

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Voice

Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

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Contact Us

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Power Cost Adjustment

The PCA for July is \$.01596/
kilowatt-hour. This calculates to
an additional \$15.96 per 1,000
kWh used.

The PCA varies each
month depending on wholesale
charges from Kansas Electric
Power Cooperative (KEPCo),
our power supplier, and is a
flow-through on your electric
bills based on the factor for the
month.

FROM THE MANAGER

Customer Service is Priority One

Creating a “user friendly” environment

The term “user friendly” has been heard a lot over the past few years to encourage people to obtain many advanced technical products. Computer equipment, computer programs, televisions, video games, cell phones, business office telephone systems, auto and home sound devices, household appliances, etc., are all promoted as being modern and technically advanced, yet “user friendly” when being operated.

Caney Valley ECA may not be as “technically advanced” in its operations as some of the other electric utilities, but we want all of our members to find our business operations and personnel staff “user friendly.”

There are advantages and disadvantages to being a small rural electric utility cooperative. One of the big advantages is being able to communicate with real people at the cooperative by telephone or in person. You will get a live person when you call us, first thing. No automated number selections to make. You can visit us at our office. You can make an appointment for us to meet you at your service site.

Problems, questions, service requests, and other matters can be handled one-on-one with cooperative personnel who live in the same general part of Kansas as you. In addition, the cooperative employee is also a member, like you.

Similarly, your elected Board of Trustees is ready to listen to your comments, concerns and suggestions. If necessary, they can consider them at the monthly board meetings.

The cooperative’s main function is to provide electric service to you. Our constant goal is to do so in a responsive, courteous and professional manner. Please contact me any time if you feel you are not experiencing “user friendly” communications or treatment. I will gladly discuss any issues with you.



Allen Zadorozny

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The 7 Cooperative Principles

Cooperatives around the world generally operate according to the same core principles and values, adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance in 1995.

The International Cooperative Alliance is a global membership association of electric cooperatives and electric cooperative support organizations. Cooperatives trace the roots of these principles to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England in 1844.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are organizations, open to all people able to use its services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members—those who buy the goods or use the services of the cooperative—who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. This benefits members in proportion to the business they conduct with the cooperative rather than on the capital invested.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If the electric cooperative enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintains the cooperative's autonomy.

5. Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members.

Caney Valley Encourages Peak Control

What is Peak Control?

Peak Control is a voluntary program in which our members can participate to hold down electricity costs to both Caney Valley ECA and themselves.

What Can You Do To Participate in Peak Control?

You can participate by voluntarily monitoring when you use electric equipment and appliances which require larger amounts of electricity.



When Do You Need to Participate in Peak Control?

During the hours of 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. every weekday from June 1 through September 30.

The actual peak demand for June, July, August and September is the billing demand for each respective month. **Special emphasis is placed during July and August**, as the peak electricity demand registered by Caney Valley ECA during those two months drives the electricity billings for the following eight months. Be aware of days that have high temperatures forecasted above 90 degrees these are the type of days when peak demands usually occur.

What are the Benefits of Taking Part in Peak Control?

By helping hold the line for the kW demand charges on Caney Valley ECA's wholesale electric bill, you will also limit the amount of the resulting power cost adjustment (PCA) charges added to your electric bills.

Please contact our office at 758-2261 or 800-310-8911 for any questions you may have. We thank you for your participation in this program.

Notice to All Members

ONLINE BILL PAYMENTS

If you are using an online bill paying service to make your payments, be aware that payment is mailed from that service organization, so please allow plenty of time for it to reach our office.

Also, be sure that the account number you submit to the service is the account you want your payment credited to when it reaches our office.

E-MAIL CONTACT

If you are contacting us by e-mail regarding your account, whether it be to disconnect a service, make a payment using a credit card, etc., please follow up with a phone call if it is something urgent.

Our e-mail is checked occasionally throughout the day, but if we are extremely busy or short-staffed, it may not be checked for several hours.

Consumers Talk and Congress Listens

The Our Energy, Our Future™ campaign takes real consumer testimonies to Capitol Hill

All across America, electric cooperative members are sitting in front of handheld video cameras and talking frankly and honestly about electric rates. Their audience? Lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

For the past several months, electric cooperatives across the nation have supported the Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots campaign by filming consumers like you as they share stories about how affordable electricity is important to them. These videos are posted online, both on YouTube and www.ourenergy.coop,

so policymakers can hear and see first-hand how high prices hit their constituents.

"I know I'm working hard, and I know our electric co-op board is working very hard," stresses Jackie Jung, a member of Flathead Electric Cooperative in Kalispell, MT, in one segment. "I



Our Energy, Our Future™ consumer videos are posted on YouTube at www.youtube.com/ourenergyourfuture.

guess what I would ask all of you is to really give very serious consideration to helping us here and keeping those prices down, because everybody else is trying to do their part."

Electric cooperative consumers and other utility customers are facing a power crunch. More power is needed

to keep the lights on as demand increases. But uncertainty over the impact of climate change policy, a lack of affordable low-emissions technology options, and rising costs for labor and construction materials have hobbled efforts to meet this future demand. This threatens to not only increase electricity costs across the board, but could lead to power shortages.

We need our representatives in Congress to step in with a long-term, politically and economically sustainable energy and climate change plan—one that takes the interests of consumers and monthly electric bills into consideration. As Congress begins to tackle energy and climate change policy, it is critical that they hear from you.

To become a part of the Our Energy, Our Future grassroots campaign and video outreach, please visit www.ourenergy.coop.

Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	April 2008	April 2009
Customers Billed (average)	5,432	5,515
kWh Sold	4,230,972	4,366,390
Total Revenue	\$ 506,723	\$ 547,133
Purchased Power	\$ 275,082	\$ 265,199
Operating Expenses	\$ 163,658	\$ 158,129
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 49,111	\$ 43,999
Interest Expenses	\$ 33,545	\$ 33,121
Other Expenses	\$ 225	\$ 1,000
Operating Margins	\$ (14,898)	\$ 45,685
Non-operating Margins	\$ 2,060	\$ 17,744
Total Margins	\$ (12,838)	\$ 63,429
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 189,222	\$ 249,277

Outages for May 2009

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Listed below are the larger outages that occurred during May.

Date	Area	Consumers Affected	Duration	Cause
5/1	East of Chautauqua	30	2 hr 15 min	Bad arrester on transformer
5/1	Burden, Atlanta	52	45 min	Westar had phase off
5/8	North of Caney	200	3 hr 15 min	OCR out in substation
5/8	Dexter area	50	1 hour	OCR out in substation
5/13	North of Sedan	60	20 min	Breaker kicked off
5/15	Longton, Oak Valley	75	1 hr 30 min	Lightning
5/16	North of Peru	25	1 hr 30 min	Woodpecker on transformer
5/17	South of Sedan	80	2 hours	Broken crossarm
5/17	South of Sedan	70	30 min	Off to repair crossarm
5/22	Dexter area	156	1 hr 30 min	Westar off – had burndown

Use Tax Credits to Fund Energy Efficiency Upgrades

BY MEGAN MCKOY

The idea of living in a more efficient home—and paying lower utility bills—has widespread appeal. But finding ways to fund improvements can be difficult during hard economic times.

Fortunately, the federal government offers two ways to recover some of your expenses when planning upgrades: energy efficiency tax credits and renewable energy tax credits.

Through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—known as the federal stimulus bill—Uncle Sam offers a personal tax credit of up to \$1,500 for energy efficiency

measures made at existing homes in 2009 and 2010. You can recover 30 percent of the cost of adding insulation materials and exterior doors, windows, and roofs designed to help reduce your home's heat loss or gain. The credit also covers efficient central air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, hot water boilers, and biomass stoves.

With a maximum value of \$1,500 for all improvements made in 2009 and 2010, the credit may be applied toward material costs on all projects. You can also use it on installation costs for heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and

biomass stoves.

If you want to start generating your own power, consider taking a renewable energy tax credit covering 30 percent of the cost of materials and installation for solar panels, solar water heaters, and geothermal heat pumps. This credit applies to both existing homes and new construction. Projects must be placed into service between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2016.


ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provides guidelines on what qualifies for both

tax credits at www.energystar.gov, keyword "tax credits."

You can file for energy tax credits using IRS Form 5695. Remember to get a Manufacturer Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Both of the energy tax credits are non-refundable—they can increase your refund by reducing the taxes you owe, dollar for dollar, and can be carried forward to reduce your taxes in following years. But you don't get a separate check for the credit amount.

Some electric cooperatives and state government offices offer further subsidies or rebates to consumers who want to make their homes more efficient.

For a listing of state and local energy efficiency assistance available, visit the Database for State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, at www.dsireusa.org.



Making Sense out of Federal Stimulus Energy Efficiency Tax Credits

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides incentives for you to make energy efficiency improvements to your existing home in 2009 and 2010. Receive a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost of materials for qualifying improvements—up to \$1,500 over both years. The cost of installation is not covered for windows, doors, roofing and insulation. A list of qualified improvements is at www.energystar.gov, keyword 'tax credits.' Examples include:

Windows and Doors		Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)	
Exterior Windows, Doors and Skylights	Must have Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) and U-factor less than or equal to 0.30.	Central Air Conditioning	For split systems, must have an energy efficiency ratio (EER) greater than or equal to 13 and a Seasonal EER greater than or equal to 16. For package systems, must have an EER greater than or equal to 12 and a SEER greater than or equal to 14.
Storm Windows and Doors	When combined with the window/door over which it's installed, it must meet the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) in your climate zone.	Air-Source Heat Pumps	For split systems, must have a Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) greater than or equal to 8.5, an EER greater than or equal to 12.5, and a SEER greater than or equal to 15. For package systems, must have a HSPF greater than or equal to 8, an EER greater than or equal to 12, and a SEER greater than or equal to 14.
Roofing		Natural Gas or Propane Furnace	
Metal, Asphalt Roofs	All ENERGY STAR metal and asphalt roofs qualify. Must be expected to last 5 years or have a 2 year warranty.	Gas, Propane, or Oil Hot Water Boiler and Oil Furnace	Must have an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) greater than or equal to 95.
Insulation		Advanced Main Air Circulating Fan	
Insulation	Primary purpose must be to insulate. For example, vapor retarders are covered but insulated siding does not qualify. Also must meet 2009 IECC and be expected to last 5 years or have a 2 year warranty.	No more than 2 percent of furnace total energy use.	

NOTE: Select non-solar water heaters and biomass stoves also qualify for energy efficiency tax credits. Tax credits are also available for renewable energy, including geothermal heat pumps. For tax purposes, the Manufacturer's Certification Statement and receipt are generally required.

Source: ENERGY STAR. For details visit www.energystar.gov.