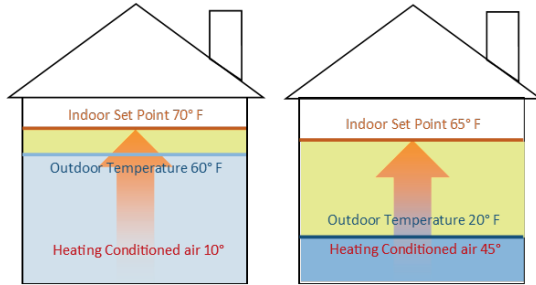


Monthly Co-op Progress Report - October 2019



Cold Weather and Energy Consumption



They say there are only two things that are certain: death and taxes. However, there is a third certainty – when temperatures plunge or soar, energy usage and electric bills go up.

In the VEC service area, temperatures typically start dropping dramatically in December and January. The temperature change prompts many to call and ask why the December bill is so much higher than the November bill.

If our members heat their home using electricity, the answer is pretty straightforward – the lower the outdoor temperature goes, the more power a home's heating system must apply to raise the indoor temperature to a comfortable level.

For example, if the outdoor temperature is 60 degrees and a home's thermostat is set at 70 degrees, the heating system will have to use enough energy to raise the indoor temperature by 10 degrees.

However, if the outdoor temperature drops to 20 degrees, the home's heating system will have to use enough energy to raise the indoor temperature by 50 degrees to maintain the thermostat setting of 70 degrees - that's five times as much energy.

Even if the homeowner lowers the thermostat to 65 degrees during the cold snap (which is too cool for most people), the heating system will still have to use enough energy to raise the indoor temperature by 45 degrees. That's more than four times the energy than was used on the 70-degree day.

So when an energy consumer compares their fall bills to their winter bills, many times they are not comparing apples to apples. A more accurate similarity is to compare a January energy bill to another year's January energy bill.

For more specific information about your energy usage visit our website www.vec.org and sign into your account. You can get the same information on your smartphone by downloading the SmartHub app from Google Play or the App Store.

VEC College Scholarship Deadline is March 6

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) wants to reward students who have used their time and talents to benefit their local communities. VEC's Lillard-Shadow scholarship program rewards academic and community service achievements by awarding four \$2,000 scholarships to students who will graduate from high schools in VEC's service area in the spring of 2020.

The scholarships honor J.W. Lillard and Willis A Shadow, two community leaders who spearheaded efforts to bring electric power to Decatur and Meigs County in the 1930s, forming the organization that would become Volunteer Energy Cooperative. Mr. Shadow and Mr. Lillard were instrumental in improving the lives and livelihoods of thousands of residents through electric power.

Four awards of \$500 per semester each (renewable for up to four semesters) will be presented to spring 2019 high school graduates whose parents or guardians are VEC customers. Applications will be judged by an independent panel based on each student's community service activities and citizenship - 40%; written communication skills - 20 %; financial need - 25%; and academic achievement - 15%.

Scholarship applications are available at any VEC Customer Service Center or from high school counselors in the VEC service area. Applications are also available online at www.vec.org.

All application materials must be completed and delivered to VEC's Corporate Office in Decatur no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time on March 6, 2020.



We're Thankful for Your Membership

"Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling."

In the spirit of this quote by author and poet Henry Van Dyke, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC), we can make our community a better place.

I generally use my column to provide updates on new projects and developments and report out on the progress of ongoing initiatives. We share these updates so that all of our consumer-members have a window into our priorities, progress, and challenges. However, as a new year begins, I think it's equally important to let you and other consumer-members of VEC know just what an impact you have on our cooperative and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is "Concern for Community." While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

We work closely with our local schools to provide safety demonstrations, award college scholarships and support STEM programs. VEC also participates in an annual Youth Tour where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week to experience democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for many students, and we are both humbled and honored to be a part of this leadership development journey. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs. You empower the cooperative through your membership and your participation in and support of these programs.

When you attend cooperative events, alert us to problems, provide suggestions online, or share concerns with VEC employees you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the larger cooperative membership.

Because members of our community locally govern us, we can get a firsthand perspective on community priorities, such as high-speed broadband, community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, and electric vehicle programs. We are thankful that our cooperative board members carve out time to attend valuable training



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy Cooperative





The VECustomers Share program funded \$27,700 in community service grants in November. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, over \$6.8 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last working day of each month. For additional information, contact the office of Marketing and Economic Development, at 423-334-7051. Applications are also available online, at www.vec.org.



VECustomers Shares Board Member Gary Gilmore presents a grant check to Mary Drinkard representing the Spring City Friends of the Library. They will use the fund to sponsor the summer reading program, the children's Christmas party, and a new floor for the library.

Organizations receiving grants in November

Bledsoe County Community Food Bank	\$2,500	Ms. Robin Storie's 3rd Grade Reading Club	\$650
Happy Hearts Seniors	\$1,500	Pickett County Cattleman's Association	\$650
Monterey Mission Center	\$1,250	Salem Baptist Church Food Pantry	\$600
Monterey Lions Club, Inc.	\$1,250	Meigs South Elementary (MSE)	
Fentress County Food Bank	\$1,100	Kindergarten Club	\$600
Byrdstown Senior Center	\$1,013	Ooltewah Elementary School PTA	\$500
Hwy. 58 Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.	\$1,000	Central High School Ruriteen Club	\$500
Church of the Nazarene Christmas Toy Store	\$1,000	Shepherd's Little Flock	\$500
Operation REACH	\$1,000	Fairfield Glade Community Club	
Cleveland Lions Club	\$1,000	Police Department	\$500
Manna House Ministries	\$1,000	Martin Positive Behavior Support Team	\$500
McMinn County Foster Care Association	\$1,000	York Elementary Accelerated Reading Program	\$400
Roane County Robotics-Full Metal Jackets	\$800	Polk County High School Beta Club	\$387
McMinn County Youth Football Organization	\$750	Meigs Fury 12U Softball	\$300
STARTS (Support The ARTS)- Cumberland County	\$750	Bradley Bears Baseball Team Boosters	\$300
McMinn County Rescue Squad- Rescue Christmas	\$750	Meigs County Chamber of Commerce	\$300
SLF NO1, LLC DBA Wyndridge Health and Rehab	\$750	Cumberland County High School Jets Wrestling	\$250
Meigs High School Tennis Boosters	\$700	Student Government Association- TCAT Crossville	\$250
Bradley Broadcasting	\$700	Pleasant Hill	\$250
		Stone Memorial Recycling Program	\$250
		Meigs County Crush 8U Baseball	\$200

(continued from page 1)

sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This results in advisers that serve the cooperative's interests in a way that our consumer-members expect and deserve.

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our linemen and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we are trying to restore power during challenging situations and prolonged periods.

VEC was initially established 84 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you.



The 12 Days of Holiday Safety

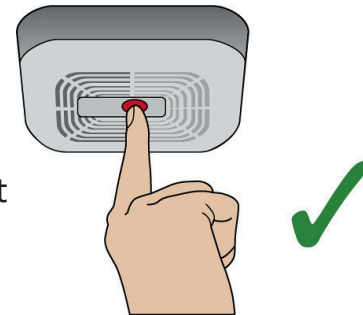
by Paige Finnell

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is upon us – we want to help you make this winter a safe one. It's as easy as 1,2,3 to make safety a part of your holiday with these tips.

Tackle one of these a day and you're well on your way to keeping you and your family safe in the New Year.

Day 1 – What's that noise?

Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and make sure everyone is aware of the sound emitted by these devices. Multiple alarms should be placed throughout the home and on every level.



Day 2 – Escape Route:

Go over the escape route with your family and any guest that might be staying at your home during the holiday season.

Day 3 – What a shocker?

Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage. Cracked, loose or bare wires may cause a serious shock or can start a fire. Before you put these away after the holidays, give them another quick look.

Day 4 – Two's company, three's a crowd.

Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices. Overloading electrical outlets is a common cause of holiday fires.

Day 5 – Is it working?

Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to make sure they are protecting you.

Day 6 – Look out below.

Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas. When using extension cords outside make sure they are marked for outdoor use.

Day 7 – Ouch!

Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children. Children are always curious and are prone to investigating items by putting them in their mouth.

Day 8 – Thirsty?

Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh green tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. Place your tree at least three feet away from all heat sources.

Day 9 – Make a wish!

Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed. Use battery-operated candles in place of traditional candles whenever possible. Almost half of home decoration fires are caused by traditional candles, according to the National Fire Protection Association

Day 10 – Nice and Warm.

Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn – decorations, trees, gifts, and curtains.

Day 11 – Can't touch this!

Consider installing tamper-resistant outlet receptacles. Cover any unused extension cords with plastic caps to prevent children from inserting objects into the slots and coming in contact with the live circuit.

Day 12 – Hot Stuff!

Keep children away from cooking areas – at least 3 feet: use back burners on your stove and turn pot handles in a direction so little hands can't reach them. Once your holiday meal is complete, double check to make sure the stove and oven are off.

There's no greater gift you can give your family than a safe and happy holiday season!



UPDATE YOUR PHONE NUMBER TODAY

When you update your phone number(s) you will become eligible for a prize drawing.

You can update your information by calling your service center, using SmartHub, or by logging into your account at vec.org. You can also use the form on the back of your bill.



Tennessee Valley Authority

Residential & Outdoor Lighting
Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective **December 1, 2019**

1.893¢

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.