

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

TheVoice

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

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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 November is \$0.04136/kilowatt-hour. This calculates to an additional \$41.36 per 1,000 kWh used.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase in power costs (over and above 5¢/kWh) 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 bill.

FROM THE MANAGER

Peak Efforts Decrease Summer Demand



Allen Zadorozny

With the combination of a mild summer and the cooperative members limiting their use of electricity from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., the summer peak demand was significantly less than last year.

This lower peak is very important due to the manner in which the cooperative is billed for its wholesale power. The wholesale power rates provide that the kilowatt (kW) demand charge for the

months of October through May is a constant amount based upon the previous summer's peak kW demand recorded in July or August.

Comparing the amount the cooperative was billed last year to the upcoming months, the kW demand portion of the wholesale power rate will be about 1/2¢ per kWh less, or about \$5 on 1,000 kWh's.

We want to thank you for doing your part in monitoring when you used your larger electrical appliances and equipment. Your usage control helped to make the summer peak demand much lower than last year.

Allen A. Zadorozny, Manager

Caney Valley Offers Appliance Rebates

Caney Valley Electric has rebates available for the following new appliances:

- ▶ **New Electric Dryer**—for installation in new construction or to replace a non-electric unit, we will give a \$100 rebate. Unit must be at least 4,000 watts, installation must be verified by cooperative personnel, and the member must provide proof of purchase.
- ▶ **New Electric Range**—for installation in new construction or to replace a non-electric unit, we will give a \$100 rebate. Unit must be at least 10,000 watts, installation must be verified by cooperative personnel, and the member must provide proof of purchase.
- ▶ **New Electric Air Source or Ground Source Heat Pump**—for installation in new construction, or to replace an electric or non-electric unit, we will provide a \$200 rebate in

addition to the rebate Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) provides. Rebates vary depending on size, type of unit and SEER rating.

- ▶ **New Electric Water Heater**—for installation in new construction, or to replace a non-electric unit, Caney Valley will provide a rebate of \$150 for the purchase of a standard (non-lifetime) water heater, or \$200 for the purchase of a lifetime water heater. If you are replacing an electric unit, the rebates will be \$100 for a new standard unit, or \$150 for a lifetime unit. KEPCo participates in and pays a portion of these rebates.

See our website at www.caneyvalley.com or contact us for further information.



Beware of Text Fraud

Caney Valley Does Not Send Texts

Some cooperatives have encountered a scam where a member may receive a text message such as “your electric service account with your cooperative has been hacked. Text back ‘send now’ to reactivate your account.”

Please be advised that Caney Valley Electric does not send out text messages to our members. If you should receive a similar text, delete the text without replying and call Caney Valley at 620-758-2262.

Please Notify Caney Valley if a Member Passes

From time-to-time the cooperative becomes aware that an electric account is still active in a deceased person's name, even several months or years after his/her death.

Please be aware that the cooperative's bylaws and policies state that *upon the death of a member, his/her membership in the cooperative shall also terminate, and no capital credits can be allocated to the deceased member after death.* Our bylaws also state that capital credits under the deceased person's name can be paid out if the proper forms are submitted to our office and all final electric bills are paid under that person's name.

We understand that it may take several weeks to make the proper arrangements following the death of a loved one. However, we urge you to have the electric billings changed over as soon as possible so that you and/or other heirs can receive the capital credit payments you may be due. If you have any questions regarding this matter, feel free to contact our office.

Veteran's Day is Nov. 11

In honor of Veteran's Day, we will be closed on November 11. We would like to thank all veterans for their sacrifice.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Our office will be closed on November 28-29 for Thanksgiving. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday.

Cooking Efficiently When Preparing Holiday Feasts

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that cooking alone accounts for 4 percent of total home energy use, and this figure doesn't include the energy costs associated with refrigeration, water heating, and dish washing.

As holiday parties and pot lucks gear up, keep these tips in mind to control energy costs:

- ▶ **Don't peek.** Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy to get back to the proper cooking temperature.
- ▶ **Turn it down or turn it off.** For regular cooking, it's probably not necessary to have your oven on as long—or set as high—as the recipe states. For recipes that need to bake for longer than an hour, preheating the oven isn't necessary. And residual heat on an electric oven or stove top will finish the last five to 10 minutes of baking time. Just remember to keep the oven door closed or the lid on until time is up. Alternately, if you're baking in a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe states. Because ceramic and glass hold heat better than metal

Think about turning down your furnace during your next party. The heat of the oven and all those guests will keep the temperature comfortable.

pans, your dish will cook just as well at a lower temperature.

- ▶ **Give your burners a break.** For your stove top to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay free of dirt and grime.
- ▶ **Don't neglect your slowcooker or your microwave, toaster oven, or warming plate.** For example, the average toaster oven can use up to half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time. Information to help you estimate how much energy your own appliances use is available on EnergySavers.gov.
- ▶ **Give your furnace the day off.** If your next party involves a lot of work for your stove, think about turning down your furnace to compensate. The heat of the oven and all those guests will keep the temperature comfortable.
- ▶ **Make contact.** Electric stove tops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact

with; the less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stove top will have to expend to heat the pan. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update.



Make good use of your slow cooker, microwave, or toaster oven to save energy.

Renters Have the Power to Save on Their Electric Bills

If you rent your home, it may seem that you can't do a lot to control your electric bills. But in reality, there are several low- or no-cost ideas you can put into place to help lower your energy costs.

Electronics and appliances

Look for phantom loads involving computers, printers, phone chargers, small appliances and electronics. Most electronics and small appliances feature a glowing light when turned off or a clock—that means they are still drawing electricity even though they are not in use. A quick fix for phantom loads involves plugging various devices into a power strip. Simply turn off the power trip when you won't be using the devices.

Heating

If you have a central heating system, make sure the vents aren't blocked by rugs, furniture, or drapes. Keeping the vents clear allows air to flow freely. Change the filter every month. You don't have to buy the high dollar filters. The inexpensive ones will work just as well.

Set the thermostat no higher than 72 degrees Fahrenheit when people are home. Wearing warmer clothing or layers helps you stay comfortable when

you turn the thermostat down.

Space heaters are designed to heat small spaces, not the whole house. The cost to run one 1,500 watt space heater could add up to \$100 a month. If this is your only source of heat, use them to heat the rooms you are in. Close doors to unoccupied rooms and hallways to keep the heat in a confined space.

To help prevent accidents or fires, keep children, pets, furniture and combustible items at least three feet away from the heater. Never leave the unit unattended.

Laundry

Only use hot water for very dirty clothes and diapers. When clothes are not heavily soiled, wash in cold water using cold water detergents. Full loads of laundry in the washer save both energy and water. Adjust water levels for small loads.

Clean the lint from the dryer's filter after every load. And don't overload the dryer. Overloaded dryers take longer to dry clothes.

Water heating

Check the temperature on your water heater. Lowering the temperature from 140°F to 120°F (medium setting on a gas heater) can cut water-heating costs by 6 to 10%. If you don't have access to the water heater, ask your landlord to check it for you.

Get water leaks fixed as soon as possible. One dripping faucet can waste up to 48 gallons of water a week and waste energy from hot water.

Weatherization

Check for gaps around doors and windows. Use an incense stick to spot



You can save about three percent on your heating bill for every one degree Fahrenheit you lower the thermostat.

air leaks. When it's windy outside, hold a lit incense stick near your windows, doors, and electrical outlets. If the smoke blows sideways, you've got a leak. Ask your landlord if you can seal the cracks with caulk or weather stripping. While you're talking to your property manager, ask if he or she will pay the cost if you do the labor.

If your windows are drafty, try sealing kits you can purchase at any home improvement store. These plastic sheets fit over your window to block drafts. You can also use heavy drapes or blankets to keep out the chill. Rolled up towels or inexpensive door sweeps can help block air coming in under doors to the outside.

Non-porous tape such as first aid cloth tape can be used to keep cold air from entering your home. Although it is not as durable as foam, rubber, or vinyl, cloth tape is good for blocking corners and irregular cracks, and can be used at the top and bottom of a window sash, door frames, attic hatches, and inoperable windows.

Remember, you don't pay for what you don't use. For more ways to save, go to www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Caney Valley's Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	August 2013	August 2012
Meters Billed	5,588	5,616
kWh's Purchased	6,418,721	6,777,402
Cost per kWh	\$ 0.08546	\$ 0.08869
kWh Sold	6,165,348	7,401,461
Total Revenue	\$ 939,344	\$ 1,113,230
Purchased Power	\$ 548,558	\$ 601,117
Operating Expenses	\$ 218,003	\$ 181,383
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 51,855	\$ 50,137
Interest Expenses	\$ 28,180	\$ 34,190
Other Expenses	\$ 949	\$ 2,286
Operating Margins	\$ 91,799	\$ 244,118
Non-operating Margins	\$ 9,191	\$ 1,806
Total Working Margins	\$ 100,990	\$ 245,924
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ (28,653)	\$ (25,654)

Outages for September 2013

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Listed below are the larger outages that occurred during September.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
9/5	Peru area	65	30 min	Reset OCR
9/29	Southwest of Sedan	40	90 min	Hot line clamps on oil field tap

Online Bill Pay is Now Available!

Caney Valley Electric members now have the option of paying your bill online at www.caneyvalley.com.

Just visit our website and look for "Payment Options" under "Rates and Bylaws." The link is located at the bottom of the page, and will take you to a secure site through our credit card company.

You will need to enter your account number and the amount you are paying on the account. If you are a rural customer, you can also enter your

reading. If you have more than one account, you are able to enter several accounts at one time. After entering your account(s), you will then enter the total amount you are paying through your credit or debit card, and your card information. It would also be helpful if you will enter your phone number in case we need to contact you regarding the payment.

There is no charge for using this service. If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call.



You can pay your bill online with a debit or credit card at www.caneyvalley.com.

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.

Co-op 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 co-op 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 co-op which includes any arrearage. (Example: If a customer owed an arrearage of \$200 and a current bill of \$40, they would owe the co-op 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 co-op may negotiate other payment arrangements mutually 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 co-op 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 co-op 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 co-op 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.