



Voice

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October 2008

Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for October is \$.02762/kWh. This calculates to an additional \$27.62 per 1,000 kWh used.

Happy Halloween

Caney Valley would like to wish everyone a happy Halloween, and to remind motorists to look out for Trick-or-Treaters.



Caney Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Allen Zadorozny - Manager

Contact Us

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Office Hours

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

Board of Trustees

- Dale Clubine, President
- Patrick Steward, Vice-President
- Carl Johnson Jr., Secretary/Treasurer
- Kenneth Bates
- Jann Bowman
- Mack Chrisman
- Dwane Kessinger
- Coral Ann Magnus
- Fred McAdam

From the Manager...

The number of meters billed has increased from 5,137 in 2000 to 5,436 so far this year. That is an average increase of 37 meters per year for the past eight years.

The good news is the modest increase replaces the trend seen in the '90's when the number of meters was decreasing.

The majority of the increases are due to new residences being built in our area and also to the oil and gas industry.

Another contributing factor to the increase is that our previously existing meters are staying connected and not decreasing at the rate experienced in the '90's.

Today the cooperative serves an average of 3.24 meters per mile of primary electric line. If we take away the meters served in Sedan and Cedar Vale, that reduces the average to about one meter per mile.

The meters per mile of line,

Caney Valley's Average Meters/Month

Year	Average Meters/Month
2000	5,137
2001	5,149
2002	5,173
2003	5,180
2004	5,199
2005	5,225
2006	5,298
2007	5,379
2008	5,436

or "density," is important. The higher the density the higher the return on the investment of the electric facilities installed throughout the cooperative's service area.

Tied to this, of course, is the improved opportunity to maintain the electric rates as low as they can be due to the economies of scale.

Allen A. Zadorozny, Manager

Reminder to All Members

If you have switched from using a land-line phone to solely using a cell phone, please let us know your cell number. It's handy for us to be able to reach you in case of an outage or trouble on your line.

Also, if you happen to be delinquent on your bill and we need to contact you prior to coming out, it could save you a \$30 trip charge if our crews have to come to your location to try to collect on the bill.

Caney Valley Board Approves Fee Changes

At their regular board meeting July 8, 2008, the Board of Trustees of Caney Valley Electric considered and approved fee increases and changes as listed to the right.

After lengthy discussions by the Board, these fee changes were implemented to help cover the increased costs of providing services and activities that are not covered by the electric rates.

As always, we will continue to accept cash, money orders, checks, or bank drafts as payment for billings and/or fees.

Description	Proposed
Membership fee for each service connection	\$5
Security Deposit (Rules and Regulations, Section 3, provisions apply)	\$195
Meter Reading Fee	\$30
Returned Check Charge (a charge not exceeding the maximum provided by K.S.A. 21-3707)	\$30
Collection Trip Charge	\$30
Disconnection Trip Charge (for services disconnected for non-payment)	\$30
Meter Re-connection Charge (for services disconnected for non-payment or reconnected within one year's time for same consumer)	
During regular office hours	\$30
After regular business hours (After regular business hours will not be done unless approved by management.)	Actual Costs
Meter Test Fee	\$35
Trip charges for outages or trouble on the consumer's side of the meter (minimum or actual costs)	\$60
Temporary Service Fee	\$30
New Fees	
Convenience Fee for use of credit/debit cards	\$5 per meter
Credit Card Charge-Back Fee	\$15 per transaction

Outages for August 2008

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. We only had one large outage (more than 20 meters) that occurred during August.

Date	Area	Consumers Affected	Duration	Cause
08/10	North of Havana	75	5 hours	Tree in line

Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	July 2007	July 2008
Customers Billed	5,385	5,447
Kilowatt Hours Sold	4,254,781	5,273,246
Total Revenue	\$ 545,012	\$ 699,162
Purchased Power	\$ 391,542	\$ 457,521
Operating Expenses	\$ 185,380	\$ 180,106
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 46,820	\$ 53,080
Interest Expenses	\$ 37,416	\$ 35,166
Other Expenses	\$ 1,300	\$ 2,500
Operating Margins	\$(117,446)	\$ (29,211)
Non-operating Margins	\$ 3,732	\$ 4,375
Total Margins	\$ (113,714)	\$ (24,836)
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 8,660	\$ (54,030)

Caney Valley Seeks Help for Hurricane

Caney Valley linemen joined more than 60 volunteer linemen and dozens of trucks from 13 Kansas electric cooperatives to assist in recovery efforts from Hurricane Gustav in Louisiana.

The Kansas crews assisted Dixie Electric Membership Corp. (DEMCO), headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This electric cooperative estimated they had thousands of electric poles damaged or destroyed by the hurricane.

"Hurricane Gustav was more devastating to Louisiana's electric co-ops than Katrina or Rita, primarily because DEMCO, our largest co-op at roughly 100,000 meters serving a seven-parish territory near the Greater Baton Rouge area, reported 100 percent outages with extensive damage to trees, homes and businesses," said Billy Gibson, director of communications for Louisiana Electric Cooperatives.

"Our crews cleared fallen trees and other debris so that power lines could be restrung," said Allen Zadorozny, Caney Valley's Manager. "Their biggest challenge was working around all of the debris in unfamiliar territory."

"The linemen worked in conditions that include standing water and mountains of debris," said Zadorozny.



Crews from 13 Kansas electric cooperatives gathered in Cherokee, KS prior to heading to Louisiana for Hurricane Gustav.

Ends Line Crews the Recovery



Electric cooperatives gathered September 5 in Louisiana to assist in recovery efforts

The line crews are brought their cots and sleeping bags, and took their own supplies of water and other essential supplies. Many of the linemen gained experience in this type of recovery effort following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Electric cooperatives have always offered assistance to neighboring systems and to other states in times of crisis. In addition to sending volunteer crews, Kansas electric cooperatives are also collecting donations to help the hurricane victims.

“The dedication of these linemen is tremendous,” Zadorozny said. “A lot of these linemen have just come through two of the most devastating ice storms in Kansas cooperative history. Many of these linemen are still working on restoring and rebuilding their own power lines, but they are willing to travel and help with the monumental task of restoring damaged caused by Hurricane Gustav.”

Caney Valley Member Services

Rebate Program

In an effort to improve the load factor of the cooperative by promoting the use of efficient electrical appliances, Caney Valley is offering rebates on the purchase of the following:

- **New electric dryer or range** - \$100 rebate for replacement of non-electric unit or for installation in new construction
- **New electric water heater**
 - To replace a non-electric unit or for installation in new construction - \$150 for purchase of a standard (non-lifetime) water heater or \$200 rebate for the purchase of a lifetime water heater.
 - Replacing an electric unit, the rebates are \$100 for the purchase of a standard water heater, or \$150 for a lifetime water heater.
- **New air-source or ground-source heat pump** – Our power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), provides rebates based on size of the unit and efficiency ratings. Caney Valley Electric provides a flat \$200 rebate in addition to the KEPCo rebate. For further information on rebates contact our office.

Free Water Heater Program

Caney Valley Electric will provide a free 40 or 50 gallon Marathon lifetime electric water heater to members replacing

a non-electric unit or installing one in new construction.

A deposit of \$175 must be paid at the time the unit is picked up. The full deposit will be returned after Caney Valley personnel certify the installation and wiring.

Automatic Bank Draft

We can automatically draft your bank account once each month for the amount of your electric bill. You will need to complete and sign a form authorizing our billing department to set you up on this program.

Budget Payment Plan

A member in good standing can go on the Budget Payment Plan to pay an equal amount each month, based on the previous 12 months of service. This amount may be adjusted from time to time to cover increased (or decreased) power costs.

Brush Removal Cost Assistance

Caney Valley will assist landowners in the removal of hedge or brush which interferes with the operation of the cooperative's distribution lines.

UPS Pickup Point

Bring in your UPS package ready for shipment. We will prepare a shipping label and add \$1 to current UPS charges for this service. UPS picks up here Monday through Friday, except for holidays.

TV Converter Box Coupon Program

Midnight, February 17, 2009, television viewing in America is scheduled to change. All full-power television stations in the United States are converting their broadcasting from analogue to 100 percent digital. This will result in better clarity of viewing and more programming options for the public.

Individual households will be required to have a converter box if their television sets are not controlled through cable, satellite or fiber optics. From now until March 2009, consumers will be able to apply for up to two \$40 coupons per household provided by the U.S. Government.

The converter box is a one time purchase and prices are expected to range between \$50 and \$70 without the coupon. Coupons expire within 90 days of the date they are mailed out to consumers. Local retailers will carry the boxes for purchase. For more information visit:

- For coupon applications visit www.dtv2009.gov
- For information on where to purchase converter boxes, visit www.ntiadtvtv.gov
- For information on how to install a converter box, visit www.DigitalTips.org
- To learn more about options please visit www.DTVTransition.org

Avoid Electrical Hazards at Halloween

The decorative lights, fog machines, black lights, and animatronics of Halloween make for adventurous, entertaining times for children and adults. With these decorations, though, the risk of fire or electrocution could be lurking around the corner. It is important to check for electrical hazards before accidents happen. Use the following tips to keep electrical hazards from haunting you this Halloween:

- Inspect electrical decorations. Look for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.
- Read manufacturer's instructions regarding installation and maintenance. Check the instructions to see how many light strings can be connected together.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, walls or other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture light strings or electrical/extension cords.
- Provide well-lit walkways and porch lighting for trick-or-treaters. Make sure the walkways are clear for trick-or-treaters.
- Don't overload extension cords or place them near, or in, snow or water.
- Make sure electrical decorations are approved by a nationally recognized certification organization like Underwriters Laboratory (UL) and marked for outdoor use if you are using them outside. Check www.cpsc.gov or www.ul.com for recalls. Many Halloween toys have been recalled in the past by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).
- Do not overload your circuit breakers or fuses.
- Plug lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold.
- Make sure decorative lighting is well-ventilated, protected from weather and a safe distance from anything flammable like dry leaves and shrubs. Do not coil power cords or extension cords while in use or tuck under rugs or drapes.
- Turn out all lights and decorations before leaving or going to bed. Always have at least one fire extinguisher available and know how to use it.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keep Your Engine Running In Top Form

Fixing a car that's noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve gas mileage by an average of 4 percent.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, www.fueleconomy.gov