

**THE ELECTRIC COMPANY THAT
DOESN'T STOP AT YOUR METER**

Butler REC **NEWS**

FROM THE MANAGER

Update on Butler's Grassroots Efforts

Last year many of you graciously volunteered to be part of a grassroots effort for Butler REC in the event we needed help communicating with government leaders about important issues.

Together, the Butler REC Board and management, along with your valuable support, has a goal is to make every attempt to keep power affordable, safe and reliable. Your past and continued support, along with tens of thousands of individuals like you across the country, plays an important role informing legislators and government regulators about the impact government policies can have on your power bills.

This past month, we had a critical issue and many of you were sent an e-mail asking for your assistance. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had announced misguided regulations

of carbon dioxide emissions from new coal-based power plants. Unfortunately, the EPA proposal takes our nation's energy and environmental policy in exactly the wrong direction if we have any hope of giving you an affordable power bill.

We still need your help for future attacks on power costs. Our grassroots system is set up so that if we have your e-mail address on file at the cooperative with permission to contact you with important cooperative business, then we can call on you to act when we have a critical issue to address.

If you would like more information about the kind of battles we are waging with legislation and regulation go to the following website, www.ourenergy.coop.

The EPA plan has effectively outlawed coal as a fuel source for the

next generation of power plants—quite contrary to the previously agreed to bi-partisan goal of an “all of the above” energy policy.

The proposed standards would require new coal plants to install a technology that is not yet commercially available called “carbon capture and storage.” Because the technology is not viable, it is estimated it would take 30 percent or more of the output of the generation plant just to run the equipment if and when carbon capture and storage is perfected.

This rule would effectively eliminate coal as a fuel source and reduce America's fuel diversity. The cost of



R. Dale Short

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Make Time-of-Use Demand Work for YOU

How Billing Demand is Determined

- In July and August, the billing demand will be the highest hourly demand during the week day peak hours (5 p.m. to 8 p.m.).
- For the months of September through June, the billing demand will be the greater of:
 - The minimum demand which is 70 percent of the highest monthly demand of either July or August; or
 - Your current monthly demand which is the highest hourly usage during the week day peak hours (5 p.m. to 8 p.m.).

You get FREE DEMAND before 5 p.m. and after 8 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends and most major holidays.

Tips for Copper Theft Prevention

As the price of copper has increased, so has copper theft. While trying to make a quick dollar by stealing copper, thieves risk their own lives and cause dangerous and expensive damage.

Common targets for copper thieves are farming equipment, air conditioners, vacant buildings, construction sites and electric utility properties, including substations and power poles.

Butler REC encourages you to help stop copper theft by reporting suspicious activity near any of these locations.

Copper theft from electric utilities is particularly hazardous to thieves and also to those who rely on electricity. In the past few years, copper thieves have caused power outages at businesses and homes, shutdown traffic lights, and forced hospitals to run on backup generators.

In the worst cases, copper thefts have caused fires and explosions that have taken innocent lives.

Butler REC suggests the following tips to stay safe and help stop copper theft:

- ▶ Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- ▶ If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, hanging wire, etc., contact your electric utility immediately.
- ▶ If you see suspicious activities near electric facilities, call emergency services or your local utility. Do not intervene. Allow officials to handle the situation.
- ▶ If you work in construction, store copper securely, especially overnight.
- ▶ Install motion-sensor lights on the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.
- ▶ Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while away.

For more information on staying safe around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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coal-fired generation has already increased drastically due to EPA required additions to the plants. None of us want dirty air and water for our grandkids, but we need to use the common sense "all of the above" policies that were previously agreed to achieve that goal along with more affordable power bills. **We do want to provide reliable and affordable energy that will keep our grandkids cool and warm don't we?**

The electric cooperatives in Kansas support a comprehensive energy and environmental policy that embraces all fuels (nuclear, natural gas, renewable and coal), maximizes energy efficiency and emphasizes workable technologies that continue to improve our environment.

Many of you may be wondering why the power cost adjustment (PCA) portion of your bill is getting so large. Well, the EPA and other regulation put in place after Japan's nuclear disaster are a big part of the reason.

On a few other issues, thanks to those of you who participated in the co-op's annual phone survey. Your responses are very important to us in addressing future issues.

We also continue to make upgrades to the electric infrastructure.

Recently, we energized a new delivery point north of Andover to help give that area more reliable power and some redundancy in case we lose one of Westar's transmission supplies.

We also were able to complete the work on the Furley to Harvey County transmission line that we own. It supplies the Whitewater, Elbing and Harvey County substations. With our new switches that we installed we are now being fed by a much more reliable transmission line.

Last, but certainly not least at the most recent board meeting the Trustees authorized funding a new circuit directly out of a Westar substation for the Rose Hill metering point.

Not only does this isolate our distribution lines from any blink or outages that occur on Westar's distribution lines in the area, but Westar also has recently constructed a new transmission that supplies that substation. For these reasons, this upgrade will significantly reduce the number of blinks and outages in this area.

This major upgrade is possible because of a great working relationship currently in place between our co-op and Westar and should be completed by sometime next summer.

Don't forget to watch your week-day usage from 5 to 8 p.m.

Butler REC Electrical Contracting



FREE Estimates!

Call one of our certified electricians to help you with your wiring needs.

Call us today!

**316-321-9600 or
800-464-0060**

Residential Wiring - New Service - Service Rebuilds - Generator Hookup

Butler REC Introduces New Website

Butler REC will have a new look on the web beginning August 1.

Our new look at www.butler.coop will be more streamlined and still provide everything that you came to expect from the old website and more.

This website will have current updates and easier navigation to find what you are looking for. Some of the things that you will notice will be:

- ▶ **A friendlier home page.** Here you will be able to see important information about your cooperative, such as news and events, the Manager's Letter, quick links to our subsidiaries and much more.
- ▶ **Easier navigated tabs.** By scrolling across the tabs on the top of the web page you can quickly see what each tab has to offer.
- ▶ **Products and services.** You will be able to find and learn more about what Butler REC offers.
- ▶ **Educational tools.** You will be able to learn more about energy efficiency with our Home Energy Suite and Together We Save tools.
- ▶ **Kids Korner.** Children can also have fun learning about safe electricity and energy efficiency with our Kids Korner section.
- ▶ **Outage information.** You will also have the ability to get the most current information about outages and storm information.

These are just a few of the new things you will find at our new website on August 1.



See our new look on August 1 at www.butler.coop.

Find us on Facebook for Updates

Become a fan of Butler REC on Facebook by clicking the Facebook "like" button on our homepage at www.butler.coop.

Check our Facebook page for updates, outage information and energy efficiency tips. Facebook is a great way to stay in touch with our members.



Winter Contracts are on Their Way!

Check your mailbox this month for more information on winter contracts.

Don't forget, members get one year FREE tank rental. Includes delivery, set-up, regular, pigtail, blocks and a 500 gallon tank.

Over a \$60 value!

There is no need to wait until your tank is empty we can transfer your remaining propane.

For Details Call Today!

**316-320-0324
or
877-558-5770**

Renters Have the Power to Save Electricity

If you rent your home, it often seems that you can't do much to control your electric bills. But in reality, there are lots of low- or no-cost tricks that you can put in place to cut down on electricity use.

Usually leases forbid renters to make alterations to a structure, so your energy-saving solutions have to be simple.

Electronics and Appliances

The notion that regularly powering down your computer will shorten its life is outdated. Nowadays, computers tend to become outdated themselves before frequent shutdowns cause any damage.

The U.S. Department of Energy consumer website, EnergySavers.gov, offers this guideline: If you won't use your computer for more than 20 minutes, shut off the monitor; if you won't use it for more than two hours, shut the whole thing down.

However, there is a caveat: If your computer takes its time waking up, your own time might be worth more than the electricity you save.

Most electronics feature a glowing light when turned off—that means they're still drawing electricity. A quick fix for this “vampire,” or phantom load involves plugging various devices into a power strip. Simply flip the switch on the power strip when you won't be using the devices.

While your hands are most likely tied when it comes to the types of major appliances installed, if one needs to be replaced, lobby your landlord to purchase an ENERGY STAR model. Visit energystar.gov for more information on particular products.

Weatherizing

A roll of weather stripping and a tube of caulk can go a long way in saving energy and money. Check for gaps around doors and windows. Can you see daylight? If so, ask your landlord if you can seal cracks and reduce air flow. While you're talking to your landlord, ask if he or she will pay the cost if you do the labor.

Look to your windows for additional savings. Of course, you probably can't replace them, but if they're drafty in the winter, try

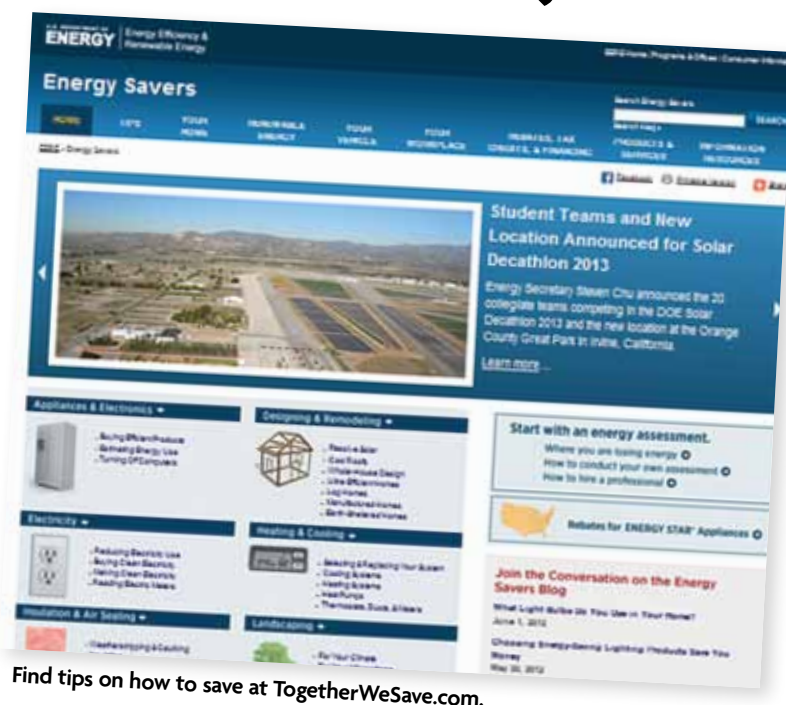
sealing kits you can purchase at any home improvement store. These plastic sheets fit over your window to block drafts. Curtains can also help: close them in the summer to block sunlight and open them in the winter to let the warmth in.

A Few Simple Tips

- ▶ **When lightbulbs burn out, replace them with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).** If they have an ENERGY STAR label, these bulbs typically last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs and use 75 percent less electricity.
- ▶ **Keep your dryer vents clean.** Clogged refrigerator coils and dryer vents will cause your appliances to work harder and increase the risk of fire.
- ▶ **Don't allow furniture to block air vents,** and shut the vents in rooms you don't use.
- ▶ **Check the temperature on your water heater.** These devices don't need to be set at more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit for daily showers and chores.

Find More Ways to Save

When you're trying to save energy and money, it's good to know you're not alone. For more information, visit TogetherWeSave.com.



Find tips on how to save at TogetherWeSave.com.