



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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866-784-5500
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TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Twin Valley wishes our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our offices will be closed December 24-25 & January 1 in observance of these holidays.

FROM THE MANAGER

Rates Increase Effective Nov. 1

As you open this month's bill, I am sure that you will notice the rate adjustment effective for November usage. In the last five newsletters, I've explained the process the board followed in studying our rates and determining our revenue requirements going into the future.

Once the revenue requirement was determined, the board had a cost-of-service study completed to ensure that every class of consumers was paying their fair share of the rates. The Board then developed the new rate structure based on that study.

Following a rate hearing, which was open to the membership at the October board meeting, the board approved the new rate schedules to go into effect with the billing period beginning November 1, 2012.

The monthly customer charge will increase by \$10. What is the customer charge? Let me explain it to you this way, your power bill has two components, a fixed component—the customer charge and a variable component—the energy charge.

The intent of the customer charge is to cover the costs we incur to build and maintain the system that carries the electricity to your home or place of business. Even if we never move a single kilowatt over the wires, we still face these expenses in keeping the facilities in place to carry that energy.

The rate study looked at how our rates work and how they affect the revenue of the cooperative compared to the costs of operation. The study determined that the best approach is to increase the customer charge

and decouple some of the fixed costs from the energy rate. This allows us to account for costs appropriately and make sure our ability to fund operation, maintenance and repair expenses remains strong.

Twin Valley's average cost of wholesale power varies monthly depending largely on seasonal demand charges and the fuel cost adjustment from our power supplier. We were using an Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) clause to pass along fluctuations in the wholesale costs.

The new rates will use a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) as an additional charge or credit applied to the monthly energy use of a member based on the difference between Twin Valley's monthly cost of power and the established base cost of power.

The new base cost of power will include all components of the wholesale power costs and is \$0.08272 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). When the monthly wholesale power cost is greater than this base, the PCA will be a charge and, conversely, when the monthly wholesale power cost is less than this base, the PCA will be a credit.

You can be assured that your cooperative continues to look for operational cost savings and will offer you products, services, tools and information to make sure you receive the most for your energy dollar. Thank you for your continued patronage.



Ron Holsteen

NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

Avoiding the “Thermostat Dance”



William Worthy

“Set it and forget it! To see positive returns in comfort and on your electric bill.”

It is that time again. No, not the overeating at Grandma’s house or the credit cards getting their biggest workout of the year. It is the time of the year where the thermostat in the house starts some of the biggest battles between husband, wives and children.

The thermostat in your house can save you money if it is used properly, but misconceptions and misinformation makes it confusing on how this process works.

It is simple to say that setting your thermostat lower in the winter and higher in the summer will save you money, but it causes friction between the family if the temperature is set to an uncomfortable level. Then there’s more friction when the savings that are thought to come, never do.

The U.S. Department of Energy recommends you set your temperature as “low as is comfortable in the winter and as high as is comfortable in the summer.” Yes, this is the stellar recommendation from a government entity. No telling how much money went into this enlightening finding, but rest assured, plenty of tax dollars were spent to make such an obvious statement. Sorry, I digress at times.

While this may seem like a vague recommendation bottom line is that you do not want to set your temperatures, either high or low, more than necessary for your comfort—that is just a waste. Also, raising (or lowering, depending on the season) the thermostat five to 10 degrees before going to bed or when leaving the house for more than four hours is a good way to save a few dollars.

Programmable thermostats are really a better way to go, especially if your lifestyle is relatively routine. The misconception of programmable thermostats is that they are hard to program and never work correctly. The modern programmable thermostats generally come preprogrammed with the optimum settings and just have to be installed.

If you override them at any time, most will revert to

programmed temperatures after four hours. In addition, with the ease of the modern programmable, you don’t have to get your clever little nephew to program them like you do with the clock on the microwave.

A fundamental misconception is the idea that heaters will put out more heat the lower you set the thermostat. The thermostat has the brain, not the heating unit. It will kick on when heat is required and turn off when the thermostat tells it to. The lower your temperature setting, the less your heat will run...sounds simple, correct?

Most people end up doing the “thermostat dance.” This starts when someone says, “I’m cold!” The reaction is to go to the thermostat and crank it up to 80. A half-hour later, “I’m hot!” So, you slide it back to 60. The dance has begun. This leads to longer runtimes and turning off the system before the end of the cycle. The increased number of run times along with the system turn-offs mid-cycle may increase the wear and tear on your unit.

It is more efficient to leave the thermostat at the desired temperature and make adjustments in your clothing than it is to continue the dance. Remember the kitchen gadget comment I made last month, “Set it and forget it!”

In closing, a programmable thermostat can be your friend and ally in the battle with your heating unit. If you have a regular schedule, if you program it properly and if you “Set it and forget it!”, you can see some positive returns, not only in comfort, but also in your electric bill. There are some other tips to help out. Make sure furniture or curtains do not cover your heating supply and return air vents. Anything that inhibits airflow will reduce the efficiency of the system.

Have a very Merry Christmas, remember the true reason for the season and have very blessed New Year. I can be contacted about this article or any suggestions for a future one at wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop. I will see you in 2013!



Setting your thermostat and leaving it can help save on your energy bill.

Attention High School Juniors

Don't Miss this FREE Trip of a Lifetime!



Each year, students from Kansas join more than 1,500 youth in Washington, D.C., to attend the "Government in Action" Youth Tour. Next year's Youth Tour is scheduled for June 13-20, 2013.



Kansas delegates attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp along with students from three other states to develop leadership skills and learn about cooperatives. The 2013 CYLC will be July 13-19, 2013.

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., will send one high school junior to the "Government in Action" Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and one to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.

To Qualify

The applicant must be a high school junior living within the cooperative's territorial boundaries and the child of a Twin Valley Electric member.

To Apply

Applicants will be expected to study and take a quiz over information sent by Twin Valley regarding electric cooperatives. There will also be a short interview to

pick the winner. All participating students will receive a prize.

To apply please complete, sign and return the application below to Twin Valley, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330.

Youth Tour Selection Process

Applicants must complete an application and return it to the cooperative office. Finalists will be quizzed and interviewed by a panel of judges at the cooperative offices.

For More Information

For more information contact Jennifer at 866-784-5500.

Application for Youth Tour Contest

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ Twin Valley Account # _____

Name of Parents or Guardians _____

Parents' Phone Number _____

School _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Signature of Applicant _____

I hereby grant permission for the above named applicant to enter the 2013 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

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On Dental & Optical!
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To the National Discounts!*

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