cooperatives is Far From Done

*Rody Blevins is President/CEO of Volunteer Energy Cooperative*

It was 75 years ago that Volunteer Energy Cooperative got its start in working toward a vision of creating a higher standard of living through affordable electric power. The poles have been set and the lines have been run. But the work is far from over.

Today the vision of affordable electric power for 42,000,000 Americans served by rural electric cooperative like VEC is being challenged. Recently I and six members of your VEC Board of Directors joined officers from electric cooperative across the nation in Washington, D.C. to meet that challenge.

We went with the goal of convincing our representatives in Congress to help us preserve that 75-year-old vision of improving the quality of life for rural Americans through affordable electric power.

The availability of electric power may be secure, but the affordability of that electric power faces some serious threats.

**EPA Regulation of Carbon Emissions**  
One of the main threats facing the affordability of electric power is the scheme that would allow the EPA to regulate carbon emissions from stationary sources through the Clean Air Act. On Jan. 1, 2011 the EPA will be allowed to implement this scheme under the Clean Air Act unless Congress takes action.

The main problem with EPA regulation is that it will not reduce carbon emissions and it is more likely to send the cost of electricity through the roof.

In this day of partisanship in Washington, I was refreshed to see that there is one thing that almost every lawmaker, regardless of party affiliation and regardless of Climate Change position, can agree on: EPA regulation is not the best way to address carbon

emissions from stationary sources. Unfortunately there are some who are willing to settle for it believing that it may be the best we can do for now.

I, and others who serve 42,000,000 electric cooperative customers across America, disagree. And thanks in part to our efforts in Washington bi-partisan bills have been introduced to stop the unnecessarily high bills electric consumers will face if EPA is allowed to regulate carbon emissions from stationary sources.

One bipartisan measure has been sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and two bills have been introduced in the House, one written by Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., and a second authored by Reps. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., Collin Peterson, D-Minn., and Jo Ann Emerson, R-Mo.

The details and scope of the bills differ, but all three essentially would prohibit EPA from enacting a greenhouse gas program from stationary sources as part of the Clean Air Act's permitting process. You can find more information at [www.nreca.org](http://www.nreca.org) under public policy climate change.

Today we are enjoying the benefits of the work those visionary, rural electrification pioneers undertook 75 years ago. But much of their work can still be undone if we are not willing to pitch in and make our own effort.

I urge you to contact your representative and senators in support of these efforts to stop EPA regulation that would cause electric bills to skyrocket without providing any benefits that would mitigate the effect of carbon emissions.

*...the affordability of that electric power faces some serious threats.*



## Lillard-Shadow Scholarships Honor Students' Commitment to Community Service

Volunteer Energy Cooperative rewarded four exceptional young adults for their commitment to community service and their academic achievements by awarding them with VEC's 2010 Lillard-Shadow Scholarships.

Each of the four students was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to attend the college of his or her choice.

The Lillard-Shadow Scholarship program was endowed to honor the lives and community service of J.W. Lillard and Willis A. Shadow. Lillard and Shadow were dedicated to improving the lives and livelihoods of community residents through electric power. And the two were instrumental in the organization of the Meigs County Electric Membership Corporation in 1933 - the organization that eventually evolved into Volunteer Energy Cooperative.

To honor this history, an independent panel of education professionals judged applications for Lillard-Shadow Scholarships based largely on students' demonstrated commitment to community service.

Claire Ingalls, a 2010 graduate of Ooltewah High School; Joseph Carl Zimmerman, a 2010 graduate of Rhea County High School; Casey Brooke Scarlett, a 2010 graduate of Stone Memorial High School in Crossville; and Roman West, a 2010 graduate of Clarkrange High School were winners of this year's VEC Lillard-Shadow Scholarships.

VEC awards four Lillard-Shadow Scholarships annually. One is awarded in each of VEC's four service districts. Ingalls was the Cleveland Service District winner, Zimmerman was selected from VEC's Decatur Service District, Scarlett was the winner in VEC's Crossville Service District, and West was the winner in VEC's Jamestown Service District.

Ingalls, the daughter of Jill Ingalls, has an extensive record of community service that includes volunteer work with her church group rebuilding homes across the U.S., volunteering at a day

camp, delivering Christmas presents to orphans and mentoring at a local middle school.

She is planning to attend Lee University where she plans to major in exercise science.

Zimmerman, the son of Stephen and Margaret Zimmerman, has demonstrated his commitment to the community through numerous projects with the Rhea County High School leadership class including working with special needs children and collecting food for the needy. He has also been active with his church in construction projects to assist the needy.

He plans to attend Bryan College and study history and political science.

Scarlett, daughter of Darwin and Vicki Scarlett, has served the community with volunteer work that includes collecting Christmas presents for children in Third World countries, Bread of Life Rescue Mission, Special Olympics, nursing home visits, the local animal shelter, and Habitat for Humanity among others.

She plans to attend Tennessee Technological University and study business.

West, the son of Martha West, also has an impressive record of community service that includes volunteer work in several environmental clean-up projects and tutoring students.

He plans to attend Tennessee Technological University and hopes to go into the teaching profession.

VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins said VEC is proud to honor students, like these, who have shown a real commitment to serving others through community service.

"Our scholarship winners are the types of students who can look beyond their own individual wants and needs and focus on the needs of those around them," Blevins said. "We are very pleased to offer them our support and best wishes."

# VEC Customers *Share*

## Your Spare Change Makes a Difference

The VECustomers Share program funded \$32,500 in community service grants in April. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$3.3 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](http://www.vec.org).

Organizations receiving grants in April include: Friends of the Fentress County Library - \$2,000; Rhea County Imagination Library - \$1,600; Hilltoppers, Inc., Crossville - \$1,500; Fair Park Senior Center, Crossville - \$1,500; Pickett County Relay for Life - \$1,200; Friends of the Cherokee Memorial, Decatur - \$1,000; GEAR UP Tennessee, Decatur - \$1,000; We Care / Safe Haven Light, Spring City - \$1,000; Women at the Well, Athens - \$1,000; Benton Lions Club - \$1,000; Polk County Gridiron Club - \$1,000; Snow Hill Recreation 12U Cyclones Girls Softball - \$1,000; Harrison Recreation/Harrison Pride Girls 7 & 8 Softball - \$1,000; Fentress County Archives - \$1,000; Athens Civitan Club - \$1,000; Byrdstown Headstart - \$800; Midway Quarterback Club \$800; Hospice of Cumberland

County - \$700; Tennessee Chapel Baptist Church Food Pantry, Kingston - \$700; SpringTown Community Support Group, Reliance - \$700; Gum Springs Baptist Youth Group, Georgetown - \$500; Hamilton County 4-H - \$500; Cumberland County Community Band - \$500; VFW Post 6277, Monterey - \$500; Etowah Arts Commission - \$500; Monterey High School Baseball Boosters - \$500; Veterans' Service Office, Crossville - \$500; Disabled American Veterans Chapter #32, Crossville - \$500; Monterey High School Softball Booster Club - \$500; Prospect Elementary School PTO, Cleveland - \$500; Kids on the Rise, Crossville - \$500; Monterey High School Golf Boosters - \$500; Polk County Retired Teachers' Association - \$500; Meigs County High School Boys Basketball Booster Club - \$400; Byrdstown Senior Center - \$400; Burks Middle School Baseball Booster Club, Monterey - \$350; Cleveland/Bradley County Chamber Foundation - \$300; Meigs County Show Team - \$300; Roane Imagination Library, Inc., - \$300; Military Memorial Museum of Upper Cumberland, Crossville - \$300; Rhea County High School Basketball Boosters - \$300; Meigs Travelin' Tigers - \$300; Burks Middle School Boosters, Monterey - \$250; Wilson Elementary School Beta Club, Crawford - \$250; Royal Family Kids Camp, Cleveland - \$250; Cleveland/Bradley County Keep America Beautiful - \$200; Cherokee Area Council of the Boys Scouts of America, Cleveland - \$200; Walker Valley High School Golf Boosters, Cleveland - \$200; and Roane Choral Society - \$200.



VECcustomers Share Board Chairman Carlton Norris, right, presents a grant check to Eric Million, Russ Baltimore, and Cameron Baltimore of the Snow Hill Cyclones Girls Softball Team.

## Right-of-Way Spraying Schedule

Volunteer Energy Cooperative's right-of-way (ROW) spraying program is scheduled to get under way in mid June to September, according to Steve Scott, VEC's vegetation control specialist.

Scott said the spraying is necessary to help prevent extended power outages caused by falling trees and to assist with quick power restorations by improving access for service crews.

"We spray when growth is most active," Scott said. "We only use EPA-approved herbicides that are rated the safest and we use them in low concentrations."

Scott said the herbicides work on woody growth without affecting flowers and grass. The herbicides VEC will be

using have been tested and deemed harmless to humans and animals. Copies of the Material Safety Data Sheets for each herbicide are available at VEC customer service centers.

Scott said the spraying technique used is selective, low volume and low concentration, backpack spraying to prevent drift.

Organic growers with questions in the Cleveland and Decatur service districts should contact Scott at 423-334-7034. Organic growers in the Crossville service district should contact Tommy Walker at 931-839-2217 ext. 7411 and organic growers in the Jamestown service district should contact Butch Smith at 931-864-3685 ext. 7651.

### 2010 ROW Spraying Schedule

#### Benton Service Area

Highway 64 East, Reynolds Bridge Road, Old Federal Road, Sloans Gap Road, Cookson Creek Road, Welcome Valley Road, and York Road

#### Cleveland Service Area

Eads Bluff Road, Van Davis Road, Lower River Road, Hopewell, No Pone Road, Mt Zion, Rabbit Valley, Harrison Pike, White Oak Valley Road, Sugar Creek, Sanford, Walker Valley, and Highway 163.

#### Crossville Service Area

Bowman, Dyke Crossroads, Dunbar Road, Fredonia, Lake Tansi, Lawson Road, Tabor Loop, Potato Farm Road, Creston, Rinnie, West Crossville, South Sparta Highway, and Genesis Road

#### Decatur Service Area

Armstrong Ferry Road, Big Springs, Cottonport Road, Holly Glen, Highway 58 South, Plank Road, No Pone Valley Road, Lamontville Road, Shiloh Road, Sneed Road, Highway 30 East, Clearwater, Tranquility, Idlewild, Layman Road, Rocky Mount Road, Rodgers Creek, and Sergeant Town

#### Jamestown Service District

Banner Springs, Gatewood Ford Road, Highway 154, Leatherwood Ford Road, South York Hwy, Taylor Place Road, and Tench.



## Find the Barn Winners

April's winners in the [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org) "Find the Barn" contest were Tracey Ferguson of McDonald and George Thomas of Crossville. Ferguson and Thomas won a limited-edition, 8 1/2 -by-11-inch, hard-bound book, "Barns of Tennessee."

The 160- page pictorial keepsake is a tribute to Tennessee's agrarian history with 375 photographs compiled by

the staff of The Tennessee Magazine, The Donning Company Publishers and authors Caneta Hankins and Michael Gavin. Most of the images were contributed by Tennessee Magazine Readers.

Visit the VEC website at [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org) to find tools to save money and make your life easier.

## VEC Protects Personal Information

### Policy Regarding Privacy of Customer Information

Volunteer Energy Cooperative values you as an owner and as a customer and understands how important it is to protect the personal information that you have entrusted to us. We, therefore, treat such personal information in accordance with applicable law and the provisions of this policy.

### Information We May Collect

We only collect information that is needed to serve you and administer your cooperative's business. We may collect nonpublic personal information about you from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications or other forms;
- Information about your business transactions with us or others;
- Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency.

### Protection of Your Information

We are committed to upholding our pledge to maintain security of our customers' personal and accounting information. To ensure such information is used only in the manner we have described in this notice, we restrict access to your personal and account information to those employees who need to know that information to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to maintain the confidentiality of the

information we collect and to guard against its unauthorized access.

### Information We May Disclose

All of the information that we collect, as described above, may be disclosed when necessary to assist us in servicing your accounts to third parties as designated by you, in response to subpoenas or court orders, and to a credit bureau or similar information reporting agency. We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about our customers to anyone, except as permitted by law.

We may disclose the information that we collect, as described above, to companies that perform marketing services on our behalf. This information may be shared with our affiliates so they can market their services. However, Volunteer Energy Cooperative does not share personal customer information with unaffiliated third parties for any reason.

If you decide to terminate your relationship with us, we will continue to adhere to the privacy policies and practices described in this notice.

### More Information

Questions regarding this policy can be directed to the Office of the President/CEO, Volunteer Energy Cooperative, P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322 or to your local VEC service center.

*TVA Wind Power  
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wind, solar and methane sources. In addition, TVA's nuclear plants contribute 6,900 megawatts of low-or-no-emission electricity to the power grid.

VEC's 17-county service area encompasses beautiful wilderness areas, farmland, and other areas that are particularly sensitive to adverse environmental practices. That's why we are glad to see TVA moving toward a larger portfolio of clean, renewable energy sources.

## Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

**Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost  
Adjustment Effective June 1, 2010**

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**For the most current FCA information, visit [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org)**