

**THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC  
 COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.**

# TheVoice

**Caney Valley Electric  
 Cooperative Assn., Inc.**  
 Allen Zadorozny—General Manager

**Board of Trustees**

**Patrick Steward**  
 President

**Kenneth Bates**  
 Vice President

**Carl Johnson Jr.**  
 Secretary/Treasurer

**Mack Chrisman**  
 Trustee

**Dale Clubine**  
 Trustee

**Dwane Kessinger**  
 Trustee

**Coral Ann Magnus**  
 Trustee

**Fred McAdam**  
 Trustee

**George Tolbert**  
 Trustee

**Contact Us**

401 Lawrence, P.O. Box 308  
 Cedar Vale, KS 67024  
 Phone: 620-758-2262  
 Fax: 620-758-2926  
 cve@caneyvalley.com.

**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Power Cost Adjustment**

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for August is \$.02273/kilowatt-hour. This calculates to an additional \$22.73 per 1,000 kWh used.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase in power costs charged to us by our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) in Topeka. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale charges from KEPCo, and is a flow-through on your electric bills based on the factor for the month.

**FROM THE MANAGER**

## Caney Valley Ends Water Heater Sales

For many years, your cooperative has stocked water heaters as part of its electric appliance rebate program. The purpose was to build an electric load with quality water heaters and provide the opportunity for members to obtain water heaters at little or no cost.

However, during the past several years, frequent problems have been encountered with servicing the water heaters, obtaining reliable water heaters and accommodating ongoing price increases.

With much reluctance and concern, the cooperative reviewed the maintenance of the inventory of water heaters and the handling of customer issues during problematic times. It was determined that the program was not producing the positive results needed to continue water heater services.

As of September 30, 2010, the cooperative will no longer sell water heaters to members. However, the water heater rebate program will

still be in effect for heaters purchased from other sources as it is now administered.

For the rebate, water heaters must meet the following qualifications:

- ▶ Must be installed on Caney Valley's lines, and inspected by CVE.
- ▶ Minimum size must be 40-gallon.
- ▶ If less than 60 gallons, it must have a minimum Energy Factor (EF) of .93.
- ▶ If 60 gallons or greater, it must have a minimum EF of .91.
- ▶ If a water heater rebate was paid on the unit being replaced, a second rebate can be paid only if the warranty has expired. Please confirm that the unit is out of warranty.
- ▶ Must have copy of the sales receipt.
- ▶ Needs to be installed with number 10 wire and 30-amp breaker.

Please contact me if you have any comments or questions, and I will be glad to visit with you.



Allen Zadorozny

## Water Heater Program Rebate Amounts

**For members replacing a non-electric unit or installing one in new construction:**

For the purchase of a standard (non-lifetime) unit	\$150
For the purchase of a lifetime unit	\$200

**For members replacing an electrical unit:**

For the purchase of a standard (non-lifetime) unit	\$100
For the purchase of a lifetime unit	\$150

## Attention All Members

### Want to Share Your Story?

Every October cooperatives across the nation celebrate Cooperative Month. We would like to invite our readers to submit an article telling of their experience when their lights came on for the very first time, back in the late 1940s and 1950s.

Share your story, and let our younger members know what it was like “before” and “after” the electricity was on at your house!

### Check Your Breakers

Please be sure and check your breakers in the house and under the meter before calling in an outage. You might also check with any neighbors close by to see if they are also off.

If our crews are not already in the area and have to be called out from other work or on overtime, and the outage is determined to be on your side of the meter, you will be charged a \$60 trip charge plus taxes for them to come to your house.

Thank you for your assistance!

### Recipes Needed

We haven't received any recipes from members in a couple months. If you would like to see the Recipe Corner continued, please consider sharing your favorite recipes with our readers.

To submit your recipe, please send the following information:

- ▶ Your name
- ▶ Contact information
- ▶ Photo of yourself
- ▶ The recipe (clearly printed or typed)

Send your entry to:  
 Caney Valley Electric  
 Attn: Recipes  
 PO Box 308  
 Cedar Vale, KS 67024  
 E-mail to [cve@caneyvalley.com](mailto:cve@caneyvalley.com)

## World's Most Expensive Dirt

Dust dollars off your energy bill by regularly changing filters

The most expensive dirt in the world may lurk in your home's heating and cooling system. If neglected, dust collecting on the equipment's air filter could increase your energy bills hundreds of dollars every year and result in costly repair or replacement costs.

Dirty filters cause a system to work harder and break down faster. That's because unfiltered dust and grime work into critical parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and, eventually, failure.

As you move around your home you drive dust into the air from carpets, drapes, and furniture. Pets generate dust particles by shedding, grooming, and tracking in dirt from outside.

Regardless of where it comes from, dust trapped in a heating and cooling system air filter leads to several problems, including:

- ▶ Reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs.

- ▶ Costly duct cleaning or replacement.
- ▶ Lowered system efficiency.

Every time a system with a dirty filter kicks on, the day of reckoning—total replacement—draws closer. To avoid this expense, change filters monthly when a system's in regular use. Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

While most types of filters must be replaced, a few filters are reusable. They're available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). MERV, a method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system.

To learn more about how to save energy around your home, visit [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).

## Peak Control Brings Benefits to Members

Members can save money with Peak Control. Here's more information about how you can start:

**What is Peak Control?** Peak control is a voluntary program in which our members can participate to hold down electricity costs to both Caney Valley and themselves.

**What Can Members Do to Participate in Peak Control?** Members can participate by voluntarily monitoring when they use electric equipment and appliances which require larger amounts of electricity.

**When Do Members Need to Participate in Peak Control?** During the hours of 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. every weekday from June 1 through September 30. The actual peak demand for June, July, August and Septem-

ber is the billing demand for each respective month. Special emphasis is placed during July and August, as the peak electricity demand registered by Caney Valley during those two months drives the electricity billings for the following eight months beginning in October. Be aware of days that have high temperatures forecasted above 90 degrees; these are the type of days when peak demands usually occur.

**What Benefit May the Members See From Taking Part in Peak Control?** By helping hold the line for the kW demand charges on Caney Valley's wholesale electric bill, you will also limit the amount of the resulting power cost adjustment (PCA) charges added to your electric bill.

# Why Keep Power Lines in Harm's Way?

High winds and icy conditions can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines, triggering outages. Although Caney Valley Electric lineworkers are on call around the clock and respond quickly to problems, some folks ask a simple question: Why keep power lines in harm's way?

There are two ways electricity can be delivered to a home: through overhead or underground power lines. Although underground lines may seem attractive during storms since they are not exposed to extreme weather, the technology doesn't always make sense for co-ops focused on affordability.

In Georgia, for example, installing power lines underground costs double the amount per foot compared to overhead. In Iowa, building underground lines average between \$85,000 to \$100,000 per mile while overhead line construction runs about \$60,000 per mile. In mountainous or rocky areas, the price tag may be even higher.

Most underground lines nationally are found in subdivisions where developers request and pay for the option for aesthetic reasons or to comply with local statutes. A high concentration of homes in these areas helps spread out the expense. According to Hi-Line Engineering, a Georgia-based utility consulting firm, nine out

of 10 new subdivisions are served by underground cable.

But the bulk of the nation's cooperative energy (including that provided to subdivisions) continues to be delivered via overhead lines—16 percent of the 2.5 million miles of distribution lines owned and maintained by electric co-ops across the nation are found underground (although the amount grows by approximately 1 percent annually). Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit, selecting distribution methods with two goals in mind: keeping electricity affordable and reliable for consumers.

There are pros and cons to both forms of power distribution. For instance, underground facilities are more reliable during storms and generally require less right-of-way maintenance because there are no trees, brush, and other vegetation to clear away.

However, faults in underground power lines are not easy to track down and fix. A North Carolina study found that outage restoration times averaged 92 minutes for overhead lines versus

145 minutes for underground lines. In 2005, Hi-Line Engineering compared the increased cost of underground lines against their benefits in Virginia. The results: underground savings did not outweigh the heavy initial cost of installation.

"If a tree falls on a line, you can normally drive down the line, see the problem, and get to work restoring power," explains Craig Lampson, line superintendent. "The same holds for repairing broken insulators and crossarms—if you see it, you can fix it. But underground lines are tough to troubleshoot. You can't find a problem

with your eyes—you have to search harder for it, tracking it down based on where the power flow stops. Then a line crew has to dig a hole to reach the spot before repairs can be made."

**Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit, selecting distribution methods with two goals in mind: keeping electricity affordable and reliable.**

For most cooperative members, affordable overhead lines will remain the norm, at least for now. To find out more about how Caney Valley Electric is looking out for you, please visit [www.caneyvalley.com](http://www.caneyvalley.com).

## Outages for June 2010

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages that occurred during June 2010.

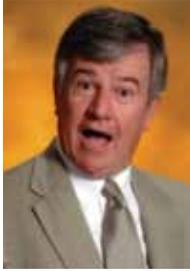
Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
6/7	Niotaze, Havana, Peru areas	300	2 hr 40 min	Light burned line in two
6/7	Atlanta, Burden, Cambridge areas	280	2 hrs	Westar off
6/7	Chautauqua area	100	2 hrs	Lightning kicked breaker off in substation
6/14	South of Burden and Cambridge	25	6 hr 40 min	Westar C-phase off at meter point
6/23	North of Havana	80	1 hr 35 min	Lightning kicked breaker off
6/23	Havana, Niotaze, Peru areas	300	4 hrs	Lightning burned jumper
6/23	East of Chautauqua	25	5 hrs	Lightning kicked breaker off
6/23	South of Chautauqua	100	3 hr 30 min	Bad transformer and arrester
6/29	Havana area	65	10 min	Arcing on line kicked phase off

## Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	June 2010	June 2009
Meters Billed	5,535	5,520
kWh Sold	3787,022	4,120,066
Total Revenue	\$ 482,328	\$ 510,078
Purchased Power	\$ 339,222	\$ 277,007
Operating Expenses	\$ 194,979	\$ 157,666
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 45,745	\$ 44,002
Interest Expenses	\$ 35,620	\$ 42,588
Other Expenses	\$ 1,150	\$ 50
Operating Margins	\$ (134,388)	\$ (11,235)
Non-operating Margins	\$ 1,894	\$ 2,061
Total Margins	\$ (132,494)	\$ (9,174)
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 115,491	\$ 240,103

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

# May the Force Not Be With You BY DOUG RYE



Doug Rye

“Folks, the places in your house that are losing heat in the winter are probably the same places that are gaining heat in the summer.”

As hot as it is now, it is hard to remember just how cold it was six months ago. We had a good old fashioned winter like we haven't seen in a while and the utility companies received high bill complaints like they haven't see in a while either.

When one receives a high utility bill there is always a reason and it is almost never because the meter is wrong. For years I have spent just about all of my working time teaching folks where their utility dollars go and what they can do to make the situation better.

As the summer bills are arriving, I thought it would be a good time to review “Energy Course 101.” The average house energy usage is about 50 percent for heating and cooling, about 20 percent for water heating and about 30 percent for everything else. Since heating and cooling systems are the largest users of energy, let's look at some energy facts.

Basically, it is all about heat transfer. First, heat always moves toward cold and it is an actual force. You could say that there is no such thing as cold, just a lack of heat. In the summer, you don't cool the house, you remove the heat.

Second, the greater the difference between the two temperatures, the greater the force will be. Let's say that your house temperature is 75 degrees and you heat the kitchen oven to 90 degrees. When you open the oven door you will feel a little force of hot air come out the door. Now heat the oven to 350 degrees, open the door, and feel the blast, which is a big force, of air hit you in the face. Again, it is an actual force.

So how does this force relate to the utility bill at your house? Well, let's set the house thermostat at 75 degrees. Now, let's say we enjoy a nice 75 degree spring day. Wow, it is a perfect day. There is no force from nature, no heating or cooling is required and the utility meters hardly move. What a day. Of course you knew it wouldn't last.

Let's say that today it is sunny, 97 degrees and the heat is forcing its way into my house at every possible location. Then, oh no, now it's win-

ter and 20 degrees outside. The heat that I just paid for is now forcing its way out of my house. In fact, I can see the force as it hits my window glass and turns to water. Please help me. What can I do?

Folks, the places in your house that are losing heat in the winter are probably the same places that are gaining heat in the summer.

If you can totally seal those places or just make it more difficult for the heat to move through those places, you can help lower your utility bill. Just find those places and fix them.

A good energy audit using a blower door and an infrared camera is by far the best way to find those bad spots.

Go online to find energy auditors in your area. Also, continue to read this column each month, which has and will continue to show you, how to find and stop those energy hog forces. In the meantime, may a good force be with you.

**DOUG RYE** is a licensed architect and the popular host of the “Home Remedies” radio show. You can contact Doug at 888-Doug-Rye. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.



The places in your house that are losing heat in the winter are probably the same places that are gaining heat in the summer. If you seal those places, you can help lower your utility bill.