



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: Energy.gov



Annual Meeting

Look for our Annual Meeting election results, prize winners, and photos in our June issue of the Powerline Press.



#YouthTour

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the selection of three delegates to participate in the 2016 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. The selections were made based on essays written on a topic chosen by the cooperative. From the essays entered, the local schools chose their finalists to compete in the final question and answer session held at the LREC main office in Hulbert. A panel of three judges interviewed the students based on their subject knowledge, personality, speaking ability, and presentation. All of the participating students who qualified for the final judging received a \$50 cash prize.

The Youth Tour competition is available to all students in LREC's service territory who are completing their junior year in high school. Glen Clark, Youth Tour Coordinator, visited local schools in the service territory with a presentation about



Photo by: Larry Matthes

Left to right: Sierra Posey, Emily Kelly, and Aleah Tedder

the electric cooperative history and the annual Youth Tour trip.

LREC is pleased to have these three students representing the cooperative for the 2016 Youth Tour: Sierra Posey of Coweta High School, daughter of Donna and Michael Posey; Emily Kelly of Coweta High School, daughter of Lisa Welch and Clay Kelly; and Aleah Tedder of Hulbert

High School, daughter Joyce and Tony Tedder.

The trip will begin June 10th, when they join other winners from across Oklahoma for a "Get Acquainted Banquet" in Oklahoma City. The delegates will board a plane the following morning and fly to Washington, D.C.

2015 Year End Review and Update on Co-op



Hamid Vahdatipour, C.E.O.



Gary Cooper, Board President

Lake Region Electric Cooperative's mission, adopted by the board of directors, charges the cooperative to promote and sustain the self-reliance of members by providing the most reliable utility service at competitive rates.

Our rates continue to remain steady after a downward trend from 1992 through 1998 despite the fact that other energy prices such as natural gas and propane have risen sharply. LREC's last rate increase was in 2009. LREC now has the 2nd lowest rate among the cooperatives in Oklahoma and the average Oklahoma rate is among the lowest in the nation. The board and the management team's philosophy is to keep a financially strong cooperative so we can ride through ups and downs in the economy and keep our member rates as low and stable as possible.

Electricity prices in Oklahoma have climbed 49 percent since 2002 according to the U.S. Department of Energy. However, LREC's prices have increased only 25 percent during the same time period. In 2009, after LREC raised its rates, the members still enjoyed the 9th lowest rates among the cooperatives in Oklahoma. In 2015 we are now enjoying the 2nd lowest in Oklahoma.

In 2002, 56 percent of LREC's operating expenses, or \$13,236,993, was comprised of the wholesale power cost. The environmental mandates have increased the power cost where in 2015 it is now \$23,910,161 or 65 percent of LREC's Revenue. LREC's wholesale power supplier has informed us that the cost of the electricity we purchase is going up in 2016.

Due to the strong financial position

of LREC, we have been able to absorb the increases in power cost and other operating expenses in the past few years. However, due to the staggered economy and mild summer and winter temperatures, the cooperative's revenue has dropped. Therefore, we are no longer able to absorb these increases in costs. The rates will have to be adjusted. We have employed a consulting firm to review our expenses and revenues and recommend a new rate structure to be put in place. We believe that even with the implementation of new rates, our members will continue enjoying rates below the Oklahoma average. Your cooperative continues to maintain a strong equity. 2015 equity to assets ratio is 49%. Your cooperative continues to maintain its electric grid, keep right-of-ways clear of vegetation and build and upgrade the distribution system in order to provide the most reliable service with a reasonable cost.

In the Beginning

In the 1930s, rural America had been left in the dark as electricity made its way across the country. Electricity had become a modern necessity, and big cities enjoyed the opportunities this emerging technology brought. But rural folks had to do without this needed commodity.

Into the gap stepped the hardworking men and women of rural America who formed electric cooperatives to bring power to areas that had been overlooked. In our part of Northeast Oklahoma, these pioneers formed Lake Region Electric Cooperative. As a result, the quality of life for our local communities was forever changed.

In the 21st Century, a new necessity, broadband internet.

In the 21st century, a new technology is emerging: Broadband Internet. This new technology is transforming lives and bringing economic development to the areas that adopt it. Once again, we have been left behind. Your cooperative must step up to the plate and do what others won't do.

In rural Oklahoma, we also need vital services to live a better life, access resources and ensure our children get the best education possible. In a survey conducted in 2015, nine out of ten told us that high speed broadband is either important or absolutely necessary for the quality of life in our service territory. LREC is willing and ready to provide this service. We started a pilot project in 2013 to gage the feasibility of providing high-speed broadband service to our members. Last year our members overwhelmingly approved creation of Lake Region Technology & Communications, LLC, in order to provide broadband service to the members. The pilot project has been successful and we are ready to expand the service. In order to do so, we need our members' help. We would like for you to sign up for broadband service and let us know that you want it in your neighborhood. We will expand the service to the neighborhoods that show interest and meet certain subscription rates.

Excellent customer service, strong financial condition and rate stability have been among the top drivers directing Lake Region Electric Cooperative's long-range planning and day-to-day operations. We are pleased to announce that we have met or exceeded those goals for 2015.

Make the Most of Ceiling Fans

By turning on the fan, you can turn up the savings!

If you are like most Americans, you have at least one ceiling fan in your home. Ceiling fans help our indoor life feel more comfortable. They are a decorative addition to our homes and, if used properly, can help lower energy costs.

TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR CEILING FANS:

1. FLIP THE SWITCH – Most ceiling fans have a switch near the blades. In warm months, flip the switch so that the blades operate in a counter clockwise direction, effectively producing a “wind chill” effect. Fans make the air near them feel cooler than it actually is. In winter, move the switch so the fan blades rotate clockwise, creating a gentle updraft. This pushes warm air down from the ceiling into occupied areas of the room. Regardless of the season, try operating the fan on its lowest setting.

2. ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT – In the summer, when using a fan in conjunction with an air conditioner, or instead of it, you can turn your thermostat up three to five degrees without any reduction in comfort. This saves money since a fan is less costly to run



than an air conditioner. In the winter, lower your thermostat's set point by the same amount. Ceiling fans push the warm air from the ceiling back down toward the living space, which means the furnace won't turn on as frequently.

3. CHOOSE THE RIGHT SIZE – Make sure your ceiling fan is the right size for the room. A fan that is 36-44 inches in diameter will cool rooms up to 225 square feet. A fan that is 52 inches or more should be used to cool a larger space.

4. TURN IT OFF – When the room is unoccupied, turn the fan off. Fans are intended to cool people - not rooms.

Update Your Account Phone Number

If we do not have your correct phone number on file LREC's automated phone system will not recognize your account when you call. The automated system has caller ID which will match your phone

number you are calling from to the phone number listed on your account information. This allows you to report an outage with the automated phone system without having to speak with an operator as well as your co-op can contact you if needed. Please contact our offices to update your phone number on your billing information. You can also update your phone number on our website at www.lrecok.coop/update-phone-number-address



No matter the time of the year, always start your outdoor projects by having your underground utility lines marked. Not only could you be endangering yourself and your neighbors by digging without marked lines, but you may sever water, cable, natural gas, and electrical lines that are essential to you and your neighborhood.

To have your underground lines marked, dial 811, visit us online at www.OKIE811.org or download our free app (keyword: OKIE811). Every method is quick, easy, and FREE to you! After you submit your request, wait two business days so that your lines can be marked and then begin your project! **It's free, it's easy, it's the law.**



Use the QR code to download the OKIE811 mobile app to stream line submitting your locate requests!



Broadband Fiber Expansion Zones

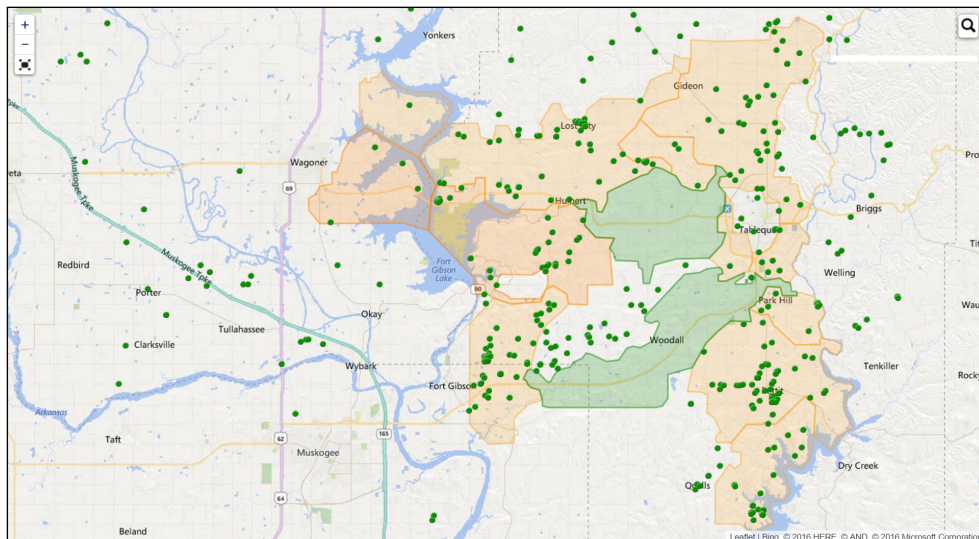
Join the crowd
#LakeRegionFiber

Some have asked about the zones and what that means. Let us explain. We split our phase 1 expansion area into 10 different geographic zones, primarily by substation. We begin each build at the substation level, so that is the most logical approach to creating fiber campaign zones.

Each zone has a very different make up in terms of the number of members living within the territory, which is why we used a take-rate approach to establishing goals. Take rate simply means the percent of the homes that take our broadband service to the total numbers of homes in the area. We need to have nearly half of the residents in a zone subscribe to the service in order for it to be able to pay its own way.

So no matter where you live, the goal is to get at least 45% of the members in your zone to Join the Crowd. It is possible that a zone is eliminated from Phase 1 due to lack of interest in the zone and another zone added to phase 1 because the interest is high in that area.

How do you get others to join the Crowd? Just start talking! Look at the map and figure out who you know in your zone. You can plug in addresses on the home



page to determine if someone is eligible (like you did when you signed up), or just zoom in using the map feature. If you're in the social media, share the website there. Some members are even going door to door to build interest!

With this grassroots campaign approach, 4344200 YOU the members can help determine where we build fiber next! Join the crowd!

register.lrecok.net



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Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in this issue of the *Powerline Press*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill.

To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone or mail during the month of publication.

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

For more information, call 800-364-LREC or 918-772-2526

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