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For emergency outages please call 800-310-8911

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

TheVoice

Caney Valley Electric Co-op, 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 November is \$0.02425/kilowatt-hour. This amounts to an additional \$24.25 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.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles

For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is the wonderful area which we serve. I know I speak for all Caney Valley employees when I say we are thankful to be in such incredible communities.

We all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. These seven principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Caney Valley was created out of necessity — to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1940, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our communities could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm.

Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for

the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain — the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. We call on everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Caney Valley's leadership team and employees live right here in this area. Our board of trustees, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines.

These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

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**VOLUNTARY AND
OPEN MEMBERSHIP**



**DEMOCRATIC
MEMBER CONTROL**

BE SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS



10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY

- 1 Do not toss light strands into the air when decorating outside. They could come into contact with a power line.
- 2 Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- 3 Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.
- 4 Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.
- 5 Do not use staples, nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.
- 6 String together no more than the number of strands (or fewer) recommended by the manufacturer.
- 7 Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.
- 8 Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- 9 Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.
- 10 Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.



'Watt' to Know about Appliance Electricity Use

Determining how much electricity your appliances and home electronics use can help you understand how much money you are spending to operate them. Electricity is measured in units of power called watts, and one watt is a joule of energy used or produced per second. The power consumption of small devices is usually measured in watts, while the power use of larger devices is measured in kilowatts (kW) (1 kW equals 1,000 watts). Knowing how much electricity an appliance uses and how much the electricity costs can help you decide whether to invest in a more energy-efficient appliance or make other cost-saving decisions, such as unplugging appliances when not in use. Becoming watt savvy is also helpful if you are considering purchasing a generator. There are several ways to estimate how much electricity your appliances and electronics use.

See the Data Plate

Appliances usually have data plates located on the back or inside the door. They tell you how many amps, watts and volts are needed to power the appliance. If your appliance does not list watts for some reason but does list the number of volts and amps, you can multiply volts times amps to get the number of necessary watts.

Review the EnergyGuide Label

The EnergyGuide label, a yellow-colored sticker or tag found on new products, provides an estimate of the average energy consumption and cost to operate the specific model of the appliance you are considering. The FTC requires the label, and the dollar amount is the estimated yearly operating cost based on the national average cost of electricity.

Use a Monitor or Meter

Wattage meters are affordable instruments that are easy to use and can measure the electricity usage of any device that runs on 120 volts. To put

it to work, just plug the monitor into the electrical outlet and then plug the device into the monitor. The monitor will display how many watts the device uses. If you want to know how many kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity a device uses over a length of time, just leave everything set up and read the display later. Some monitors even allow you to plug in your utility's cost per kWh rate to determine how much that specific appliance costs you over a certain length of time.

Install a Whole-House System

Whole-house energy monitoring systems provide more detailed data on your home's energy use (as well as the ability to measure the energy use of 240-volt appliances). The features of these systems vary, and the cost and complexity depend on the number of circuits you want to monitor, how detailed the feedback is and the type of features available.

The monitors are often installed directly into the main breaker panel of the home, and some require an electrician to install. Some monitors must be connected to your home's wireless network, with data being viewed on a computer or smartphone, while others come with a dedicated display. In addition to providing information on the energy consumption of your appliances, this type of monitoring system helps you understand where and when you use the most energy, allowing you to develop strategies to reduce your energy use and costs.



It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles Continued from page 16A ►

This ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members.

But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Caney Valley. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.



Autonomy and Independence

Autonomy and Independence means that the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.



Education and Training

The fifth principle, Education and Training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op. By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal



growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperation Among Cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges.

While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages.

When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts — and we of course extend the same help to them when they are in need. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives. In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an everchanging energy landscape.



Concern for Community

The seventh principle, Concern for Community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic develop-



ment, volunteerism, or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home too.

I think you'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op. On behalf of everyone at Caney Valley Electric, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

**ALLEN A. ZADOROZNY,
GENERAL MANAGER**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV



Happy Thanksgiving

Our office will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 25 and
Friday, Nov. 26 for Thanksgiving.

*We hope you have a safe
and happy holiday.*

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 CWR 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 that 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 CWR would be equal to \$240 divided by 3, or \$80.) All previous arrearage average



The Cold Weather Rule helps existing consumer-members maintain electric services during the winter.

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 CWR 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 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 CWR is to ensure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

Caney Valley's Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	Aug 2021	Aug 2020
Meters Billed	5,254	5,222
kWh Purchased	6,684,995	6,141,334
Cost Per kWh	0.08795	0.08036
kWh Sold	5,893,571	6,218,234
Total Revenue	\$ 1,052,495	\$ 994,210
Purchased Power	\$ 589,359	\$ 494,821
Operating Expenses	\$ 278,763	\$ 226,159
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 70,358	\$ 68,959
Interest Expenses	\$ 38,354	\$ 42,990
Other Expenses	\$ 1,613	\$ 1,423
Operating Margins	\$ 74,048	\$ 159,858
Non-operating Margins	\$ 394,986	\$ 4,006
Total Working Margins	\$ 469,034	\$ 163,864
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 519,940	\$ 271,133

Outages for September 2021

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Following are the larger outages that occurred during September 2021.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
9/7	South of Sedan	50	1 hr 30 min	Trees in line
9/13	East of Cedar Vale	51	35 min	Tree fell through line
9/26	Cedar Vale sub - west circuit	260	3 hrs	Grass fire - bad transformer
9/29	Elgin to Chautauqua	98	1 hr 15 min	Top of pole burning