cve@caneyvalley.com
www.caneyvalley.com
For emergency outages please call 800-310-8911

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Voice

Caney Valley Electric Co-op, Inc.

Contact Us

401 Lawrence, P.O. Box 308
Cedar Vale, KS 67024
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cve@caneyvalley.com

Office Hours

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

Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for March is a credit of $0.00291/kilowatt-hour. This amounts to a credit of $2.91 per 1,000 kWh. The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (or decrease) in power costs (over and above 7¢/kWh) charged to us by our wholesale power supplier Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) in Topeka. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale charges from KEPCo, and is a flow-through.

FROM THE MANAGER

Customer Charge Increase

As a result of the significant decrease in kilowatt hour (kWh) sales and meters served over recent years, the cooperative's Board of Trustees approved increasing the customer charge for each meter by $12, beginning in March 2018. The increase was made by raising the customer charge by $6 per month from March 2018 to February 2019. An additional $6 will begin on this month's billings.

What is the Customer Charge?

It is designed to help cover the cooperative's fixed costs to provide service to each meter, regardless of the kWh's used. Some of these fixed costs include connecting to the electrical system, metering, billing, service maintenance and administrative services associated with supplying power to the member.

Why is the Customer Charge Used for Rate Increases?

The increases enable the cooperative to have a more accurate forecast of the amount of revenue the rate increase will generate. Increases to kWh charges can vary significantly due to the unknown actual number of kWh's that will be sold each year.

Why Does the Customer Charge Need to be Increased?

It needs to be increased to come closer to covering the current fixed costs to serve each meter. The current customer charge for residential accounts is $23. Studies show the actual average cost to serve each meter is in the $35 to $50 range.

If one meter uses only one kWh and another meter uses 1,000 kWh's, the cooperative still incurs the same cost to install the facilities, maintain the distribution system and deliver electricity to both meters. An increase in the customer charge is needed to maintain the financial integrity of your cooperative.

Who Decides When a Rate Increase is Made?

Caney Valley's Board of Trustees sets the cooperative rates. The trustees are members who pay the same rates as you. They are elected by you and other members each year. Trustees want to ensure electric rates are adequate to maintain the health of the cooperative and to provide the necessary revenue for delivery of reliable electric service. The trustees want to avoid rate increases, but also need to ensure the long-term financial stability of the cooperative.

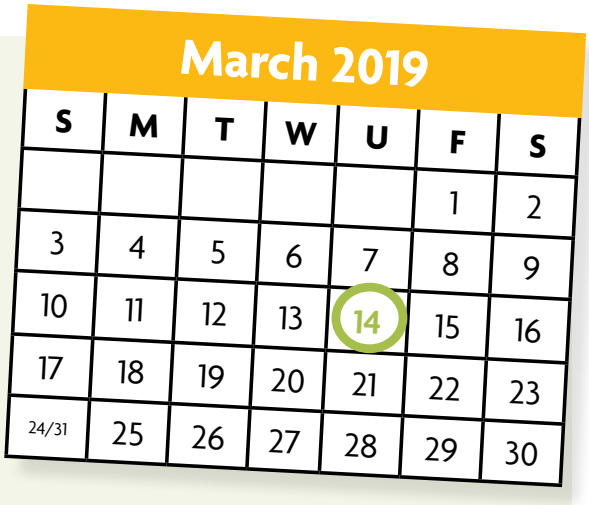
As always, feel free to contact me any time you have questions, concerns or suggestions you would like to discuss.

Allen A Zadorozny, General Manager

CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2019
School Gymnasium
Cedar Vale, KS



Free Meal 5 p.m.
Registration 5:30 p.m.
High-Voltage Safety Demonstration 5:45 p.m.
Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.

According to Article II, Section 7 of Caney Valley Electric's Bylaws, the order of the business meeting shall be as follows:

- Call to Order
- Proof of Notice of meeting to members
- Reading of Minutes of last meeting
- Election of Position #1 Trustees
- Business, Old and New
- Attendance Prizes
- Adjournment

Annual Meeting Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the members of The Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., will be held at the School Gymnasium, Cedar Vale, Kansas, on Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of electing trustees, hear reports of officers, and to transact such other business which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

In connection with the election of trustees scheduled for the meeting, the following members have been nominated, in accordance with the bylaws, to fill Position #1 of each District for a three-year term:

District #1
- Kenny Bates, Cedar Vale
- Jerry Denney, Cedar Vale

District #2
- Carl Johnson Jr, Atlanta
- Steve Walker, Moline
- Stephanie Ollenborger, Grenola
- Jeff McCormick, Burden

District #3
- Steve Clark, Havana

Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the annual meeting.

Would Your Home Pass an Electrical Inspection?

Whether you are finding out how electrically sound your home is or getting ready to sell, there are some general guidelines available to assess the condition of your home's wiring and electrical bones. Although it varies depending on where you live, most local codes follow the National Electric Code (NEC).

The NEC is an industry-specific document that outlines required practices for all aspects of residential and commercial electrical installations. Know that even if you choose to read it cover to cover, your local code could vary. Local code always wins out, so be sure to check with a qualified electrician or local building department (start with your city or town) for specific code requirements.

It's important to know whether your home would pass an electrical inspection before danger can strike. U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 45,210 reported U.S. home structure fires involving electrical failure or malfunction per year from 2010 to 2014, according to the National Fire Protection Agency. The home fires resulted in 420 deaths, 1,370 injuries and an annual $1.4 billion in direct property damage.

The following are all-house guidelines that an inspector would look for; remember they may or may not align with your local electrical code but they are NEC-mandated.

If your home has any of the following defects, it may not pass an electrical safety inspection:

- Old knob-and-tube, along with BX cable wiring, common in the U.S. from about 1880 to 1930
- New lights and receptacles installed into old wiring
- Overcrowded wires, i.e. too many wires bundled together producing excess heat
- Spliced wires that were illegally installed—they must be installed by an approved method
- Broken or missing carbon monoxide detectors or smoke alarms
- Noninsulated/noncontact-rated recessed lights that touch attic insulation, which is a fire hazard
- Improper overcurrent protection, which means the breaker or fuse is too large for the wire rating
- Improper grounding and bonding of electrical panels and devices

Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI)

Many prominent electrical and home building experts believe using arc-fault circuit interrupters in the home significantly impacts homeowner safety and reduces the number of lives lost in home electrical fires.

An AFCI is designed to detect series faults, line to neutral faults and line to ground faults, effectively stopping a fire before it starts.

For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Room-specific things to look for

Kitchen

- Does your electric range, cooktop or oven have a dedicated 240-volt circuit?
- Is the breaker for the range, cooktop or oven sized correctly?
- Does your island have its own outlet? (The NEC has outlet requirements for kitchen islands, peninsulas and countertops.)
- Does your microwave, refrigerator and garbage disposal each have its own circuit?

Bathroom

- Are outlets ground fault circuit interrupters? GFCIs are designed to protect people from electric shock around water.
- Do your combination fan/lights have their own 20-amp circuit?
- Do the light fixtures in the shower or tub area have a "lens" cover? Are they moisture resistant?

Other Rooms

- Does each room have a wall switch installed beside the entry door?
- Are outlets installed no farther than 12 feet apart?
- Are ceiling fixtures controlled by a wall switch and not just a pull chain?

There are also hallway, staircase and garage code requirements, as well as those for the electrical service panel and wiring.

Reduce your energy use during peak hours when electricity costs are higher.

5 to 8 a.m.

4 to 7 p.m.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: energy.gov

A Great Color: 'Green' Homes Can Make You More Green

Certain improvements to your home such as new siding, bathroom remodels and wooden decks can bring a decent return on investment during resale (approximately 77, 70, and 83 percent return respectively). Add in certain energy-efficient projects and bring more value to your property. One project can even make you money!

According to the U.S. Green Building Council and the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin, homes that were certified energy-saving "green" sold for 6 to 8 percent more than non-green homes in the Austin-Round Rock market between 2008 and 2016. Across the nation, energy-efficient designated homes have a 2 to 6 percent sales premium, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE).

To break down the numbers, certified homes brought in an additional $3,416 to $8,882 over non-green homes according to the Department of Energy, or $2.99 to $13.82 per square foot for every dollar saved on annual electricity bills from efficiency investments. Studies compiled and released by the USDOE show the homes sell faster by 18 to 89 days as well.

Before you run to turn your home totally "green," and we're not talking paint or siding colors here, consider where you live—the price green homes can bring depends greatly on location and housing market conditions. A certified home in California can have a 12 percent premium, while other states bring less than half of that number.

Even if you're not planning on selling your home in the near future or you are unsure where your home fits on the green spectrum, there are several energy-friendly improvements that can help keep you comfortable and save money on your energy bills. If you are considering making energy improvements in your home, here are some projects to consider:

- Attic insulation: In 2017, homeowners recouped more than what they paid (107.7 percent) for fiberglass installation in the attic, according to the home improvement website remodeling.hw.net's cost-versus-value national data. Not many home projects return more than what you pay, so this is a great place to start. Homeowners should always insulate from the top of the home down, as most air escapes out of the top.
- Front door: If you replace your older, inefficient entry door with an energy-efficient steel version, you'll get back 90.7 percent, according to the cost-versus-value data. A fiberglass door got a 77.7 percent return in 2017. While that may not sound great, compare it to a mid-range bathroom remodel, which brought a 64.8 percent return.
- New windows: In 2017, upscale wood and vinyl window replacement brought about the same return: 73 and 73.9 percent, respectively.

For more information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Caney Valley's Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2017
Meters Billed	5,315	5,387
kWh Purchased	5,707,588	5,753,070
Cost per kWh	0.06080	0.06970
kWh Sold	4,884,808	4,372,617
Total Revenue	$743,162	$584,954
Purchased Power	$347,252	$402,127
Operating Expenses	$178,913	$167,275
Depreciation Expenses	$67,393	$65,852
Interest Expenses	$45,693	$43,092
Other Expenses	$125	$388
Operating Margins	$103,785	($93,781)
Non-Operating Margins	$86,744	$77,171
Total Margins	$190,528	($16,610)
Margins Year-to-Date	$712,574	$103,030

Statement of Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Outages for January 2019

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Following are the larger outages that occurred in January.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
1/19	Cambridge area	50	2 hours	Broken jumper
1/25	Longton area	45	2 hrs 30 min	OCR failed
1/30	Longton substation	363	1 hr 50 min	Westar off