



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

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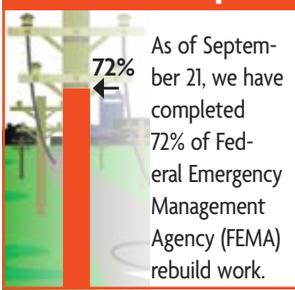
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FEMA Rebuild Update



FROM THE MANAGER

How Do We Build a Better World?

In today's uncertain economic times, that question certainly comes to mind. We all want our children and neighbors to succeed. We agree we need strong and sustainable communities. But how do you build a better world?

History tells us when we band together we can do anything. Together, we can build a better world. That's where cooperatives come into play.

This month, we kick off a year-long celebration marking the International Year of Cooperatives 2012. Our theme is "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World." The year offers a chance for us to showcase our legacy of innovation and achievement, and reminds us of what's important in business—putting people first.

You're a member of Twin Valley Electric, so you know we're focused on providing safe, reliable and affordable power. But this community-driven business model doesn't stop at your light switch. There are 29,200 co-ops across America taking many forms, from farmers banding together to get a fair price on supplies to credit unions delivering low fees and reasonable interest rates on loans. Our business model works for dairy farmers, small business owners, financial institutions, grocery stores, insurance, housing and child care.

One out of every four Americans is a co-op member; there are more than 1 billion members around the world. Co-ops fill a community need, giving a voice to folks that profit-driven businesses often

overlook. Co-ops also share a common set of principles and values, including self-help and—one of my favorites—democracy.

Electric cooperatives may only serve 12 percent of Americans, but our lines cover 75 percent of this great nation. By banding together, we deliver power to 42 million rural Americans in 47 states—and we're not finished.

During the International Year of Cooperatives, it's important to remember co-ops put people first. We brought electricity to this community to improve our quality of life and keep young people from leaving to seek opportunities in electrified-cities. Nearly three-quarters of a century later we still want our children to succeed. That's why we support the Rural Electric Youth Tour and sponsor a student to our nation's capital to learn about leadership, teamwork and our nation's ideals. In addition, we also sponsor a student to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp to learn about cooperatives and develop their leadership skills. These budding leaders will help us build a better world.

Whenever a community faces a need—a challenge to make life better—the cooperative business model comes into play. By putting people first and innovating to meet member needs, cooperative enterprises like Twin Valley Electric are helping to build a better world.



Ron Holsteen

NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

Slaying Energy Vampires this Halloween

October—cooler temperatures, leaves starting to turn, high school football and at the end of the month, Halloween. That's right folks, the time of the year when kids and some adults, dress up as their favorite ghost, goblin or superhero and knock on the door to receive the candy offerings from friends and neighbors. Giving candy away to colorfully-dressed kids brings a smile to your face, but have you thought about all of the dollars you give away on a monthly basis to other scary monsters that lurk in the shadows, hidden behind an ON/OFF switch? I'm talking electronic vampires and ghosts in your house.

Almost anything electronic today will continue to draw amperage even though it is turned off. Most electronic devices have a small computer, or brain, that in the words of Dr. Frankenstein, "It's alive, alive!" continues to run even though the switch is turned off. Your T.V., stereo, game systems, etc., have to remember stations, volume settings and your kids will faint if their high score on "Call of Duty" gets lost.

All of your appliances, such as your stove and microwave that have digital clocks continue to draw even though they are not cooking a meal for you and your family to enjoy. Home office equipment, such as printers and fax machines, also have memory storage capabilities that need electricity to survive even though they are not performing a function all of the time. Most of these devices have a digital read out or a light that reminds you that they are there. That readout is sucking in the kilowatt-hours right in front of you like a vampire in "Fright Night." These vampires can make up to 15 percent of your monthly usage and all of that adds up in the end.

Electricity ghosts in your house that are not seen, but are still costing you money, are battery chargers. When you place your cell phone on the charger or get ready to do a

project and charge the battery to your cordless drill, a light comes on letting you know that the charger is doing its job and providing a service for you, but when you unplug the phone or remove the battery from its charger, that charger becomes a ghost that is invisible but still costing you money. Chargers continually convert the voltage that Twin Valley Electric provides you into a usable voltage for the device's battery. This continues to happen whether the device or battery is connected to the charger or not. Remember, if the charger is plugged into the wall, it is costing you money. These ghosts can be exorcised by unplugging the chargers when they are not being used or plugging all of the chargers into a power strip with an ON/OFF switch and turning the switch off when no devices are being charged.

One other monster in the house that can be seen as a Dr. Jekyll or Mr. Hyde is a night light. I'm not talking about the Casper night light you have in the kid's bathroom, I'm talking about a lamp or light that you leave on the majority of the time or never turn off. If this light is an old, incandescent bulb, it costs you more money if it is on. Replace that bulb with a compact fluorescent (CFL) or a new LED bulb. Yes, these bulbs look a little scary when you price them in the store, but that is money well spent.

For example, CFL bulbs have lowered in price dramatically and contrary to what you read, they are safe as long as they are handled properly. You will pay a little more for these bulbs, but they last five times as long and only use 10 percent of its incandescent equivalent. So turn that lamp into a kind hearted Dr. Jekyll instead of the dollar strangling Mr. Hyde by changing out the bulbs in the lights you use the most.

Until next month, have a happy and safe Halloween!



William Worthy getting in the Halloween spirit!

“These vampires can make up to 15 percent of your monthly usage and all of that adds up in the end.”

Time Change Begins November 6

On November 6, remember to turn your clocks back one hour. This is also a great time to: change the batteries in smoke detectors and have a professional check your fire extinguishers.