

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC
 COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Voice

**Caney Valley Electric
 Cooperative Assn., Inc.**
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Office Hours

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

Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for October is \$.04028/kilowatt hour. This calculates to an additional \$40.28 per 1,000 kWh used.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (over and above 5¢/kWh) 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 Meters Increase



Allen Zadorozny

The average number of meters billed monthly has increased from 5,137 in 2000 to 5,570 to date this year. That is an average increase of 39 meters per year for the past 11 years. The good news is the modest increase replaces the trend seen in the '90s when the number of meters decreased.

The majority of the increase is due to new residences being built in our area and also to the oil and gas industry. Another contributing factor is our existing meters are staying connected and not decreasing at the rate experienced in the '90s.

Today, the cooperative serves an average of 3.3 meters per mile of primary electric line. If we take away the meters served in Sedan and Cedar Vale, that reduces the average to about two meters per mile.

The meters per mile of line, or "density," is important. The higher the density, the higher the return on the investment of the electric facilities installed throughout the cooperative's service area.

Tied to this, of course, is the improved opportunity to maintain the electric rates as low as possible due to the economies of scale.

Allen A. Zadorozny, Manager

**CVE Average
 Meters Billed**

2000	5,137
2001	5,149
2002	5,173
2003	5,180
2004	5,199
2005	5,225
2006	5,298
2007	5,379
2008	5,449
2009	5,514
2010	5,529
2011	5,570

Outages for October 2011

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages for August.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
8/1	Grenola, Moline, Howard	497	1 hr	Lost high side fuse in substation
8/5	Elk City area	65	2 hr	Bad OCR on A-phase
8/10	Grenola, Moline, Howard	497	3 hr 45 min	Westar off - ground wire on phase
8/10	North and west of Elgin	40	1 hr 30 min	Tree on line
8/10	North half of Elgin	65	35 min	Lightning
8/12	South half of Sedan	400	1 hr	Bird on three-phase bank behind theatre
8/15	South half of Elgin	60	20 min	Scheduled outage—replace bad insulator

A Matter of Cooperative Principles

You might be surprised by the number of co-ops around you. Co-ops have been formed to sell and produce electricity, offer financial and banking services, provide housing and health care and much more.

So where did the bright idea for co-ops come from? It's a matter of principles (seven, to be exact). The modern movement traces its roots to a store started by weavers in the town of Rochdale (pronounced Rotch-dale) in northern England in 1844. The group was guided by a set of principles drawn up by one of its members, Charles Howarth. When introduced into the U.S. by the National Grange in 1874, these "Rochdale Principles" fueled a cooperative explosion.

Although stated in many ways, the Rochdale Principles require that a cooperative must be open for anyone to join. Every member retains one voice, one vote. Electric co-ops hold member business meetings annually, allowing members to elect fellow consumers to guide the co-op and have a say in how their utility is run.

There also have to be real member benefits. For example, members of electric co-ops often get money back (called capital credits or patronage refunds) when the co-op's in good financial shape. More than \$9.5 billion has been returned to members by electric co-ops since 1988—nothing to sneeze at.

Education remains another big focus. Electric co-ops provide safety information in schools, share ideas on how to make your home more energy efficient to keep electric bills affordable, and make sure elected officials and opinion leaders know about the co-op business model. Because there is strength in numbers, co-ops tend to stick together when tackling regional and national issues.

Perhaps most important of all, co-ops are independent and community-focused, not tied to the purse strings of far-flung investors. Co-ops help drive local economic development, fund scholarships, support local charities, and work to make life better in the areas they serve—the heart of the cooperative difference.

Cold Weather Rule Begins November 1

The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) adopted a statewide, uniform Cold Weather Disconnection Rule on March 20, 1989, which governs termination or restoration of utility service when consumers are financially unable to pay utility bills from November 1 to March 31 annually.

Caney Valley Electric has adopted this Cold Weather Disconnection Rule with certain modifications to accommodate our consumers.

Cooperative members who are unable to pay their electric service bills during the cold weather period may qualify for this program, provided they fulfill certain good faith requirements when attempting to pay.

The requirements members must meet to qualify for the program are summarized below:

- ▶ Members must notify the cooperative and state their inability to pay their service bill in full.
- ▶ Members must apply to federal, state, local or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills.
- ▶ Members must make an initial minimum payment equal to 1/3 of the total amount due the cooperative which includes any arrearage. (Example: If a customer owed an arrearage of \$200 and a current bill of \$40, they would owe the cooperative a total of \$240. The initial payment under the Cold Weather Rule would be equal to \$240 divided by three, or \$80.) All previous arrearage average payment plans must be paid off before entering into another plan.
- ▶ Members will be required to enter a level payment plan agreement for past, current and future charges for electric service, with arrears paid in equal installments over the next two months. A consumer and the cooperative may negotiate other payment arrangements mu-



The CWR ensures you will have electric and gas service for your home during the winter. You must make pay arrangements with Caney Valley Electric to use the CWR.

tually agreeable, individualized to the consumer's situation, providing the most appropriate terms, after the consumer has been informed that he or she has at least two months in which to pay under the Cold Weather Plan.

- ▶ Members will be required to provide sufficient financial information to enable the cooperative to determine an appropriate payment agreement.

Please note that consumers may be ineligible for the benefits under the Cold Weather Disconnection Rule if they fail to follow the above requirements, illegally divert utility service, receive service by tampering as defined by KCC rules or default on a payment agreement.

During the cold weather period, your cooperative will do the following:

- ▶ inform you of agencies or organizations which may provide financial assistance in paying utility bills;
- ▶ not disconnect service until the consumer is personally contacted or a notice is posted on the consumer's premises the day before disconnection is to take place.

In no event will the cooperative disconnect service if the temperature is forecast to fall below 30 degrees F. within 24 hours following the time of disconnection.

The Cold Weather Rule is to ensure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

Recipes from Caney Valley's Members



Linda Bowlin

CRAZY CAKE

3 c. flour 6 T. cocoa 2 tsp. vanilla
2 c. sugar ¾ c. salad oil 2 c. water
2 tsp. soda 2 T. vinegar

Sift together flour, sugar, soda and cocoa. Add remaining ingredients. Mix well. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 min or until toothpick comes out clean.



Lee Taylor

These recipes were submitted by Linda Bowlin and Lee Taylor, Atlanta. Linda has been a member of Caney Valley since 1980.

DUMP CAKE

1 can pineapple chunks 1 can cherry pie filling
1 box yellow cake mix 2 sticks butter

Grease and flour 13x9 cake pan. Spread pineapple chunks, then pie filling over that. Crumble cake mixture over top. Cut butter over top and add nuts, if desired. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.

INFALLIBLE POUND CAKE

1 ½ c. shortening 3 c. flour
2 ½ c. sugar 1 tsp. lemon, vanilla & orange
8 eggs flavorings

Cream sugar and shortening until smooth. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well. Add flour, and beat well. Bake in greased tube pan at 325 degrees for 1 ½ hours.

FRUIT COCKTAIL CAKE

2 c. flour 1 (1 lb.) can fruit cocktail, undrained **Topping** ½ c. chopped walnuts
2 tsp. soda ¼ c. butter
½ tsp. salt ¼ c. brown sugar ½ c. evaporated milk 1 tsp. vanilla
1 ½ c. sugar ¼ c. chopped walnuts ¾ c. sugar

Mix flour, soda and salt, set aside. Beat together eggs and sugar until fluffy. Alternately add dry ingredients and fruit cocktail, mix until smooth. Spoon into greased 13x9x2 pan. Sprinkle with brown sugar and walnuts. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 min. **Topping:** Combine evaporated milk, butter and sugar in sauce pan cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to full boil and is slightly thickened. Remove from heat and add walnuts and vanilla. Mix well and pour over cake while still warm.

Don't Let Electrical Hazards Haunt Halloween!

Halloween is the most festively frightening night of the year, but don't make yours fraught with danger. Here are some safety reminders:



Encourage children use caution while trick-or-treating.

- ▶ As you're decorating, make sure you and your parents check for cracked sockets, frayed, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.
- ▶ Fasten all outdoor lights securely to trees and other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture insulating cords and damage wires.
- ▶ Make sure decorative lighting is well-ventilated, protected from weather, and remains a safe distance from anything flammable like dry leaves and shrubs. Do not coil extension cords while in use or tuck under rugs or drapes.
- ▶ Make sure all outdoor electrical lights and decorations are plugged into an outlet protected with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). If your outlets aren't equipped with GFCIs, have an electrician install them or buy a GFCI adapter plug. Don't overload outlets with too many extension cords and strands of lights.
- ▶ Keep power cords off walkways and porches that trick-or-treaters may use. You don't want them to trip.
- ▶ Have mom or dad leave the porch light on for trick-or-treaters, and be sure to turn out all spooky lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed. This will also save energy.

How to Submit

Submit the following information:

- ▶ Your name
- ▶ Contact information
- ▶ Photo of yourself with the finished product (if possible)
- ▶ The recipe (clearly printed or typed)

Send your entry to:

Caney Valley Electric
Attn: Recipes
P.O. Box 308
Cedar Vale, KS 67024
E-mail to cve@caneyvalley.com

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

The More Things Change, the More They Remain the Same, Part II

BY DOUG RYE



Doug Rye

“It is not usually necessary to adjust the thermostat setting if your house is energy efficient.”

In the years to come, we may all make reference to the summer of 2011. We experienced one of the hottest summers ever recorded. Think about those words, ever recorded. Well, thank goodness for fall.

I am answering dozens of calls each day from folks who have received high utility bills or have house problems related to the excessive heat. Most of those calls are about the same as the ones that I have received in summers past. I know for a fact that the local electric co-ops also receive plenty of similar calls. I decided to ask the member services representative of each co-op to provide a list of the energy usage questions that were most often asked by their members. I received those lists and they all contained really good questions. The reason that these questions are so often asked is because there is no one simple or obvious answer. Since these questions are asked so often, let's use the next few articles to answer them.

Q Should the thermostat be adjusted when leaving the house? If I had a dollar for every time that I have been asked this same question, I could buy my wife a nice new fishing rig for her birthday. It was mentioned that this question was often asked to settle an argument between a husband and wife.

My wife and I stopped at our favorite snow cone trailer last week for some cool refreshments. The lady at the window said that she had just finished reading my last column. I told her thank you and that I had just started writing this month's column, which would be about playing with the thermostat. She leaned back, turned to her husband, and told him to come to the window and listen to what I had to say.

A Well, the answer is yes, no or maybe. Aren't you glad that you read this column? The real answer depends on several factors, such as the outside temperature, the energy efficiency of the house and how long you will be away.

Remember that the more energy efficient the house, the less that you even need to think about adjusting the thermostat. If your house is energy efficient with low utility bills, you can't save much, if any, by playing with the thermostat. For the average house, I think that we would all agree that it won't make much difference either way if the outdoor temperature is mild, but let's take a look at hot summer days.

If you raise the thermostat setting from 75 to 85 degrees, everything in the house will try to change to 85 degrees—the walls, the carpet, the furniture, even the dishes in the cabinet, everything. And when you adjust the thermostat back to 75 degrees, the air conditioning unit will have to re-cool everything in the house back to 75 degrees, which might require more energy than if you had just left the thermostat alone.

If you are going to be gone for several days, it is probably okay to make that change. However, it is usually not necessary to adjust the thermostat if you are going to be gone only a day or so, unless your house is very energy inefficient.

In the cold winter, the same advice applies. Also be aware that some heat pumps are wired where the heat strips will come on if you raise the thermostat setting a few degrees. Having the heat strips come on may increase your utility bill.

Generally speaking, it is not usually necessary to adjust the thermostat setting if your house is energy efficient. I hope that encourages us all to make our houses more efficient. As always, call me if you have questions. See you when the leaves are pretty.

DOUG RYE is a licensed architect and the popular host of the “Home Remedies” radio show. You can contact Doug at 501-653-7931. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.

Caney Valley's Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	July 2011	July 2010
Meters Billed	5,579	5,544
kWh Sold	5,908,330	5,677,281
Total Revenue	\$ 863,876	\$ 776,111
Purchased Power	\$ 679,748	\$ 506,101
Operating Expenses	\$ 199,165	\$ 176,661
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 48,977	\$ 45,874
Interest Expenses	\$ 29,763	\$ 23,063
Other Expenses	\$ 125	\$ 325
Operating Margins	\$ (93,902)	\$ 24,087
Non-operating Margins	\$ 1,835	\$ 1,869
Total Margins	\$ (92,067)	\$ 25,956
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ (217,119)	\$ 6,915