



Safety tips for the most wonderful time of the year

They're right around the corner! Along with all the fun and family time that the holidays bring, come situations where electrical safety can be a concern.

To make sure VEC consumer-members enjoy an injury-free holiday, we asked Superintendent of Safety Ty Ratcliff to offer some reminders for the upcoming season.

"A lot of folks start putting up holiday lights right after Thanksgiving—or even before!" he says. "Be sure to inspect both your indoor and outdoor light strands for broken sockets, frayed wires, and loose connections. If it's time to replace your old lights with new ones, look for ones that have been approved by nationally recognized testing labs—and only buy from reputable retailers. If your philosophy is 'the more lights, the better,' avoid overloading outlets. And make sure you use the right kind of light strand for the right application. Lights rated for indoor use only feature a green holographic mark on the tag next to the plug, while a red mark indicates lights that are safe for both indoor and outdoor use. Outdoor lights should be plugged into GFCI outlets. Use only heavy-duty extension cords outside, making note of the wattage rating of the cord as well as the power requirements of the lighted decorations you're planning to plug into it. If you need a ladder to hang your lights, use one that is made of a non-conductive material like wood or fiberglass—just to be on the safe side. And always unplug that amazing light display before you leave home or go to bed."

Because this is the time of year when portable electric space heaters

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are often being turned on for the first time since last winter, Ratcliff urges everyone to stay safe around them: "Always plug space heaters into a wall outlet—not a power strip. Make sure they are placed on the floor at least three feet away from flammable objects. If you're in the market for a new one, look for UL-approved heaters that offer a built-in shutoff that automatically cuts the power if they are tipped over or become too hot. And last but not least, never leave a space heater running in a room unattended. That way, if anything should go wrong, you can take action quickly."

Finally, it makes sense to be extra-aware of kitchen safety this time of year. "With family coming to celebrate around the holiday table," says Ratcliff, your kitchen appliances are likely to be getting a work-out. Always have someone on duty when cooking is underway; accidents can happen



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Volunteer Energy Cooperative Statements of Income and Earnings Reinvested in System Assets Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

Operating Revenue

Sale of electric energy	
Residential	\$153,247,813
Commercial	23,604,923
Industrial	56,730,385
Street and other lighting	4,095,703
Total sale of electric energy	237,678,824
Other revenue	6,377,265
Total operating revenue	244,056,089

Operating Expenses

Cost of power purchased from TVA	\$181,671,948
Distribution and transmission expense	16,562,248
Customer accounts expense	4,418,181
Customer service, sales and Information expense	633,680
Administrative and general expense	6,693,122
Depreciation	17,868,874
Taxes	3,104,207
Interest expense	569,294
Total operating expense and interest	231,521,734

Operating Income 12,534,355

Other income	3,250,129
Non-Operating Expense	1,899,517

Net Income \$13,884,967

Earnings Reinvested in System Assets

Beginning of fiscal year	\$280,528,311
End of fiscal year	\$286,830,946



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative

Building a Brighter Future for our Communities

The next time you pass a factory, I encourage you to put some thought into how it ended up there. Factories often bring new jobs and tax revenue with them, so when a business is looking to relocate or expand, there are often many communities working hard to recruit them. In most cases, factories and other large businesses don't decide to locate in a community by chance. It is the result of a long and thorough site selection process. Most people don't realize how heavily involved VEC is in recruiting new businesses and jobs to our communities. It's something we focus on every single day, and it has a significant impact on you and your neighbors.

Much of this work goes on "behind the scenes," which may explain why not a lot of people seem to know about it. I'm on a mission to change that...

VEC staff members meet regularly with federal, state, and local partners. We're at the table when USDA Rural Development loans are being discussed and advocating for local applicants for grant funding. We also have great relationships with local chambers of commerce.

However, our participation goes far beyond meetings. When a local manufacturer needs an uninterruptable supply of power, we're doing what it takes to make that happen. When a site selection consultant is considering our area, one of the first things they want to know about is what it will take to get electricity to the location, our record of reliability, and the affordability of our rates. When local representatives gather to welcome a prospect for a site tour, you can be sure that somebody wearing a VEC hardhat is part of that group.

Our support for existing businesses is just as robust. We often provide technical know-how for local businesses and industries who are looking to improve their bottom lines through energy efficiency. When they're ready to expand, we're right there with the additional energy capabilities they will need.

Our electric rates are below the national average, and that often plays a key role in bringing businesses and the jobs they provide to our area and helping them prosper once they've arrived.

Our community needs jobs to grow and thrive, and capital investments in our area keep taxes low for everyone. Whether it's attending a ribbon-cutting sponsored by a local chamber of commerce or wielding one of those "golden shovels" used to break ground at the site of a new industry, Volunteer Energy Cooperative is there, playing an essential role in securing the economic future of our communities.



VEC Customers Shares is a grant program funded through the rounding up of members' bills to the nearest dollar. The most an individual member would pay within a year is \$11.88. Our members' yearly average is usually about \$5.50 each.

In return for the rounded up change from our members, we contribute to organizations across our 17 county service area. Each month the VEC Customers Share Board meets and distributes the funds collected in the previous month. A board member represents every service area. In September, VEC Customers Share Grants totaled \$26,300.

Project Lifesaver is a community based, non-profit organization that provides first responders with necessities to help those with cognitive disorders. The grant money they received (\$1,300) will help them purchase new equipment like transmitters, batteries, and bands that will be worn by children and adults who suffer from mental handicaps. "This grant will help in purchasing six more transmitters for Project Lifesaver," said Rick Butler, Representative of Project Lifesaver. "This program works off of donations only, and we are truly grateful for this grant," continued Butler.

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VECcustomers Shares Roane County Board member Rodney Fowler (left) presented a check to Rick Butler, Representative of Project Lifesaver.

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Since the inception of the program in October 2001, VECcustomers Share members have awarded over \$7.3 million in grants. 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 <https://vec.org/community-programs/veccustomers-share/>



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when stove burners or the oven is left unattended. Keep pot holders, dish towels, and other flammable items away from heat sources. It should go without saying, but—for those folks who opt for a deep-fried Christmas turkey—never use an outdoor frying setup indoors. No matter how cold it is outside!"



Organizations receiving grants in October

Fairfield Glade Fire Department	\$1,700.00	Friends of Harrison Bay State Park	\$500.00
Women at the Well	\$1,250.00	American Cancer Society-Polk County	\$500.00
Operation REACH	\$1,000.00	York Cross Country Program	\$500.00
Boys and Girls Clubs of the Ocoee Region	\$1,000.00	Gamma Zeta Teachers Society	\$500.00
Pickett County High School		Pickett County Coordinated School Health	\$500.00
Mathematics Club	\$1,000.00	Valley Christian Academy Parent/Teacher Fellowship	\$500.00
William Hall Rodgers		Holiday Food Baskets	\$1,000.00
Holiday Food Baskets	\$1,000.00	Fentress County Bulldog Cheerleaders Organization	\$500.00
Spring City Recreation Club, Inc.	\$1,000.00	Fentress County Bulldogs Football Organization	\$500.00
Chilhowee Middle School		Shenandoah Boys Ranch	\$500.00
Boys Basketball	\$1,000.00	Obed Watershed Community Association	\$500.00
McMinn County Foster Care Association	\$1,000.00	Midway Quarterback Club	\$500.00
Rockhouse Ministries & Programs	\$1,000.00	Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization	\$500.00
MARA Medical Ministry	\$800.00	Harrison Bay Future Ready Center Robotics Club	\$500.00
Burks Elementary PTO	\$750.00	Meigs County-Decatur Chamber of Commerce-Downtown Christmas	\$500.00
American Cancer Society-Hamilton County	\$750.00	IIKA Art Palmers	
Monterey High School Girls Basketball	\$750.00	School of Isshinryu Youth Tournament	\$300.00
Meigs County FFA Alumni	\$650.00	American Cancer Society- Bradley County	\$250.00
Meigs County Retired Teachers (MCRT)	\$650.00	American Cancer Society- Putnum County	\$250.00
Bradley County Lacrosse	\$525.00	Toys for Children	\$250.00
UCHRA CASA of Cumberland County	\$500.00	Raider Blue Academy	\$225.00
Fentress County Fair Association	\$500.00	Meigs County Spanish Club	\$200.00
Stone Memorial High School			
Class of 2024	\$500.00		
Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Chapter	\$500.00		

Tennessee Valley Authority

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment Effective

November 1, 2021

2.376¢



For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org
Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.



Financial Statements Volunteer Energy Cooperative Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021 Assets

Electric plant in service	\$523,077,256
Less depreciation	263,138,423
Total	259,938,833
Other property and investments	12,610,413
Current and accrued assets	
Cash and temporary cash investments	48,914,826
Accounts receivable	14,622,964
Materials and supplies	10,310,370
Prepayments	756,472
Other current assets	1,747,603
Total	76,352,235
Deferred debits	
Receivables-conservation	4,069,598
Other deferred debits	2,579,724
Total	6,649,322
Total assets	\$355,550,803

Capital and Liabilities

Capital	
Membership certificates	\$472,365
Earnings reinvested in system assets	286,830,946
Total	287,303,311
Long term debt	3,267,070
Other noncurrent liabilities	21,878,034
Current and accrued liabilities	
Other notes payable	-0-
Accounts payable	19,225,649
Customer deposits	5,227,479
Taxes and interest	1,230,097
Other current liabilities	1,189,948
Total	26,873,173
Deferred credits	6,229,215
Total capital and liabilities	\$355,550,803

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