

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



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Supporting our Schools

Co-op tax dollars contribute more than \$850,000 to local education

It's back-to-school time. The importance of a good education cannot be underscored enough and LREC has long been a supporter of school districts within our coverage territory.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit businesses. This does not mean LREC is tax exempt. Electric co-ops pay gross receipts tax to the Oklahoma Tax Commission every year. The Tax Commission distributes 95 percent of these funds to schools based on the number of miles of cooperative electric lines in each school district.

In 2020, Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) paid **\$868,956.37** in gross receipts tax. These funds benefited 33 local schools in LREC's service territory.

The chart (on the right) shows the allocation of school funds in LREC's area. Tax distribution varies from school to school because some school districts have more miles of Lake Region electric lines.

On a percentage basis, electric cooperatives and their members contribute more tax dollars to local school districts than other utilities.

School	Miles of Line	Amount
Wagoner	381.61	\$106,392.11
Tahlequah	352.14	\$98,176.60
Hulbert	264.87	\$73,844.56
Coweta	248.19	\$69,196.02
Keys	219.94	\$61,318.73
Porter	191.48	\$53,384.61
Locust Grove	158.20	\$44,104.80
Peggs	153.60	\$42,824.55
Grandview	135.32	\$37,727.68
Lowery	131.53	\$36,670.72
Fort Gibson	118.11	\$32,929.98
Norwood	96.26	\$26,836.27
Oaks Mission	85.61	\$23,868.17
Braggs	75.79	\$21,129.55
Briggs	74.68	\$20,820.72
Inola/Gregory	69.48	\$19,371.78
Shady Grove	69.38	\$19,343.80
Okay	65.55	\$18,274.74
Woodall	65.16	\$18,166.62
Kansas	49.84	\$13,895.61
Haskell	19.93	\$5,555.46
Broken Arrow	19.35	\$5,395.57
Catoosa	18.87	\$5,261.28
Chouteau/Mazie	17.02	\$4,744.79
Westville	14.47	\$4,035.50
Webber Falls	12.60	\$3,512.81
Muskogee	2.94	\$818.58
Wickliffe	1.61	\$450.15
Leach	1.26	\$352.46
Gore	0.89	\$247.82
Tenkiller	0.79	\$220.78
Jay	0.16	\$45.25
Moseley	0.14	\$38.31
33 Schools	3116.80	\$868,956.37



Reliable, Affordable, Responsible Electricity



Above: Associated and the six transmission cooperatives built and maintain one of the largest co-op grids in the nation, ensuring reliability.

Below: This concrete tank allows fly ash to be recycled and water reused at the Thomas Hill Energy Center.



Matching responsible generation with the need for reliable, affordable power

From the White House, a proposed plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and create a carbon-free power sector by 2035 means power generators like Associated Electric Cooperative (LREC power provider) must intensify efforts to maintain reliability and affordability with responsibly generated electricity.

Associated is owned by and provides wholesale power to six regional transmission cooperatives who provide that power to 51 local electric distribution cooperative systems in Missouri, southeast Iowa and northeast Oklahoma that serve 2.1 million member-consumers. Their priorities are clear.

“Our mission mirrors the priorities of the member-owners served by our system, who want reliable, low-cost electricity,” said David Tudor, Associated’s CEO and general manager. “We have successfully navigated many changes in presidential administrations, policies and regulations over many years and will continue to do the right things, for the right reasons, at the right times.”

Renewable leadership

A cornerstone of any plan to reduce carbon includes increasing renewable power sources like wind, which are variable, not reliable — only available when the wind is blowing or, in the case of solar power, when the sun is shining. Today, no battery technology exists that duplicates the reliability of traditional generation like coal or natural gas plants.

Associated has been a renewable power leader for Missouri and Oklahoma, bringing the first utility-scale wind farms to the state of Missouri in 2007 by contracting to buy all the power produced by the wind farms. Since then, Associated has increased its total to eight wind farms. The two most recent

AECI
(Generation)

KAMO
(Transmission)

LREC
(Distribution)



photos courtesy Associated Electric Cooperative

Associated added about 470 megawatts of wind energy in 2020, taking its contracted wind energy resources to more than 1,240 megawatts of nameplate capacity. This led to new wind production records in 2020.

wind farms were added in 2020. Hydropower is another Associated renewable resource, purchased through a long-term contract with the federal government.

Reliability concerns

“Associated’s renewable resources have been carefully located and integrated into our owner’s transmission systems so they can be supported with reliable coal and natural gas plant resources,” Tudor said. “You can find no greater example of the value of those 24/7 power sources — coal and natural gas — than the February winter storm, where cooperatives avoided rolling blackouts as utilities all around our system put customers in the dark.”

Affordability a key member priority

Rural America needs affordable power supply for their homes, farms and businesses. That much is plain from triennial survey results where members say it’s one of their top priorities — and concerns. Associated ranks among the lower cost wholesale power suppliers in the country and that is by design, not accident.

“When we make decisions, cost is near the top of the list: does this make good economic sense for our members?” Tudor explained. “By keeping that goal prominent, we’ve delivered power that is affordable while also generating responsible power with a balanced resource mix.”

Implementing a realistic plan will take time and money

Associated is working hard to preserve member benefits in a changing industry with increasing challenges. The cooperative has been educating state and federal legislators about the realities of an overly aggressive White House plan and the choices power generation companies 699019 face.

“Technology that doesn’t exist today must be developed to store renewable energy effectively and affordably, while high-voltage transmission networks need upgrades to handle the changing generation mix reliably,” Tudor said. “Both of those key elements will take time and money, and lots of both. We are working to make sure our legislators understand this.”

“You can find no greater example of the value of those 24/7 power sources — coal and natural gas — than the February winter storm, where cooperatives avoided rolling blackouts as utilities all around our system put customers in the dark.”



- David Tudor, CEO of Associated Electric Cooperative



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DON'T FALL FOR PHONE SCAMS

Scams come in various forms these days, like suspicious emails, texts, website pop-ups, and phone calls. The most common type of scam LREC members are hit with is phone. Scammers call claiming to be a representative with Lake Region and threaten to disconnect power unless you give them your credit card number, or bank account information. More sophisticated scammers use a process called spoofing that will make your caller ID display Lake Region even when it's not us.

While LREC does make some courtesy calls concerning disconnects, we will never push you to pay immediately. The only way you can pay your LREC bill over the phone is through our secure automated phone system. Members at risk of disconnection will also be notified by mail.



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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone

**800-364-LREC or
918-772-2526**

Website:

www.lrecok.coop
www.lrecok.net

Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &
Tahlequah, OK.

Main Office Address

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.

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