

The Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"Owned By Those We Serve"



July 2007

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From the Manager

As of early May 2006, scrap metal price lists are valuing copper between \$2.40 and \$3 per pound, depending on quality. If you're not familiar with the copper market, that's more than double most rates from 2003.

The demand for copper around the world (especially in China) is driving prices to these new highs, but it's also driving many Americans to copper theft.

All around the country, people are stealing for scrap metal. Electric wires and grounds, telephone wires, air conditioner coils, and old radiators are just some of the sought-after items. Petty criminals have also resorted to stealing copper downspouts from schools and churches.

While stealing for scrap

Join the 5-9 Club

When temperatures are above 90 degrees, we ask you to join the 5-9 Club. Please limit usage to essential appliances during the hours of 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. If possible, restrict high usage equipment to your air conditioner only but also raise the temperature setting two degrees.

metal is nothing new, the high prices have made thieves bolder and more inventive than before, as they now have over twice the financial incentive for the same amount of risk. Some drive pickup trucks while accomplices perform quick yank-and-runs in the middle of the night. Others deliberately pose as construction workers and target abandoned or otherwise vacant homes, figuring that neighbors won't question why guys in hard-hats are messing with radiators, gutters, or wiring. But the thieves aren't just targeting residential sources of copper; they're breaking into warehouses and other industrial settings too for bigger booty, if you will.

There have been several electrocution deaths this year associated with the theft or removal of electric wire.

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative has experienced several cases of copper theft in recent weeks. Thieves have been clipping the ground wires from the poles that have been framed for the new three phase line being built just east of Lake Parsons.

There are a number of good reasons not to steal electric wire. First, it is against the law. Sec-

ond, it creates outages and other reliability problems. Third, it endangers the cooperative personnel who are called upon to repair the damage. Fourth, it imposes repair and replacement costs on the cooperative.

Finally, and most importantly, it can get you killed. So for anyone who is thinking that stealing a few hundred feet of electric wire is a quick way to earn some easy money, our message is simple: Don't do it!

The Kansas Legislature passed a bill this year that requires scrap dealers to keep a register (including a photo ID) for each purchase of copper and aluminum materials.

Twin Valley offers a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone stealing cooperative wires or equipment. If you have any information regarding the thefts of copper from our poles, please call our office at (866) 784-5500.



Ron Holsteen

New Requirements for Energy Efficiency Program

There have been changes in the Energy Efficiency Rebate program that will take effect July 1, 2007.

To qualify for a rebate, the unit(s) must be installed on the cooperative's line. The new efficiency requirements and rebate amounts are listed below.

The items in bold must be met in order to receive the rebate.

Twin Valley Electric will match these rebates for our members. If you have questions concerning this program please call the office at (866) 784-5500.

Water Heaters

- Less than 60 gallons, must have a minimum **Energy Factor (EF) of .93.**
- 60 gallons or greater, must have a minimum **EF of .91**

Rebate amounts:

- \$100 for a non-lifetime water heater
- \$150 for a lifetime water heater

Electric Heat Systems: Air Source Heat Pump

- Minimum unit size of two tons.
- Must have a minimum Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (**SEER**) of **14.**
- Must have a minimum Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (**HSPF**) of **8.2.**

Rebate amounts:

- \$100 per ton for a 14 SEER*
- \$150 per ton for a 15 SEER*
- \$200 per ton for 16 SEER and above*

**Less \$200 for heating contractor.*

Electric Heat Systems: Ground Source Heat Pump

- Minimum unit size of two tons.
- Open loop – Must have a minimum Coefficient of Performance (**COP**) of **3.6** and a minimum Energy Efficiency Rating (**EER**) of **16.2.**
- Closed loop – Must have a minimum **COP of 3.3** and a

minimum **EER of 14.1.**

Rebate amount:

- \$125 per one-half ton*

**Less \$200 for heating contractor*

Include Home Energy Savings in Vacation Plans

If you are going on vacation this summer, Twin Valley advises you to make sure your home's energy use takes a vacation as well.

Air Conditioning

Set the thermostat to 85 degrees. If it is a programmable thermostat, use the "hold" or the "vacation" setting to keep it at that temperature.

Electronics

Computers, CD/DVD players, and TVs – these and other appliances use electricity, even when they are not turned on. Unplug them before leaving.

Water Heating

Turn the water heater's temperature down to the lowest setting. Many water heaters have a "vacation" setting for this pur-

pose. Leave a reminder to turn it back up upon returning home.

Refrigerator

Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting. If going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off. Remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew.

For more tips and information call (866) 784-5500.

Take the Worry Out of Paying Your Electric Bill

The bank draft (ACH) program from Twin Valley Electric makes paying your electric bill easier than ever.

When you sign up for ACH, Twin Valley will automatically draft your account for the amount of your monthly electric bill.

You will still receive

monthly statements showing the kilowatt-hour usage and the amount due. You can easily keep track of the amount drafted out of your account with your monthly statement.

With ACH, you won't have to write a check and your payments will be made on time, every time. With ACH you

never have to remember to pay your bill. Your payment will be deducted from your account on the 24th of every month. If the 24th falls on a weekend it will be the next business day.

With everything else there is to worry about, isn't it nice to have one thing you can cross off of your list?