



cve@caneyvalley.com
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For emergency outages please call 800-310-8911

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.



The Voice

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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 \$0.01679/kilowatt-hour. This amounts to an additional \$16.79 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (or decrease) in power costs (over and above 7¢/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.

Know What to Do Around a Downed Power Line

Old Man Winter can create some pretty severe storms, which can interfere with power distribution or even bring down lines.

What Is the Most Important Thing to Remember About a Downed Power Line?

DO NOT GO NEAR IT – FOR ANY REASON. After a storm has caused damage in or alongside a roadway, be alert and slow down. Do not attempt to drive over downed lines. Do not try to drive through water or over snow or debris that may be covering downed lines. Driving over a line can pull more lines or related equipment down. If you encounter a downed line, pull over and report the location to 911.

Can I Tell if a Downed Line Is Energized by Looking?

NO, THERE IS NO WAY TO TELL. Always

assume a downed line (or any line) is live, even if it is not buzzing or sparking.

What Should I Do if I Am in an Accident Involving a Power Line or Other Electrical Equipment?

DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR CAR OR TRUCK. It is always safer to remain inside a vehicle, which acts as an insulator and keeps you out of the path of stray electricity. Call 911, and tell the dispatcher a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved. Power company personnel will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the electricity.

Is There Any Reason I Should Get out of the Vehicle?

YES, BUT ONLY WHEN YOUR VEHICLE IS ON FIRE OR IF YOU SEE SMOKE. If that is the case, make a clean jump from the vehicle without touching it (cross your arms closely to your chest), and then

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use. For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking. **SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**



Know What to Do Around a Downed Power Line *Continued from page 12A* ►

hop with feet together as far as you can — preferably 50 or more feet away.

What Happens to the Electrical Current When a Line Is Down?

ONCE A POWER LINE IS IN CONTACT WITH A VEHICLE, THE GROUND OR OTHER OBJECTS, IT ENERGIZES THE AREA. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to

become a path for electricity and electrocute you. This is why you should hop or shuffle once you make a clean jump from the vehicle. Always keep your feet together — think of hopping like a bunny or shuffling like a penguin.

What Else Can I Do?

PUT YOUR WINDOW DOWN AND YELL TO OTHERS NOT TO APPROACH THE SCENE. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.

SPOOKY Energy Savings

This spooky season, we're sharing a few energy-saving tricks so you can treat yourself to lower energy bills. Here are four simple ways to summon the spirit of energy efficiency.

Conjure instant savings with a smart thermostat. One of the easiest ways to save energy is through thermostat control, since home heating and cooling account for a large portion of monthly energy use. **SMART THERMOSTATS** can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly. You can control a smart thermostat from anywhere (through your smart phone), which allows you to prevent unnecessary energy consumption while you're away. Sorcery!

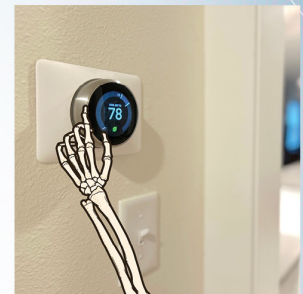
Get rid of goosebumps by eliminating ghostly drafts. The winter chill is just around the corner, so now is the time to

SEAL AIR LEAKS around your home. Apply caulk and weatherstripping around drafty windows and doors to make your home more comfortable and lower your energy use.

Illuminate your lair with energy efficient lighting. **LED BULBS** use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lightbulbs. Make the switch to reduce energy used for lighting. Remember to use LEDs when it's time to decorate for the upcoming holiday season. LED light strings offer an average of 88% energy savings compared to traditional incandescent light strings.

Stir up savings with countertop cauldrons. Cooler weather summons our favorite soup recipes. Small countertop appliances like **SLOW COOKERS** use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop. Grab your book of spells (or recipes) and start stirring up savings in the kitchen.

When we look around our homes, there are many opportunities to save energy. So this spooky season, investigate your space and unlock a different kind of magic — the kind that brings real energy savings.



Smart thermostats can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly.



LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lightbulbs.



Countertop appliances like slow cookers use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop.

Cold Weather Rule Begins Nov. 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 Nov. 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, as 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. Your cooperative can inform you of agencies or organizations which may provide financial assistance.

► **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 3, 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 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 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.

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

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ONCE AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN MADE AND THOSE TERMS ARE DEFAULTED ON, THE AGREEMENT BECOMES NULL AND VOID AND THE MEMBER'S ELECTRIC SERVICE WILL BE SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE DISCONNECTION.

IT IS THE BELIEF OF SOME THAT ONCE THE CWR IS IN EFFECT ELECTRIC BILLS CAN BE IGNORED AND THE COOPERATIVE WILL NOT DISCONNECT SERVICE; THIS IS NOT TRUE. THE COOPERATIVE CAN AND WILL DISCONNECT FOR NON-PAYMENT IF THE ABOVE CRITERIA ARE NOT MET.

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

Fall Back on Nov. 5

On Sunday, Nov. 5, remember to turn your clocks back one hour. It is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and have a professional check your fire extinguishers.



CO-OPS GROW Communities

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate *National Co-op Month* in October.

As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.

Line

Working on the Solar Project Progress

Last month, we shared about the new 1 megawatt (MW) solar project located one-third mile south of the Sedan substation.

Construction is now underway. Over 500 pilings used for anchors for solar panels have been installed on Caney Valley's solar project west of Sedan. You will be seeing more progress on this project through mid-November.



When completed, the 1 MW solar generation will produce 7% of the cooperative's normal peak power requirements and enable the cooperative to have reliable access to a fixed, low wholesale power cost in addition to power provided by our wholesale electric provider.

Outages for AUGUST 2023

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

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
8/3	Independence shortcut	27	80 min	Reset OCR
8/5	Tisdale substation	94	11 hr 30 min	Power supplier off - storm
8/5	South half of Elgin	45	4 hr 30 min	Tree on line - storm
8/5	East of Chautauqua	25	5 hr 30 min	Tree on line - storm
8/5	Phillips substation	222	1 hr 30 min	Power supplier off - storm
8/5	Cedar Vale substation	770	1 hr 30 min	Power supplier off - storm
8/5	Burden substation	149	10 hr 40 min	Power supplier off - storm
8/16	East of Peru	25	1 hr	Broken jumper
8/23	Havana	50	45 min	Transformer failure
8/23	Chautauqua substation	870	50 min	Reset OCB
8/28	Elgin	59	5 hrs	Scheduled-change out 3-phase pole

Nondiscrimination STATEMENT

The Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., is a recipient of Federal financial assistance from Rural Development, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Dept of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Sec'y for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

JULY OPERATING STATISTICS

For Month Ending	July 2022	July 2023		July 2022	July 2023		July 2022	July 2023
Meters Billed	5,247	5,185	Total Revenue	\$ 954,118	\$ 834,007	Other Expenses	\$ 2,950	\$ 3,088
kWh Purchased	7,304,739	6,543,908	Purchased Power	\$ 656,798	\$ 527,021	Operating Margins	\$ (72,230)	\$ (102,037)
Cost Per kWh	0.08967	0.08025	Operating Expenses	\$ 251,746	\$ 288,614	Non-Operating Margins	\$ 3,716	\$ 4,708
kWh Sold	5,559,513	5,212,837	Depreciation Expenses	\$ 71,373	\$ 73,527	Total Working Margins	\$ (68,514)	\$ (97,329)
			Interest Expenses	\$ 43,481	\$ 43,794	Margins Year-to-Date	\$ (278,506)	\$ (230,736)