

October 2019 Share Package

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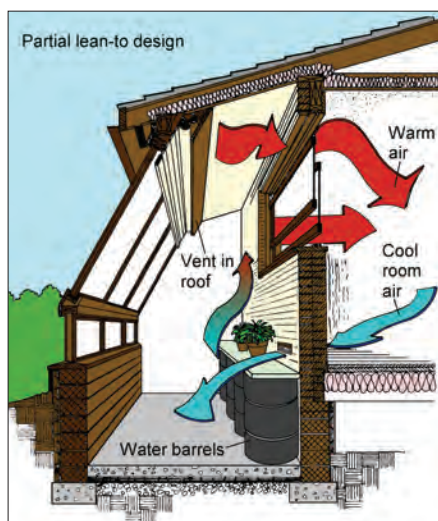
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Sunrooms Provide Energy-Producing Living Space



This schematic shows how to use thermal mass—water barrels and concrete floor—and vents to circulate hot air into a house.



This do-it-yourself sunroom is built around an efficient windows removed from a older house. An airtight fireplace provides supplemental heat during winter.

Photo by John Robbins



To ask a question, write to **James Dulley**, Energy Report, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH. 45244, or go to **www.dulley.com**.

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Q. What design factors should we consider when building a sunroom on our house?

A. Adding a sunroom can be a good investment by providing more living space at a reasonable price. This is particularly true if you build one yourself from scratch or a kit. It will still be a substantial investment, so plan properly. Realistically, for a sunroom also used for living space, a savings of 5% on winter heating bills is reasonable.

For the average do-it-yourselfer, it is wise to buy a sunroom kit and follow the construction instructions precisely. Before selecting a kit, ensure it is designed for DIY construction. Get a list of recommended power tools. Building a sunroom can be more difficult than it first appears.

When comparing sunroom kits, determine how much comes preassembled—particularly the windows, roof panels, skylights and doors. I built a kit at my home, and many of the structural aluminum pieces were delivered in long lengths. They had to be carefully measured, mitered and cut to length. It was not a simple DIY weekend project.

Determine your priority of extra living space versus capturing heat for your house. A sunroom can do both to some extent, but if you primarily desire one or the other, it must be designed with that purpose in mind. Sunrooms designed primarily for winter heating often become uncomfortable during summer.

The sunroom's location and its orientation to the sun are primary factors. To capture meaningful solar heat for your house, the sunroom should be oriented with 20 degrees of true solar south. This can be different than compass south. If your only location is to the north, forget about overall heat gain. It likely will require supplemental heat to be used in winter.

Other factors to consider for sunrooms used for heating are adequate solar thermal mass and a way to transfer the extra heat into your house. Thermal mass can come from stone or brick sides, flooring and barrels filled with water. Without adequate thermal mass, the sunroom will quickly overheat in the afternoon and quickly cool

in the evening.

A concrete floor can be effective thermal storage. Pour it twice as thick as local building codes and insulate the perimeter with rigid foam insulation. The ground itself provides thermal mass, so extend the foam insulation down an additional 24 inches below the ground surface.

Add two groups of thermostatically controlled fans. One group is used to force solar-heated air into the house during winter. The other group, spaced near the roof, is used to ventilate the excess heat during summer. If the entire side of the sunroom opens to inside the house, heated air will circulate in naturally. Install sliding glass doors between the house and sunroom for more heat control.

Building a sunroom yourself using standard lumber is the most inexpensive option. It also provides more design flexibility to meet your specific needs.

Before starting the project, visit local window installers and builder suppliers. They may have large windows that someone returned available at a significant discount.

For year-round use and to gain heat from the sunroom, use double- or triple-pane windows. If, due to poor sun orientation or other factors, you cannot use the sunroom for solar heating, lower-cost single-pane windows are fine. This will create a three-season sunroom.

Another glazing option is clear double-walled polycarbonate sheets. It is designed with multiple insulating cavities between the two skins for incredible toughness and rigidity. It does not provide a clear view outdoors like glass, but you can make out objects, color and movement.

A lean-to design with a sloped front is the simplest sunroom to build and captures more solar heat than a vertical front. It uses less lumber and roofing materials, but it may overheat during summer.

Placing one-half-inch-thick foil-faced polyurethane foam insulation sheets (foil facing outward) over the slanted face during summer works well. However, usable floor space is limited because of the sloped front and reduced headroom. ■

Low-Cost Air Cleaners Improve Air Quality



There are many types of air cleaner. This four-speed HEPA air cleaner is so quiet you can barely hear it running on low speed.

Photo by James Dulley

Q. *What type of air cleaner is most effective?*

A. It can be quite difficult to separate the truth from the advertising hype about the effectiveness of various room air cleaners. The sheer size or price of a specific unit does not necessarily indicate it is effective or efficient. The type of filtering material inside is what is most important.

For the most effective air cleaning, particularly during winter, it is wise to use a high-quality central heat pump/furnace air cleaner along with room air cleaners. Some of the newer central air cleaners are effective, but they remove only the particles that get into the duct system.

When your children plop down on a sofa or walk on the carpet, a cloud of allergen particles rises. Some of these particles are relatively large and settle out of the air before they ever get near the furnace return air registers. An efficient room air cleaner can remove many of these particles using minimal electricity.

Instead of relying on advertising information, use the CADR—clean air delivery rate—rating to compare effectiveness. This rating is determined by testing procedures sanctioned by the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the American Lung Association recognize the CADR data as accurate and realistic.

The first step is to have your household members tested to determine what airborne allergies they have. The effectiveness of different designs of air cleaners and filtering methods varies depending on what particles you need to remove from the room air.

Three of the most common types of particles in room air are household dust, tobacco smoke and pollen. These cover the size range of most other typical airborne particles. CADR ratings have three

separate numbers that refer to these three particles. You may find an air cleaner that is effective for pollen, but not as effective for tobacco smoke.

For example, an electrostatic air cleaner with washable cartridges is great for tiny smoke particles. There is less air flow resistance through it, so its small fan uses little electricity. A media filter is better for removing larger pollen and mold spore particles. A HEPA filter removes most particles, but its powerful fan uses more electricity. HEPA and media air cleaners require periodic filter element replacements.

When selecting an air cleaner, the CADR indicates the maximum size of room for which the air cleaner will be effective. As a guideline, the CADR rating for the specific particle of interest should be at least two-thirds of the square footage of the room. For example, a 10-foot-by-10-foot room would need a CADR of 67 or greater.

For severe allergies, I prefer a HEPA filter media with a carbon element. A HEPA filter is effective for almost all sizes of common allergens, and the carbon removes odors and chemicals. A thick carbon element is best. Select one with several fan speeds for rapid air cleaning before bedtime and quiet slow-speed, more-efficient operation at night.

If your allergy issues are with larger particles, turn off the air cleaner if the room will not be used an hour or more. These larger particles settle back down on furniture and carpeting, and will not be removed to a significant extent with continuous operation.

The following companies offer room air cleaners: Blueair, www.blueair.com; Holmes, www.holmesproducts.com; Kaz, www.kaz.com; LakeAir, www.lakeair.com; and Whirlpool, www.whirlpool.com. ■



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Celebrations of Self Determination

Public Power Week and National Co-op Month recognize your community-based power



Scott Corwin is executive director of the Northwest Public Power Association, which represents public power utilities and their consumers across the West and British Columbia.

Each year in October, we take time to celebrate Public Power Week—October 6-12 this year—and National Cooperative Month. Communities across the country hold local activities to note the occasion and to highlight the value of owning their own electric utilities.

What is this celebration all about, and what does it mean to be part owner of your electric utility?

While national and state proclamations about the advantages of consumer-owned electric utilities date back to the 1960s, the enthusiasm behind these celebrations is as vibrant today as it has ever been. Electric utilities owned by their consumers number close to 3,000 and cover a majority of the landmass in the United States. Some originated more than 130 years ago, when cities and towns started creating electric distribution systems not long after the invention of the lightbulb. Many of the electric cooperatives and public (or people's) utility districts were created a little bit later as the movement gained steam during the 1930s and 1940s with the push for broader electrification of less populated areas.

Put simply, people took control of their own destiny by providing electricity on their terms in areas not adequately served by large, private companies of the day. What this meant to farm families in the early 20th century—or to the war effort in the 1940s or to the expanding cities and industries of the last 70 years—is a fascinating story of community leaders, hardworking engineers and courageous lineworkers who saw the need for new levels of electric service.

These people—this community—made it happen for you.

Just as important as the past achievement of public and cooperative power is our vision for the future and the large steps already underway with the support of local customers/owners. This includes advancements in technology that allow better service, more customer knowledge and more control over that service. It also includes access to more advanced energy-efficiency programs and new renewable power sources in many areas.

As these changes take place, the complexion of our industry is also rapidly changing. A large wave of retirements is leading to notable shifts in the age, gender and race of our workforce. Among the top

managers of the 156 utility members of the Northwest Public Power Association, 40% have turned over in just the last five years. This shift requires a ramp up in the education and training of utility staff and board members dealing with the wave of industry changes.

National Cooperative Month and Public Power Week are good times to remind policymakers why local control of electricity matters. Recently, we have seen threats to the sources of available financing for capital projects needed at public utilities. There have also been threats to local governance where federal or state agencies seek to add additional regulatory burdens or override the wisdom of locally elected boards and commissions, who answer directly to the consumers who elected them.

An important source of the value provided by consumer-owned utilities comes from the principles that are part of the fabric of these utilities. Both the cooperative and public power models share important elements. These utilities all:

- Exist to serve the community that owns them and serve the needs of local customers rather than distant stockholders.
- Have a not-for-profit status that means a high level of service comes at the lowest possible price.
- Keep money in the local community, not just with lower rates, but by reinvesting locally to stimulate economic health.
- Have rate pricing levels that are locally controlled so customers have a say.
- Hire workers who are your friends, family and neighbors who care about ensuring reliable, quality service.
- Represent democracy in action. Boards, councils and commissions are elected by the local citizens. They hire the management of the utility and are directly responsible to those who elect them.
- Are a part of the community. They are personally invested in being good stewards of the assets and of the environment in which they live.

Your utility is a local lifeline that supports and strengthens your community. Working side by side, we are more powerful together. This month, I invite you to celebrate your utility and the public power model that has served us so well. ■

Celebrating the Power of Community

Public power utilities mark their local heritage and impact in October

By Pam Blair

Flip a light switch. Plug in a cellphone. Run a load of laundry. As long as it is there when you need it, odds are you don't even think about where your electricity comes from.

But your power is more than a convenience. It's a rich, locally grown heritage built by people like you. Each October, we celebrate the impact of public power. October is National Cooperative Month, and October 6-12 is Public Power Week.

From remote rural farming communities to booming suburbs and large cities, electric cooperatives and public power utilities collectively provide reliable, low-cost electricity to more than 90 million Americans across all 50 states.

Publicly owned utilities first appeared more than 100 years ago when communities came together to provide light and power to areas overlooked by profit-driven utilities. By joining forces to take care of their local needs, citizens discovered they are more powerful together.

Although structurally different—electric cooperatives are run by member-elected boards while public power utilities run as a division of local government—both are not-for-profit businesses, with a keen eye on doing what is best for the people and businesses they serve.

But providing affordable electricity is just the start for publicly owned utilities. More than utilities, they are powerful community partners working hand-in-hand with consumers to make life better in the areas they serve.

A Local Lifeline

Decisions about how publicly owned utilities run are made by the people who live and work in the community. Local needs are considered when looking at rates and services, power generation and renewable energy alternatives.

By contrast, investor-owned utilities are controlled by shareholders who often are not customers and do not live in the community. Their goal is to operate the utility in a way that maximizes the return on their investment. Board meetings are conducted in private, and decisions are made behind closed doors.

Public power consumers—or members, in

BY THE NUMBERS

Public power utilities:

- ▶ Service provided by **2,000** PUDs and municipals in all states except Hawaii.
- ▶ Serve 1 in 7 Americans, or **49 million**.
- ▶ Average **48 consumers** per mile of line.

Electric cooperatives:

- ▶ Service provided by **832** co-ops in all states except Connecticut and Massachusetts.
- ▶ Serve more than **42 million** Americans.
- ▶ Average **7.4 members** per mile of line.

the case of electric co-ops—have a direct voice in utility policymaking, with an opportunity to express the community's values and priorities at meetings that are open to them.

Built by and belonging to the communities they serve, publicly owned utilities are led by community members uniquely qualified to ensure the focus remains local.

Because member/consumers have a say at the ballot box in who represents them, they retain control. If they disagree with the direction of the elected board, they can run for a seat and help shape the utility's future.

With public utilities, you are more than a number. You are a valued member of the team—and your voice matters.

Expert, Innovative Solutions

Because publicly owned utilities aren't motivated by profits to sell more power, they care about helping consumers reduce energy use and lower power bills through everything from simple energy-efficiency measures to cutting-edge technologies.

Even though most electric cooperatives added members in 2017, residential power use dropped by 2%, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Energy-efficiency and rebate programs vary based on local priorities. Some utilities provide energy audits to help consumers find the best ways to cut costs and improve comfort. Others offer rebates to help offset the cost of

Take a Moment

October is a time to reflect on the benefits of being served by public power.

Electric co-ops join credit unions, food co-ops and other member-owned businesses each October to celebrate National Cooperative Month.

Public power utilities across the U.S. celebrate Public Power Week the first full week of October.

By understanding what makes your member- or community-owned utility special, you can better benefit from its offerings.



implementing efficient changes.

Innovation drives public power. Since 2010, electric co-ops have 145% more renewable energy capacity. Community solar projects give consumers a way to support local renewable power development. Wind is picking up too. Electric co-ops generate enough wind to power 2 million homes. To store renewable energy for the times it is needed most, public power utilities support battery storage research.

Public power utilities also are laying the groundwork to support electric vehicle use. By providing public charging stations and coaching consumers on the best times to charge, local energy experts are helping consumers tap into energy technology trends affordably.

Driven to Make a Difference

In areas served by public power, the community directly benefits. Powered by a shared vision, America's public power utilities drive local economic development.

Public power employs 93,000 people in

hometown jobs and invests more than \$2 billion annually directly back into the community, according to the American Public Power Association. NRECA says electric cooperatives support 68,200 local jobs and invest \$12 billion annually in local economies.

But publicly owned utilities provide more than jobs. Community-funded scholarships strengthen local talent pools. Public power staff volunteer in hometown groups.

These community-first utilities also give communities room to grow. They provide efficient, smart electricity to current businesses, while investing in a smarter grid and robust infrastructure to attract new businesses to the areas they serve. Every step is backed by the voices of local member/consumers like you.

Think about where your power comes from, and how you can get involved. You are a part of this continued success story.

Our community is more powerful when everyone works together to make our shared vision a reality. ■

Nick Erickson, maintenance and project manager at Diamond Fruit Growers, worked with the energy experts at Hood River Electric Cooperative to cut energy waste, improve operations and lower the fruit co-op's energy bill. It is a great example of the community-utility partnership that is a hallmark of publicly-owned utilities.

Photo by Drew Myron

Learn more about locally owned power at www.publicpower.org and www.electric.coop.

Understanding Net Metering

Learn More

Net-metering laws vary by state and within states.

Although Idaho has no statewide policy, all three investor-owned utilities operating there have programs in place. Co-ops and municipals do not.

Alaska has mandatory rules, but many smaller utilities are exempt.

In Nevada, Valley Electric Association opted into net metering.

For a state-by-state description of net-metering policies, go to <http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/maps>. Click on the state and search "net metering."

By Paul Wesslund

A controversial and misunderstood energy issue is net metering. At its most basic, net metering is a way of measuring and valuing the electricity output of privately owned resources. It requires utilities to buy excess electricity from consumers who generate electricity themselves.

States and electric utilities have established net-metering programs to encourage clean energy generation. But the rules change all the time.

In the first nine months of 2018, states took more than 400 actions to change how they compensate small energy producers, according to the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center, which collects net-metering information from around the country.

Some actions strengthened net-metering laws. Others weakened them.

What is net metering?

Net metering is a billing method in which the consumer is charged for any electricity used from the grid, and credited for excess electricity the consumer generated and sent back to the electric grid.

That excess electricity could be produced by solar panels, a windmill or a portable generator. The main source for this extra electricity is from homeowners who have installed solar panels on their property.

Under net metering, whenever their solar system generates more electricity than their home uses, the electric utility must compensate the homeowner for the excess electricity.

How do electric utilities compensate consumers for the excess electricity?

Many net-metering programs require the utility to buy back or credit the consumer's bill for

excess electricity at the same retail rate the utility charges. Other programs allow the utility to credit the consumer at the wholesale cost, which is what the utility pays for power. Some utilities require consumers with privately owned generation to be metered separately. Under net-billing programs, the consumer receives a bill with a credit for the excess electricity subtracted from the total amount due.

Net-metering programs that set reimbursement at wholesale cost rather than retail rates are more likely to ensure appropriate levels of compensation for both utilities and consumers who generate electricity, without negatively affecting other members.

Net-billing programs provide more equitable compensation to the net-metered consumer without leaning on consumers who don't have solar panels or other ways to generate power at home.

Is net metering new?

Net-metering programs have been around since 1983. Thirty-eight states and the District of Columbia have established programs.

To encourage development and use of solar, wind and other forms of alternative energy, states also started passing other laws, such as renewable portfolio standards, which require electric utilities to have certain amounts of their power generated by renewable energy resources.

HOW NET METERING WORKS

Net metering is a billing mechanism that compensates consumers who own private solar panels (or other renewable energy systems) for any excess power that is sent back to the electric grid.



1 A renewable energy system, in this case privately owned solar panels, converts energy from sunlight into electricity.



2 An inverter, which is connected to the electric grid, converts the electricity from direct current to alternating current to make it safe for use in homes.



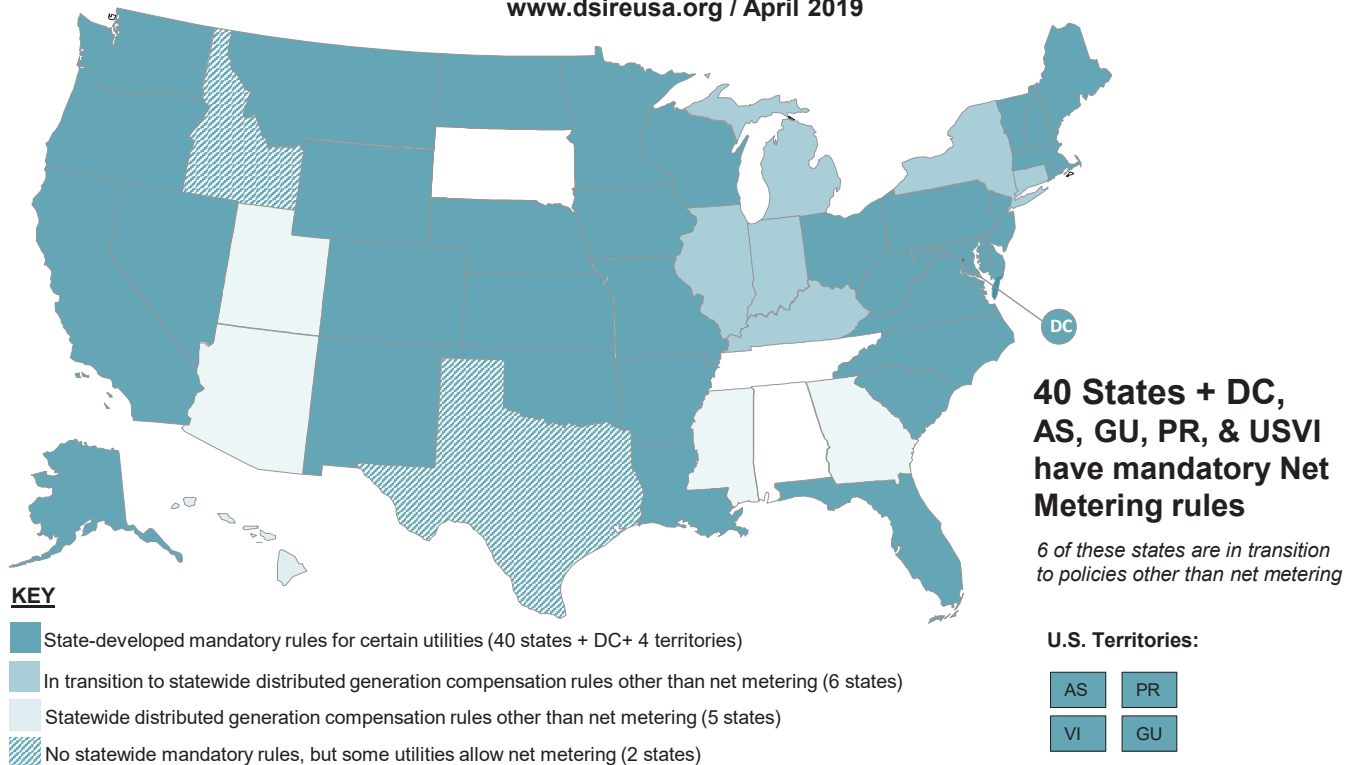
3 The electricity is used to power the home. (It should be noted that solar panels do not provide electricity during a power outage.)



4 If the solar panels produce more electricity than the home needs, the consumer is compensated for excess electricity sent back to the electric grid.

Net Metering

www.dsireusa.org / April 2019



What makes net metering challenging?

For electric utilities, the basic challenge with net metering is policies that require them to pay high costs for what is often low-value power.

The reason it is low-value power is you cannot count on it. There is no solar energy at night and no electricity from wind during calm weather.

Renewable energy advocates argue net-metering rates are a great way to support green power. But utilities say it is not fair for them to have to buy electricity from a rooftop solar owner at a rate that covers around-the-clock service when that is not what the homeowner is providing.

Results from that imbalance are where the net-metering

issue gets complicated. The economics of net metering create a subsidy for rooftop solar owners paid for by those who don't have any solar panels.

The cost difference between buying wholesale electricity at retail rates didn't matter much at first. But solar energy is booming, potentially reshaping the effect net metering could have on the energy industry. The number of rooftop solar installations grew 63 percent from 2012 to 2015, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. As a result of that growth in potential net-metering use, many states started rethinking net-metering rules.

Another result is the utility's ability to plan for its basic job supplying reliable

and affordable electricity.

The engineers and accountants who run an electric utility that provides power 24/7 need to place a higher value on dependable electricity, rather than from several homeowners who may or may not generate excess electricity when it is needed.

Net-metering payments don't cover the costs of setting up a billing system, paying taxes or any of the utility's other fixed costs.

What are alternatives to net metering?

Tax credits for installing renewable energy systems and dedicated research funds aimed at lowering costs for alternative energy are options to support renewables without

implementing net metering.

Electric cooperatives are leaders in community solar programs, which offer members the opportunity to participate in renewable energy programs that are more affordable and reliable than privately owned solar panels.

Community solar arrays can be sized and priced to fit consumer demand, reducing risks of cross-subsidization.

As the energy industry continues to undergo major changes—whether to technology, renewable energy use or other emerging trends—publicly owned utilities will continue working with all members to ensure delivery of the safe, affordable, reliable energy our communities depend on. ■

Low-Cost Energy Tips for Renters

Save on your energy bill without investing major dollars on energy efficiency

By Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen

Homeowners have a number of ways to make energy-efficiency improvements to their home and save money, but what about folks who are renting or don't have a lot of money to spend? While not everyone can replace their furnace with an air-source heat pump, here are seven low-cost efficiency tips that can help reduce your energy bills.

- **Mind the thermostat.** You can trim your energy bill by managing the temperature in your home. The Department of Energy suggests setting your thermostat to 68 F in winter. If that's too cool, try other ways to stay warm, such as layering with an extra sweater. You can save more energy by turning down the thermostat even lower at night or when no one is home. The same principle works in reverse during summer months. Set the thermostat higher to reduce your energy use for air conditioning.



- **Go programmable.** If you don't always remember to adjust your thermostat manually, you could benefit from a programmable model. In the right situation, set correctly, programmable thermostats can save \$150 a year. Some programmable thermostats can be managed from your smartphone or other devices. Before you buy and install a programmable thermostat, make sure your landlord approves.

- **Try zone heating.** If you don't mind less-used rooms being colder, you might be able to save energy and money by using zone heating. Electric baseboards make it easy because they typically have thermostat settings on the units in each room. Portable electric space heaters can also be a good tool for zone heating if used safely and wisely in the area you spend the most time. Keep in mind, if you're using space heaters, you need to reduce the heating you supply to the rest of the home. Space heaters that are used incorrectly can be dangerous and increase energy costs. If your heating system needs to be replaced, talk to your landlord about installing a mini-split system, which is perfect for zone heating and cooling, and easier to install than a new duct and furnace system.

- **Stop air leaks.** Small gaps around windows, doors, wiring and plumbing penetrations can be major sources of energy loss. This problem can be alleviated with a little weatherstripping and caulk, but check with your landlord before you get started. Better yet, convince the landlord to do the work! A \$10 door draft stopper—also known as a door snake—is a simple way to block gaps underneath exterior doors. Sealing air leaks around your home could shave up to one-fifth of your heating and cooling bills.



Get the most out of hot water use by only washing full loads of dishes.

- **Manage your windows and window coverings.** Your windows may be letting heat out during the winter and letting heat in during the summer. Medium or heavy-weight curtains and thermal blinds can help. On cold winter days, window coverings can keep warmth inside and improve comfort. Opening window coverings when you are receiving direct sunlight is a passive solar technique that can help cut your heating costs. In winter, cover windows with clear plastic to reduce heat loss and air



Installing clear plastic on windows during winter months is easy, and can reduce heat loss and air leaks.

Photo by James Dulley

leaks. During the summer, keep window coverings closed to block the sun and keep windows from heating the cooler indoor air.

- **Look for energy wasters.** There are small steps you can take every day to reduce your energy use. Water heaters should be kept at the warm setting of 120 F. Wash dishes and clothes on the most economical settings that will do the job, and always wash full loads. Use the microwave instead of the oven when possible.

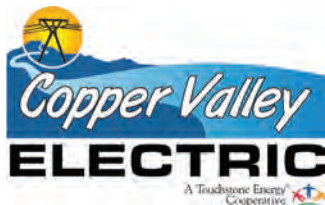
- **Ask landlords—and others—for help.** Consider talking to your landlord about additional ways to save, such as installing better insulation, energy-efficient windows or heating systems. Many landlords make these types of investments to add appeal to their rental properties, which ultimately improves the value of the property. A home energy audit is the best way to identify areas for energy-efficiency improvements, and to start a conversation with your landlord about potential improvements. Check with your electric utility to see if it offers energy audits or can recommend someone. ■



Energy-Saving Behaviors

Saving money on your energy bill is about more than making energy-efficiency improvements to your home. It involves how you use energy. Small changes can net big savings. Consider these changes:

- ▶ Use natural daylight when possible. Use efficient lightbulbs, such as LEDs. When you leave a room, turn off the lights.
- ▶ Avoid blocking heating and cooling registers with furniture or drapes. Dust or vacuum registers so heated or cooled air flows freely.
- ▶ Keep all doors and windows closed while heating or cooling your home.
- ▶ When using the oven, prepare several items at the same time. On the stove, cover pans and use as little liquid as possible to cook food faster. Use pans that fully cover the burner for best heat transfer. Avoid warped pans on electric burners.
- ▶ Let hot food cool down before you put it in the refrigerator.
- ▶ If you don't have an automatic air-dry switch on your dishwasher, turn off the control knob after the final rinse and open the door a little to allow dishes to air dry.
- ▶ Instead of a bath, take a short shower, setting a timer to remind you when time is up. Showers typically use less hot water. Install a water-saving low-flow showerhead.
- ▶ Don't leave the water running while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- ▶ When washing clothes, avoid using hot water when possible.
- ▶ Hang clothes outside when it is sunny. After each dryer load, clean the lint filter. Check the dryer vent hose twice a year to make sure it isn't clogged. A dirty filter and clogged hose restrict air flow.
- ▶ Keep your fireplace damper closed when not in use to prevent heated air from escaping.



CVEA's Member Tour Program Creates Co-op Ambassadors



Above, CVEA representatives and tour participants pose for a photo at the Allison Creek diversion structure
Opposite, tour participants as they toured the Valdez Diesel Plant and Solomon Gulch and Allison Creek Hydroelectric Projects
Photo by Sharon Scheidt

On Tuesday, August 13, CVEA hosted 22 members for the fall Member Tour in Valdez. The Member Tour Program was developed to be a tool in the members' communication toolkit and an opportunity for CVEA members to gather information, learn how the system works, and ask any questions they have in a small, informal setting.

Tours have historically been available to VIPs and special groups upon request, but this program makes the opportunity available to all members. According to John Duhamel, CVEA CEO, "This program is important to us as we believe everyone who is interested in the facilities, as member-owners, should be able to see them and learn about them."

Participants from Valdez and the Copper Basin spent the better part of the day with the CEO, COO, Production Manager, and Director of Communications visiting the Valdez Diesel Plant, the Cogeneration Plant, and the Solomon Gulch and Allison Creek Hydroelectric Projects. Members were treated to a quick lunch and enjoyed a video showcasing construction of the Allison Creek project.

According to a post-event survey, the tours were extremely well organized, informative and fun. One participant said, "the

entire tour was great. Every member should take an opportunity to attend one. I have a greater appreciation of where our money went for construction and it gave a good feeling for what we are leaving for our future generations." Another said, "the tour was extremely interesting, and a great opportunity for members to learn more about CVEA. The information presented was at a good level, and participants could ask more detailed questions as needed. We enjoyed talking to the knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff about their work."

All agreed that they received a lot of great information and believe the ability to participate in the tours is a huge benefit to the Membership.

Now in its third year, the Member Tour Program is considered a very successful member engagement program for CVEA. Members leave with an incredible amount of knowledge and are in a position to serve as ambassadors for the Cooperative.

Registration is required and begins 30 days prior to each tour date. Space is limited to 20 members. If you have questions regarding this program, contact Sharon Scheidt, CVEA Director of Communications, at 907-822-5506, 907-835-7005, or email scheidt@cvea.org. ■



Celebrate National Book Month With Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

As summer comes to a close, we anxiously await the first signs of fall. Just as we feel this excitement for the leaves to turn, young children around Eastern Oregon eagerly wait, watching their mailboxes for their monthly book to arrive. They receive these books through a program called Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides a free book each month to children from birth to 5 years old. With the help of Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, your little one can enjoy National Book Month this October.

In January 2018, OTEC spearheaded the launch of this free book program in Union, Baker, Grant and Harney counties, becoming the first electric cooperative in the nation to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to its members. The cost is shared with the James and Shirley Rippey Family Foundation, which pays 50% of the cost of the program for OTEC families. The age-appropriate books are delivered in the mail each month to children registered in the program.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, run by the Dollywood Foundation headquartered in east Tennessee, typically partners with local nonprofits or school districts to manage and promote the program throughout the communities. Partnering entities are responsible for registering local children and providing stable funding to pay for the books—\$25 per child per year. There is no cost to the families, and all children are eligible regardless of family income. More than 50 volunteers work through many agencies and other nonprofit organizations to disseminate information about the program and enroll children.

OTEC's funding comes from unclaimed capital credits. This has no immediate effect on electric rates because unclaimed capital credits are from members who have moved and cannot



Thanks to numerous volunteers and community partners, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a huge success among families in Eastern Oregon.

Photo courtesy of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

be found, or who have died without heirs and OTEC's attempts to locate a recipient for the funds has failed.

Since the launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in 2018, more than 1,800 children have registered in OTEC's four counties, and nearly 21,500 books have been mailed.

Commitment to Community is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, and is a driving force behind OTEC's involvement in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

For more information, go to www.OTEC.coop or scan the QR code with your phone. ■



OTEC wants to give a special thanks to local community partners who help bring the joy of reading to Eastern Oregon children through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library:

- Baker County—Baker County Library District; Eastern Oregon Head Start; Building Healthy Families; Childcare Resource and Referral; Department of Human Resources; Eastern Oregon Preschool Promise; IMESD Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education; Eastern Oregon Medical Associates; Women, Children and Infants; Baker County Local Community Advisory Council (Health); Pine Eagle Community Preschool; Baker School District SJ ESL Program; St. Alphonsus Medical Center Baker City; YMCA Preschool.
- Grant County—Grant County Library, Grant County Health Department, Grant County Chamber of Commerce, Grant County Childcare, Little Sprouts, Growing Tree Infant and Toddler Daycare, Sonshine Christian School, Families First of

Grant County, Blue Mountain Hospital Auxiliary, John Day Center, Umatilla Morrow Head Start.

- Harney County—Harney County Library, Harney County Library Foundation, Early Childhood Center, Harney County Health Department, Little Blessings Preschool, Laughing and Learning with Miss Liz, Treasure Valley Community College, Harney District Hospital.
- Union County—Northeast Oregon Network, La Grande School District, Union County C.A.R.E Program, Building Healthy Families, Mt. Valleys Reading Council, Department of Human Resources, Grande Ronde Hospital, Cook Memorial Library, Union Public Library, Haven from Hunger, Babies First/CaCoon, Elgin School District, Center for Human Development, Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub, InterMountain ESD EL/ECSE, Union County Health Department, Child Care Resource and Referral.

While safety is a long-standing core value at Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, the co-op is implementing a new initiative that will increase internal safety measures.



OTEC Strengthens its High Safety Standards

By Joseph Hathaway

To increase its already high standard of safety, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is implementing a new initiative, the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, also known as RESAP.

Founded by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, RESAP strives to promote the highest standards of safety among electric cooperatives. The program is based on two guiding principles that are essential to achieving safety excellence:

- Safety must be embraced as a core value where the actions and decisions of the cooperative reflect a fundamental and unwavering commitment to safety at all levels of the cooperative. This is achieved through a strong safety leadership culture. Cooperative leaders accept responsibility for a culture that ultimately drives safety performance.
- Cooperative leaders and employees take ownership of the systems and processes that create a safe working environment. Safety systems are a shared responsibility and should focus on enhancing safe behaviors and reducing unsafe acts and risks to injury.

What does that mean?

OTEC is taking its commitment to safety a step further by beefing up its already strong employee-based safety culture.

A team of OTEC employees will be chosen to make internal observations of safety within the co-op, then report on areas that could use improvement.

With the help of this observation team, OTEC can enhance efforts to create a safe working environment for all its employees.

As part of RESAP, OTEC will participate with other co-ops to observe each other's safety practices and protocols, provide honest feedback and share ideas on how to improve each other's culture of safety.

By setting annual and three-year safety improvement goals, the primary objective is to reduce injuries over time.

Safety around electrical equipment and power lines are important not only to OTEC employees, but to the general public. Always be aware of and stay away from downed power lines.

OTEC is committed to providing clear expectations, education and training to improve its safety culture. Safety is a core value and an integral aspect of all business operations at OTEC. Safety also is a value that can be practiced at home, at work or at play.

OTEC's participation in RESAP adds a valuable tool in reaching that goal. ■

For more information on the RESAP program, visit otec.coop.

Attention, Photographers

Your photo could be on the cover of Ruralite magazine

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is hosting a Ruralite cover photo contest. Photos will be judged by Ruralite magazine.

- Contest is open only to OTEC members.
- Each member can submit up to three photos.
- Submitted photos must be vertical (portrait) orientation.
- All submissions must include the photographer's name and location of the photo.
- All submitted photos must be taken within the OTEC service territory.
- Submissions must be high-resolution digital images in jpeg format, 300 dpi at approximately 8-by-10 inches.
- Prints WILL NOT be accepted.

Email your high-resolution photos to communications@otecc.com. Winning photos will be featured on the covers of the OTEC edition of Ruralite throughout the year. Winners also will receive a \$100 gift card and a poster print of the cover with their winning photo.

Winning Tips:

- Make photos near sunset or sunrise. The light is low in the sky and makes for prettier landscapes.
- Include people doing interesting things such as kayaking, hunting, fishing or biking.
- Get close to your subject so it fills the viewfinder.
- Only send your best photos.

By submitting photos to this contest, you agree to give Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative the right to use submitted photos on the cover of Ruralite magazine and on the OTEC website.



Contest Deadline: December 20, 2019

PLAY BALL

Bennettsville's Jim Odom officiated more than 1,500 major league baseball games

By Lynn McQueen

Long considered America's pastime, baseball has an almost mythical allure. As American as apple pie and as wholesome as ballpark peanuts, the sport is as iconic as they come. And no part of baseball is more iconic than its highest-level championship game: the World Series.

Did you know Marlboro County, South Carolina, played a part in baseball's storied past? A native son, Jim Odom of Bennettsville, served as a major league umpire for

10 years in the 1960s and 1970s, reaching the top of his profession in 1971 by being chosen to serve as an umpire for that year's World Series games.

Dixon Odom, Bennettsville's fire chief until his retirement several years ago, still carries the memories of his uncle's impressive career. Dog-eared clippings and framed photos tell some of it, but the rest lies in the stories he relates about his beloved Uncle Jim.

Jim was born and raised in Bennettsville. In his 20s, he fought in World War II as a

B-17 bombardier. Sometime after the war, he enrolled in umpiring school in Japan. In 1948, he began his career as an umpire in the minor leagues.

Jim moved up to the majors in 1965 when he became an American League umpire. He retired in 1974.

During his decade-long major league career, he umpired 1,597 games, including the 1968 All-Star Game, two league championship series—1970 and 1973—and, of course, the 1971 World Series.

The World Series is the ultimate championship tournament between the top teams from the American and National Leagues. The games are played in October in the home cities of the competitors. There are at least four games and as many as seven until a winner is determined.

The defending World Series champion Baltimore Orioles, faced off against the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1971. The teams were evenly matched, with the home team prevailing in each of the first six games. In game seven, played in Baltimore, the Pirates came out on top.

There are several notable facts about the 1971 World Series. Game four, played in

Pittsburg, was the first World Series game ever played at night. Roberto Clemente, in his last World Series appearance, was the first Spanish-speaking player to win MVP.

He was killed in a plane crash on a humanitarian mission just a year later.

Jim was one of six umpires—three from each league—chosen to officiate. It was quite an honor, but he accepted it humbly.

"To him, it was just another game," Dixon says.

Most of Jim's baseball career was spent on the West Coast, but Bennettsville was always his home base. In the off season, he worked as a buyer for Young's Pecans in Florence.

Each April, he would head out for spring training and remain on the road for about six months until baseball season ended, logging thousands of hours in the air as he traveled from place to place and game to game.

Home was never far from his mind. Dixon recalls that Jim would send boxes of old baseballs home to be distributed to local Little League coaches.

"Most of us didn't know it, but all of us kids playing Little League were playing with actual American League balls," Dixon says.

Televised games were a family affair for the Odoms. Jim would let them know when



Baltimore Orioles manager Earl Weaver, middle, meets with umpires before the pre-game lineup. Jim Odom is to him on the left.



Above, Jim keeps a close eye as a runner slides into second base. Right, Earl discusses a call by Jim during game 5 of the 1971 World Series.

the games would be on, and they would gather to watch.

"We'd have Sunday lunch with my grandmother, and then while we were eating dessert—usually homemade peach ice cream—we'd watch Uncle Jim on TV," Dixon recalls.

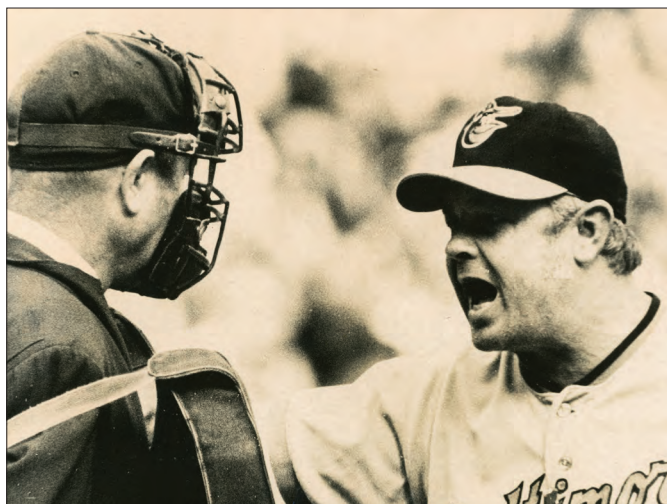
Harvey, Jim's younger brother and Dixon's father, served as an umpire in the minor leagues. In the 1960s and 1970s, they were the only umpire brother act in baseball.

This made for a magical childhood for Dixon. Summers were spent traveling with his father and occasionally visiting with his uncle. He often had the task of "mudding" the balls. For hours, he sat and rubbed mud from a

coffee can onto the new balls to rough their surfaces before they were put into play.

"They would bring the dirt from the family farm," Dixon says. "Marlboro County mud made it all the way to California and Canada."

Dixon chuckles at some of the stories his uncle would tell. There was the time umpires' luggage was lost before a game, and they had to officiate wearing bright red-and-white striped jackets borrowed from concession salesmen. Then there was the time Jim searched high and low for a restaurant in California that served grits. He finally found one, and returned day after day for a breakfast that reminded him of home.



Jim retired from umpiring in 1974 and returned to live in Bennettsville full time. He continued to work as a pecan buyer and kept up with sports throughout his life. He died in 1989, leaving a legacy of hard work and dedication to a career—and a sport—he dearly loved. ■

How to Be Happy

By Robin Howard

In 1938, a group of scientists began tracking the physical and mental health of 268 male Harvard students in an endeavor known as the Harvard Study of Adult Development. Realizing the results may be skewed, they also included 456 boys from some of the most disadvantaged and troubled families in Boston's worst neighborhoods.

For more than 80 years, researchers studied the health and well-being of this diverse group of 724 men, trying to determine what made them happy. When the men married, their wives were added to the study. When they had children, their children were added.

Today, the study follows thousands of people connected to the group, including some of the original participants who are now in their 90s.

In one of the most extended studies, researchers are trying to pinpoint indicators for happiness and longevity.

The Harvard group—only on its fourth executive director in eight decades—recently released new findings based on the hundreds of data points it has collected about the participants' mental and physical well-being.

What one thing makes people happier and healthier than anything else?

The answer might surprise you. It's not winning the lottery, it's not being famous, it isn't houses or cars or even dogs.

The secret of happiness is people. Dedicating time and energy to growing and strengthening relationships and

making social connections will keep you happy and healthy.

Avoid Loneliness Like the Plague

It turns out that social connection isn't just fun for some people. It's a biological need for all of us. That means being lonely doesn't just feel bad. It can kill you.

Researchers discovered loneliness is as detrimental to your health as smoking 15 cigarettes every day.

The American Psychological Association reports that loneliness kills more people than obesity. Increasing your social connectedness can reduce the risk of premature death by 50%.

The Harvard study also found that participants who had satisfying relationships were more physically and mentally protected from some of the typical challenges of aging, such as memory loss or perception of physical pain.

In its definition, a satisfying relationship doesn't have to be perfect to enjoy these benefits. As long as the person felt like they had someone they could depend on, they were happier and healthier overall.

Nurture Your Relationships

The current director of the study emphasizes quality over quantity in relationships. Relationships take time. They are messy and complicated.

Even though building and tending to good relationships isn't easy, it is worth the effort.

If you're a people person with lots of acquaintances and you still feel lonely, try nurturing one or two of those

It's often said money can't buy happiness. That may be true, but there are plenty of other ways to brighten your day and that of others.

associations into connections with a deeper bond. If you're not a people person, focus on building closer relationships with friends you already have.

Another piece of advice from the Harvard study: Work on your relationships in concentric circles. If your relationship with a partner or close friend has fizzled, try reviving it with more time, attention or new experiences.

Forgive and forget family grudges, and don't let petty issues come between you and people who are worth it.

Make Connections

If you're in the 33% of Americans who feel lonely most of the time, how do you turn it around? Good news. It's not that hard, but you will have to put down your phone. Psychologists say the first step in feeling more connected is to talk to people in real life, and don't check your email while you're doing it.



Find yourself watching Netflix every night? Try replacing some of that screen time with technology-free interactions with actual humans.

Do you live alone? Are you short on friends or family? Join a club or group with whom you share an interest.

Studies show volunteering also alleviates loneliness, as does chatting up strangers. Don't be shy about getting to know the grocery store cashier or the servers at your favorite restaurant.

On Money and Happiness

If money doesn't buy happiness, why are most of us obsessed with it?

Scientists at the Higher Education Research Institute think they know.

Every year, the institute polls first-year college students to determine their personal goals. In the 1970s, only 45% of baby boomers said being well off financially was essential to them. However,

since 1979, the number of first-year students whose No. 1 goal is to be wealthy has risen steadily year over year.

Today, 80% of millennials say their most significant life goal is to get rich.

Social science has proven that money doesn't buy happiness, yet a considerable number of Americans are spending most of their time and energy pursuing it.

What can we learn from baby boomers about money and happiness? Most baby boomers had parents who lived through the Great Depression, so experience likely taught them there is more to life than money. They also didn't grow up with the steady diet of marketing and media messages about wealth to which millennials have been subjected.

The lesson is to notice when you're hearing or seeing a media message about wealth. Remember: There is more to life than money.

Before you give away all of your cash,

there is a caveat. Some studies show money can make us somewhat happier if we spend it right.

Spending money on experiences rather than on things does make people happier, thanks to a phenomenon called hedonistic adaptation. That's what happens when the excitement about buying something new diminishes as we incorporate that item into daily life.

Material things also let us down because they don't contribute to social connections. Where material things can be taken away, experiences become part of us. They can't be taken away.

Experiences also allow us to bond with other people, even if it's just in the retelling of our experiences.

If you want to be happier and healthier, have dinner with your friends, call your family more often, join a club or volunteer. Is it that simple? Science says it can be. ■

A Word About Water

Head Spinning With Laundry Options?

Wash clothes efficiently without getting caught in the information spin cycle

Washing machines perform a fairly simple function. They clean dirty clothes. But prospective buyers can be overwhelmed with the different models and all the bells and whistles available: top-loading, front-loading, high-efficiency, water saver, steaming and wrinkle removing, to name a few.

Energy-efficient machines—identified by the Energy Star logo—should be a priority for cost-conscious consumers.

An estimated 93% of American households have a clothes washer, adding up to 102 million across America.

About 9 million washing machines are sold each year. Efficient models account for slightly more than one-third of sales.

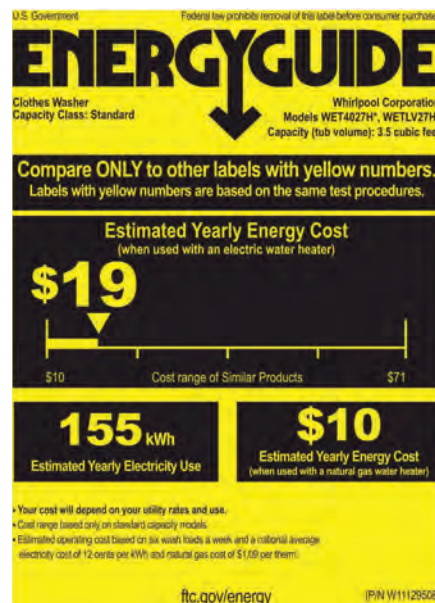
Energy Star-rated washing machines cost slightly more than their less-efficient counterparts—from \$400 to \$1,500, depending on features.

To determine how much electricity a particular unit will use, read the yellow EnergyGuide before buying.

An energy-efficient washing machine can save the typical homeowner about \$50 a year, or \$540 to \$600 during the life of the appliance. Efficient machines also save more than 5,000 gallons of water a year.

The energy and water efficiencies of clothes washers are measured according to their modified energy factor and water factor. These criteria generally limit Energy Star qualifiers to front-loading and advanced top-loading models.

Front-loading clothes washers use a horizontal or tumble-axis basket to lift and drop clothing into the water, instead of rubbing clothes around a central agitator in a full tub. These units use less energy than conventional clothes washers by reducing the amount of hot water needed to clean clothes. They also squeeze more water out of clothes



Appliances with the Energy Star seal use less energy and water than non-certified models.

by using spin speeds two to three times faster than conventional washers, reducing drying time and energy use.

Energy Star-qualified top-loaders typically use spray valves to rinse clothes, rather than a new tub of water. This not only reduces the energy required for heating water, but typically saves an average of 15 gallons of water per wash compared with conventional clothes washers.

Qualified top-loaders also boast sensors to monitor and adjust incoming water temperature. This keeps water hot enough to dissolve the detergent and provide high-performance cleaning, but cool enough to save energy and minimize hot-water damage to fabrics.

One limitation of efficient top-loading washers is many models do not offer a high-temperature standard wash option.

Look for the Energy Star logo and shop at a store with knowledgeable staff to find a washing machine that will, over time, pay for itself. ■

Making a Difference

Glades Electric Charitable Trust marks milestone

This year, the Glades Electric Charitable Trust celebrates 20 years of awarding assistance grants to local organizations and individuals in need. Two board members, Lee Andrus and Beverly Eaves, also celebrate milestone years.

The nine-member Charitable Trust board comprised of Glades Electric Cooperative members administers funds collected when fellow members of the cooperative opt to round up their electric bills to the nearest whole dollar through Operation Round Up.

The Charitable Trust is fortunate to have dedicated board members to carry out the benevolent work of our members participating in Operation Round Up.

Lee Andrus District 6—Highlands Park

Lee has served on the Charitable Trust board since its inception. He recalls his first meeting. The trust had an application for assistance, but no funds yet.

He says he has been honored to serve and help others, and has been touched by the notes of thanks from grant recipients and drawings from children. He is proud of the board's work and that it is a resource to help community members.

During his 20 years, Lee has become aware of the community's wide-ranging needs. The Charitable Trust has received applications for everything from tires to funeral expenses for individuals, clothes dryers for the Potter's House for women and a special needs baseball field through the Miracle League.

Applications have slowed in recent years, but he remembers one month the trust received 28 applications. The board spends hours reviewing applications.

Lee's heart for service is not limited to

"Everybody cares. It comes from the heart. We have a good group of board members who want to do the best for each and every applicant."

—Beverly Eaves



Lee Andrus was honored for 20 years of service by District 6 Trustee Lee Henderson.

the Charitable Trust. He volunteers with his wife at the AdventHealth Lake Placid emergency room, restocking and cleaning patient areas. He serves at the Masonic Lodges in Lake Placid and Moore Haven, and volunteers at Archbold Biological Station, helping with summer camp and fourth grade field trip programs.

Beverly Eaves District 2—Hendry County

When she joined the Charitable Trust board 10 years ago, Beverly says she was a bit overwhelmed by the large number of applicants seeking assistance.

Charitable Trust members investigate each application, which was a bigger commitment than the 30-year Hendry County resident anticipated. Her district covers an entire county, and she was



Beverly Eaves was honored for 10 years of service by District 2 Trustee Barney Goodman.

working. She still works part time.

Beverly says it was rewarding to help a family or individual, but she learned she had to be discerning to make sure funds were disbursed most effectively.

Beverly says she has enjoyed getting to know applicants through the years.

Lately, the Charitable Trust has had more organizational than individual applicants. While Beverly likes that many can be helped through one organizational grant, she wants individuals to know about the opportunity for assistance.

Organizational recipients that have really touched Beverly include the Joseph 863 Foundation in Clewiston, which provides scholarships for vocational training, and Toys for Tots in Hendry and Glades counties, which provides Christmas gifts to families in need. ■



20 YEARS

OF NEIGHBORS
HELPING NEIGHBORS

1999 The first year
of assistance.
Incorporated in March of 1996.

\$1,417,855.98
Amount awarded to
assist individuals and
organizations.

Individuals have received assistance with:



- Handicapped ramps
- Roofing repairs
- Air conditioning repairs
- Tornado recovery
- Pumps for wells



- Medical bills
- Transportation costs to
and from medical visits



- Putting food in homes

A variety of organizations throughout Florida's Heartland have received grants awarded by the Glades Electric Charitable Trust made possible by Operation Round Up funds. Some of these include:



THE AGAPE HOME INC.
(Providing repairs after storm damage)

**THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
OF THE HIGHLANDS**

**MARINE TOYS FOR TOTS OF HENDRY/
GLADES COUNTIES**

THE CALL RADIO STATION
(Tower expansion to Moore Haven/Clewiston)

MIRACLE LEAGUE OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY

NUHOPE ELDER CARE SERVICES INC.
(Holiday bags for seniors)

CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN INC.



When you participate in Operation Round Up, your bill is
rounded up to the next whole dollar amount.

Your small change can change lives!

Understanding Your Electric Bill

Match the numbers on page 29 with the descriptions below to decipher various charges



Through our SmartHub app, you have access to your daily electricity use within 24 hours of consumption. This helps you become more aware of use as it occurs, allowing you to track and manage consumption BEFORE your billing cycle closes.

Visit www.smarthubapp.com or the Apple or Google Play app stores to download the app to your smartphone or tablet.

1. Service address—This is the physical address where your meter is located. When discussing your account or reporting an outage, this is the address we will use.

2. Days in billing period—The number of days in the billing period has a direct impact on your total bill, so it's important to take note of this when comparing your bill to a previous cycle.

3. Rate class—We have different rate classes such as residential, business and pump accounts, among others, that are based on electricity demand, system load and necessary infrastructure.

4. Kilowatt-hour charge—This is the rate at which your actual use is charged. For residential accounts, the first 1,000 kWh is charged at 10.25 cents per kWh. The kWh charge recovers not only the cost of electricity, but the cost of system infrastructure. To account for the higher capacity equipment needed for the additional demand on the system, use exceeding 1,000 kWh is charged at 14 cents per kWh. This rate structure encourages conservation and reduces the impact of prices on low- and fixed-income members.

5. Power cost adjustment—The power cost adjustment is based on the cost of fuel used to generate the electricity you use. The cost of coal or natural gas changes monthly. If the cost is different than budgeted, the savings or excess cost is reflected in this adjustment.

6. Tier tracker—To maintain a fiscally sound financial position, the cooperative aims to achieve a target operating margin over the course of a calendar year based on actual monthly data for prior months during the calendar year and estimated monthly data for the remaining months in

the year. As necessary, the board of trustees may adjust this additional rate (currently at less than a penny per kWh), to achieve the required operating margins.

7. Base charge—This is a flat monthly fee to cover the part of the cost of operating the business that is not factored into the kWh charge. This amount is based on rate class.

8. Florida gross receipts—This is a 2.5641% tax imposed on the sale, delivery or transportation of natural gas, manufactured gas or electricity to retail consumers in Florida. The taxes collected are paid directly to the state of Florida.

9. Roundup amount—If you participate in Operation Round Up, your bill is rounded up to the next whole dollar amount and donated to Glades Electric Charitable Trust. Your monthly contribution will never exceed 99 cents. Individuals in need and local nonprofit organizations can submit applications to the Charitable Trust Board of Directors to receive assistance. If you don't have a round-up amount on your bill and would like to be part of Operation Round Up, call Member Services at 863-946-6200 to join. Your pennies help change lives for those in need.

10. Payment terms—This section covers dates for which disconnection and late fees will be imposed, and other payment terms.

11. Monthly use—This chart allows you to visualize the fluctuations in your use during the past 13 months. You can easily compare your most recent month's use to the same month in the previous year. We also calculate your average kWh per day and cost per day for the most recent month. This is helpful to compare to your previous bill to determine the actual change in your daily use from the prior month.



PO Box 519
Moore Haven FL 33471-0519

Pay By Phone: 1-844-201-7203
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 7am - 6pm
Phone: 863-946-6200
Fax: 863-946-6262 www.gladeselectric.com

Account Number 999999999

Statement Date 08/15/2019 Due Date 09/05/2019

Billing Summary

Balance From Last Billing	227.00
Payment Received 08/05/19	227.00 CR
Balance Forward	0.00
Current Charges	240.00
Account Balance	240.00

4444 1 AV 0.383
JOHN SMITH
PO BOX 555
HEARTLAND FL 33000-1111

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C-3

1

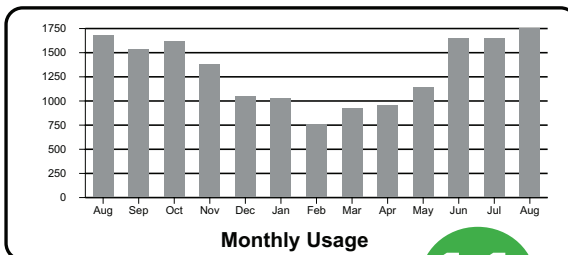


2

3

4

Serv Add: 123 Any Street				Rate Class: 10		Rate: Residential		
Meter	Type	From	To	Days	Prev Rdg	Pres Rdg	Usage	Multiplier
99999999	KWH	07/07/19	08/07/19	31	79292	81044	1752	1



Current Month Average kwh Per Day: 57
Current Average Cost Per Day: \$7.74

11

Details of Electric Charges

Kwh Charge	1,000 kwh @ 0.10250	102.50
Kwh Charge	752 kwh @ 0.14000	105.28
Power Cost Adjustment	1,752 kwh @ -0.01498	26.24 CR
Tier Tracker	1,752 kwh @ 0.00398	6.97
Base Charge		45.00
Florida Gross Receipts		5.99
Roundup Amt		0.50
Total This Service		240.00

To Be Paid by Draft

9

5

6

7

8



JOHN SMITH
PO BOX 555
HEARTLAND FL 33000-1111

10

PAYMENT TERMS

Payment must be received prior to 09/13/2019 to avoid disconnection.
Payment must be received on the due date to avoid a 5% late charge.
Current due date does not apply to past due amounts.
Second notice will not be sent.
Postmark does not qualify as date received.

Account # 999999999

Due Date 09/05/2019 \$240.00
Amount After Due Date \$252.00

Cycle: 2

Amount Enclosed \$

Pay By Phone: 1-844-201-7203

GLADES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
PO BOX 519
MOORE HAVEN FL 33471-0519

2



Do Not Pay -- Paid by Draft

Reporting Outages Online

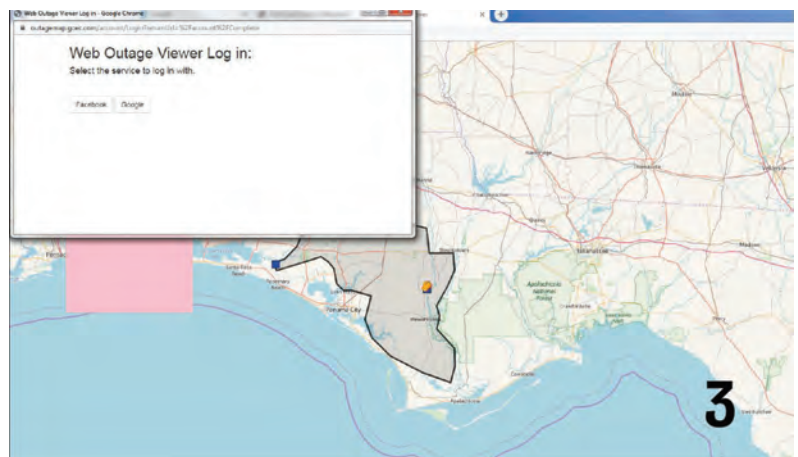
Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer members this step-by-step guide



Step 1: Visit www.gcec.com and click on “Outage Map” on the left side of the homepage.



Step 2: On the Outage Map page, click on the “Log In” button on the right side of the page.



Step 3: A pop-up will give you the option to log in with Facebook or a Google account.

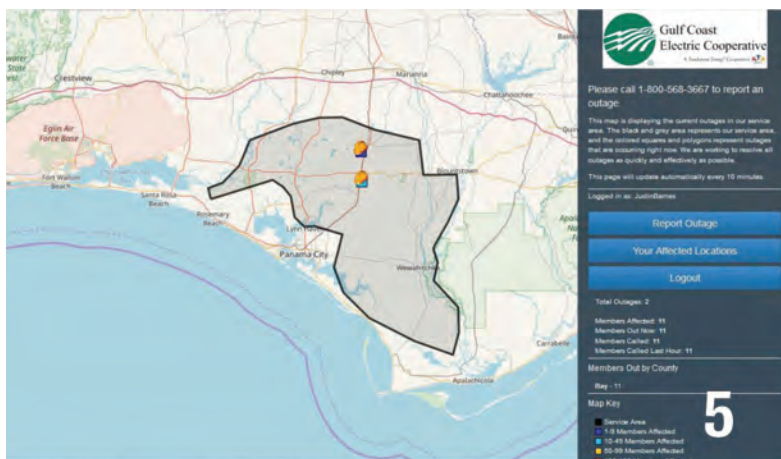
Prefer to Report a Power Outage by Phone?

If you would rather call in a power outage report than use the online reporting system, please use one of these numbers:

- ▶ **Southport** 850-265-3631 or 800-568-3667
- ▶ **Wewahitchka** 850-639-2216 or 800-333-9392

4

Step 4: Enter your account number and meter number, as shown on your bill. The system will save this information for future logins.



5

Step 5: Once registered, this is what the screen should show. To report an outage, click “Report Outage.”

6

Step 6: The system will automatically retrieve address information. Click the affected address. If you want a representative to call you back, click that box and enter your callback number.

Florida’s Co-ops Assert Proposed Reregulation Ballot Amendment is False and Misleading

On August 28, the Florida Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the proposed constitutional amendment to reregulate Florida’s energy industry. It is the Supreme Court’s responsibility to determine if the amendment meets the legal requirements to appear on the November 2020 ballot for Florida voters to consider.

The Florida Electric Cooperatives Association—on behalf of Gulf Coast Electric, 14 other distribution cooperatives and two generation and transmission cooperatives—is one of many opponents to this initiative.

One of the most serious concerns expressed by FECA during oral arguments was the misleading nature and false statements made in the ballot summary. The language that would appear on the ballot for voters to consider if this amendment is approved by the Supreme Court states that cooperatives and their consumer-members will only be affected should they choose to “opt into competitive markets.”

“The ballot summary doesn’t just kind of inform or partially inform; it affirmatively misleads and does not tell the truth with regard to the impact on cooperatives,” said George Meros of Holland & Knight, which represents FECA.

This amendment will have immediate, substantial and inescapable consequences on Florida’s cooperatives and their consumer-members. Should the amendment appear on the November 2020 ballot and receive more than 60% of the vote, it will eliminate many of the cooperatives’ power supply agreements, which can affect access to electricity at affordable and predictable prices, disrupt cooperatives’ service areas and impact cooperatives’ operations given the complexity of Florida’s electric grid.

The Florida Supreme Court convenes behind closed doors to make its decision. Its opinion will be released in the weeks ahead.

“We are proud of the safe, reliable and affordable service we provide to our consumer-members,” said GCEC CEO John Bartley. “We put the interests of our consumer-members above all else. That’s why we chose to participate in this case before the Florida Supreme Court—to ensure our consumer-members are informed of potential consequences if the amendment passes.”

Understanding Our Principles

Cooperatives worldwide are guided by a business model that puts members first

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance. Cooperatives trace the roots of these principles to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England, in 1844. These principles are a key reason America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first.

1. Open and Voluntary Membership

Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote). Cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, setting up reserves, benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

5. Education, Training and Information

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives.

THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

ONE VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

TWO DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

THREE MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

FOUR AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE
AND INFORMATION
FIVE EDUCATION, TRAINING
AND INFORMATION
SIX COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES
SEVEN CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

**October is National Cooperative Month.
See the story on page 32.**

Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

By working together through local, regional, national and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

7. Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership. ■

PRECO Offers Payment Options

Paying your Peace River Electric Cooperative power bill is a snap. Whether online, by phone or in person, PRECO offers members several convenient options.

Pay Online

From your smartphone or tablet, you can access your account and make a payment with our SmartHub mobile app. Another option is to go through your online account at www.preco.coop. You also can use the no-registration “Pay Now” option, keying in your name and account number at www.preco.coop.

Auto Pay

Set it and forget it by making automatic payments through your checking/savings account or credit/debit card. Enroll online or call 800-282-3824 for the authorization form.

Mail Your Payment

Peace River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 1547
Wauchula, FL 33873

** Mail at least 10 days before the due date to allow for delivery.*

Important Note

With many third-party services—such as Doxo and Amscot—payments can take five to 10 days to reach us. If your payment due date is getting close, you risk late fees or disconnection when using one of these payment services.

Pay by Phone

Pay with a credit or debit card by calling 855-386-9924.

In Person

Visit one of our offices between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for face-to-face service:

210 Metheny Road, Wauchula

14505 Arbor Green Trail, Lakewood Ranch

We accept cash, check and credit/debit cards (Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express).

After normal business hours, you can leave your payment (check, no cash, please) in the night deposit box at the offices in Wauchula or Lakewood Ranch. ■

Convenient Ways to Pay Your PRECO Electric Bill

	 AutoPay	 SmartHub	 PayNow	 Phone	 Mail	 Night Deposit	 Office
I want to pay with credit or debit card	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
I want to pay with a paper check					✓	✓*	✓
I want to pay with cash							✓
I want to pay with electronic check	✓	✓	✓	✓			
I want to pay anytime, 24/7		✓	✓	✓		✓*	

*Night Deposit payments are processed on the next business day

Is Your Home Assistant Draining Your Energy Bill?



The Amazon Echo Plus is one of the most popular smart speakers on the market today. It retails for about \$150. It reportedly sounds better than the regular Echo, and has a built-in smart hub and temperature sensor.

Photo courtesy of Amazon

Have you ever wanted to turn off the lights, listen to the news or order food by simply using your voice? That is the power a home assistant can provide.

These handy products have made their way into homes across the country since the first smart speaker became available in late 2014. By the end of 2018, there were 66.4 million users of smart home assistants or smart home speakers in the U.S.

One in four Americans own a smart speaker, and 40% have more than one. The most popular is the Amazon Echo, although Google Home products are selling at a rapid rate and taking over some of the market share from Amazon. Other brands of smart speakers are Apple's HomePod, the Sonos One and the JBL Link 10.

Google Home starts at about \$70. The Amazon Echo starts at about \$100. Smaller, more basic versions—the Amazon Echo Dot and the Google Home Mini—start at \$30.

These smart speakers can truly act as assistants by helping you set reminders, establishing routine commands or informing you of today's top stories. They can even tell you a joke!

As smart speakers become more popular, you may wonder if these products affect your energy bill. Tests have been conducted to see how much power a smart speaker uses during different modes of use, such as when the assistant is on standby, listening to a command or engaged in moderate-level actions like playing music at full volume.

The Amazon Echo speaker uses 3 watts of electricity while on standby. If left on standby mode for one year, the total cost would be about \$3.15. While moderately active—like playing music at a medium volume—the Echo uses 4 watts. At the highest power use—like playing music at full volume—the Echo uses 6.6 watts, which is just slightly more than double its standby use. If used consistently at this level, it would cost \$6.93 for the year.

The Google Home uses slightly less energy than the Amazon Echo at 2 watts while in standby mode, saving you about \$1 a year in total energy costs.

The cost to use smart speakers is minimal, and the difference between available products and their abilities are relatively small. There are plenty of reasons to buy a smart speaker. The impact on your energy bill should not stop you from getting one. ■