

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



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Understanding the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) members may have noticed a line item on their bills called the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA).

The PCA helps reflect changes in the cost of producing electricity from our wholesale power suppliers. These costs vary mainly because the fuels used to generate electricity—such as natural gas and coal—can rise or fall in price. LREC does not generate power, we purchase power which comes from a variety of sources. Some is produced at hydroelectric dams, which depend on rainfall levels, but most comes from steam-generation plants that use natural gas and coal. Because fuel prices fluctuate, the cost to produce electricity changes as well.

Many electric cooperatives and utilities use a PCA to help manage these changing costs. It allows rates to adjust up or down so they accurately match the real cost of supplying power to members.

Each January, LREC sets its PCA based on pricing information received from our wholesale power provider. This adjustment simply passes through the difference between the actual cost of wholesale power and the base cost built into our rate structure.

EXAMPLE:

Breakdown of Current Charges

Service Availability	\$45.00
Energy Charge 1,180 kWh @ 0.0981000	\$115.76
PCA 1,180 kWh @ 0.0005623	\$0.66
Total	\$161.42

It's important to know that the PCA is not an increase in your electric rates. Instead, it reflects the changing cost of the fuel needed to generate the electricity you use. As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, LREC must cover its operating costs, and wholesale power is our largest expense.

Members who read their electric bill each month will notice the PCA factor to be very minimal. This is a common utility practice that prevents the over or under collection of funds from our members. You can calculate your monthly PCA by multiplying the PCA "factor" listed on your bill by the number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) you used during that billing period. This factor adjusts—typically once a year—based on the average price we pay for wholesale power.

To Summarize the PCA:

- ▶ **Is not a change in rates.**
- ▶ **Does not make extra revenues for your co-op.**
- ▶ **Covers the annual change in the cost of fuel that is used to generate your electricity.**

Broadband
Groundbreaking

PORTER & OKAY



Left to right: Neil Hays and Chris Sneed, Oklahoma House of Representatives; Mike Sanders and Mike Erhart, Oklahoma Broadband Office; Jarrod Welch, Tony Lyons, and Bobby Jefferson, LRTC; Scott Musgrave, Trans-Tel; Larry Mattes, LREC/LRTC.

Closing the Digital Divide!

LakeRegionFiber.com  

Rural Oklahoma is one step closer to closing the digital divide. Representatives from Lake Region Technology and Communications gathered with state leaders near the town of Okay to celebrate the start of a \$1.5 million broadband expansion project that will bring high-speed fiber internet to 108 homes and businesses in Wagoner County. The project is made possible through a partnership between the Oklahoma Broadband Office (OBO) and Lake Region Technology & Communications. Funding includes \$756,000 in federal broadband grants administered by OBO, matched dollar-for-dollar by Lake Region. Awarded last year by the Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board, this investment is part of a statewide push to ensure rural Oklahomans have the tools they need to succeed in the modern economy.

“This expansion is about giving opportunity to families, farmers, and small businesses in Wagoner County. High-speed internet brings education, healthcare, and economic growth within reach, ensuring our rural communities can thrive for generations to come.”

*Mike Sanders, Oklahoma Broadband Office
Executive Director*

“This build is another example of our ongoing commitment to deliver high-quality, high-speed internet to underserved areas. We appreciate the Oklahoma Broadband Office and its team for selecting Lake Region for this funding opportunity, which allows us to expand service in the areas south of Okay and Porter. Reliable internet access is no longer a luxury—it’s a necessity—and we’re proud to help bridge that digital divide for rural residents.”

Larry Mattes, LREC Director of Marketing

The Wagoner County project is one of more than 180 high-speed internet builds underway across Oklahoma. To date, the Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board has awarded approximately \$525 million in grants. When paired with private investment from internet service providers, these projects total more than \$840 million in value. At least one broadband expansion project is planned for 59 of the state’s 77 counties. More than 69,000 homes and businesses have already been approved for future service, and tens of thousands more locations will be reached through OBO-administered programs. With continued progress, the state remains on track to achieve its goal of statewide broadband availability.

LREC Shares Electrical Safety with Fort Gibson 4-H Club

Cooperative Principle #5 Education, Training and Information

Lake Region Electric Cooperative team members Mohamed Bassime, Safety Coordinator, and Jon Enkey, Manager of Operations, visited the Fort Gibson 4-H Club to discuss one of the most important topics in our industry: electrical safety. During the visit, Mohamed and Jon shared essential tips for staying safe around electricity, whether at home, outdoors, or on the farm. **2281500**

The demonstration included real-world examples of how electricity works, what to do in hazardous situations, and why awareness is key to preventing accidents. Students had the opportunity to ask questions, watch a live demonstration showing that electricity can be present even when it cannot be seen, and get an up-close look at safety equipment.

The learning went both ways. The 4-H members taught our team what the “4-H’s” stand for: Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. They explained how these values guide their leadership, service, and personal development. As the conversation continued, it became clear that 4-H and electric cooperatives share many similarities. Both are rooted in community, committed to education, and focused on building a stronger future for rural Oklahoma. This visit reflects the 5th cooperative principle of



Mohamed Bassime, Safety Coordinator and Jon Enkey, Manager of Operations speaking to the Fort Gibson 4-H Club about electrical safety.

Education, Training, and Information, which emphasizes providing members, employees, and the community with knowledge and skills to make safe, informed decisions. Just as 4-H empowers young people to lead with knowledge and responsibility, cooperatives like LREC work every day to educate and support local families and businesses with safe, reliable service.

The visit was a meaningful reminder that investing in youth and community education strengthens us all. LREC appreciates the Fort Gibson 4-H Club for their warm welcome and the opportunity to learn from one another.

LREC Lineman David Killebrew Graduates



Left to right: Jason Steele, Glen Clark, David Killebrew, Jon Enkey, Jerry Latty, and Derec Janaway of OAEC.

Last month, LREC’s David Killebrew received his Journeyman Lineman certification in Oklahoma City. David was hired as an apprentice lineman in 2023. After completing his high-voltage training

at OSUIT in Okmulgee, as well as two internships, he entered the apprenticeship program with valuable hands-on experience. That background helped him fast-track his training—but it also meant completing four years of coursework in under two years.

The Journeyman Lineman certification is a nationally recognized accreditation that reflects professionalism, expertise, and a high level of mastery in the trade.

LREC Director of Operations, Jerry Latty, said, “LREC has produced several outstanding linemen throughout the years; we are proud to have David be part of that tradition. Congratulations on reaching this milestone in your career!”

At LREC, we take pride in continuous learning.

CONCERN *for* COMMUNITY

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #7

LREC Helps Spread Holiday Cheer in Hulbert and Fort Gibson

At LREC, our commitment to the communities we serve is at the heart of everything we do. That spirit was on full display during the Fort Gibson Christmas Parade on December 5th and the Hulbert Christmas Parade on December 6th, where LREC employees once again stepped in to support holiday celebrations across our service area.

The Lake Region team, along with Willie Wirehand, participated in Hulbert's parades, helping bring holiday cheer and festive energy to families throughout the service area. The LREC decorated truck added extra seasonal spirit, and Willie Wirehand making a special appearances that brought plenty of smiles along the parade route.

Beyond the parade, Hulbert transformed into a small-town winter wonderland during its all-day celebration. LREC employees volunteered throughout the day in many ways. Kierstin Adair participated in Cookies and Cocoa, Phylis Johnson helped deck the halls in the Festival of Trees, JuaNita Keener judged the Miss Christmas Hulbert Pageant, and Larry Mattes cooked up a pot of chili for the Chili Cook-Off.

These celebrations highlighted the creativity, teamwork, and community pride that define our cooperative family. Guided by the 7th principle of Concern for the Community, LREC is proud to support local holiday traditions and the people who make our area such a wonderful place to live, work, and celebrate.



LREC employees JuaNita Keener, Kristen Mallett, Kierstin Adair and Larry Mattes along with families and special guest Willie Wirehand (co-op mascot) participated in the Hulbert Christmas Parade.



Left to right: JuaNita Keener, Kierstin Adair, and Phylis Johnson

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone

800-364-LREC or 918-772-2526

Website:

www.lrecok.coop
www.lakeregionfiber.com

Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &
Tahlequah, OK.

Main Office Address

516 S Lake Region Road
(P.O. Box 127)
Hulbert, OK 74441

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The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert or at **lrecok.coop**.