

Linemen light the world, one life at a time

I've always loved a well-worn joke among our lineworkers. It goes, "If they sent a lineman to the moon, there wouldn't be a dark side."

Our line crews are known for their ability to maintain electric systems, extend distribution lines to growing communities and fix troublespots during storms. Despite these accomplishments, few linemen have experienced the wonder of providing power to a family for the first time. But that's changing fast.

Electricity is something most of us grew up with. With all this talk about climate change, energy efficiency and the impact congressional action might have on our monthly electric bills, we sometimes forget we're lucky to have power at all.

Currently, more than 2 billion people around the globe live without electricity. And as electric co-ops across the country celebrate 75 years of providing safe, reliable and affordable central station electric service for rural Americans, another story unfolds, echoing our success. Volunteer linemen from Tennessee and across the nation are spreading rural electrification overseas, sharing light and hope with war-torn or forgotten communities.

These men and women are volunteering personal time to bring a sense of safety to folks in distant lands, sometimes simply by adding street lights. They're delivering dreams as they wire classrooms for electricity. Medicine can finally be refrigerated. Micro-businesses are born. With every mile

of line built, they make me proud to be part of the electric cooperative family.

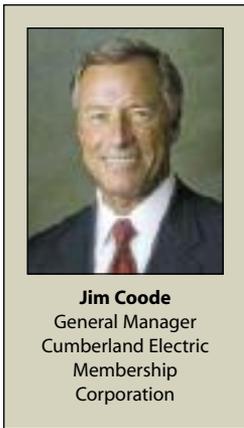
All of these amazing efforts are coordinated by NRECA International Programs — a division of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, service arm of the nation's 900-plus not-for-profit electric co-ops. Since its founding in 1962, NRECA International Programs has brought lights and power to more than 100 million rural residents in other countries.

But the nonprofit organization doesn't just put up a few utility poles and leave. That's

not the co-op way. Staff members, along with volunteers like lineworkers, teach locals how to build and maintain simple power grids and run their own utilities. They introduce the co-op business model and show what electric power can do for schools, health clinics, farms and local economies.

Co-op volunteers from the United States are active in 12 countries today, ranging from Costa Rica to southern Sudan. You can help, too. To watch videos of linemen assisting overseas or to make a donation supporting these electrification efforts, visit NRECAFoundation.coop.

Sure, if they sent lineworkers to the moon, there'd be no dark side. And with the support of electric cooperatives, volunteer linemen and co-op consumers like you, there won't be a dark side of the Earth, either, in a few years.



Jim Coode
General Manager
Cumberland Electric
Membership
Corporation

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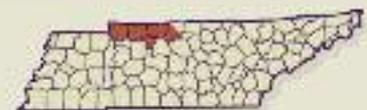
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Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to providing dependable, affordable electric service through the expertise and dedication of competent leadership and a well-trained and responsive workforce.



Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

Serving Cheatham, Montgomery,
Robertson, Stewart and Sumner
counties.



Using compact fluorescent lightbulbs safely

By Chris Grammes

There's no doubt that compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) are better for the environment — and our pocketbooks — than traditional incandescent bulbs. ENERGY STAR qualified bulbs use up to 75 percent less electricity than incandescent bulbs, last up to 10 times longer, cost little up front and provide a quick return on investment.

However, concerns over the mercury in CFLs have raised questions about the proper disposal of them. CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury — an average of 4 milligrams — sealed within the glass tubing. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams. Mercury is an essential part of CFLs: It reacts with the coating on the inside of the glass tube to produce light using very little electricity.

Because mercury is toxic, you should follow these tips to safely handle, dispose of, and clean up a bulb should it break in your home:

Handling

- Always take care when removing the bulb from its packaging, installing or replacing it.
- Hold the bulb by its base and not the glass part.
- Never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket. If it breaks, follow the tips below.

Recycling or disposal

The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that consumers recycle CFLs. Local recycling options are listed at www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling or www.earth911.org. All Home Depot stores accept intact lightbulbs for recycling, as do some Ace Hardware and True Value Hardware stores.

If the state or local agency allows consumers to put CFLs in the garbage, the bulbs should be sealed in two plastic bags and put into the outside trash or other protected outside option.

Never put a fluorescent light bulb or other mercury-containing product into an incinerator.

If the bulb burns out before it should, contact the manufacturer. Energy Star-qualified bulbs are required to offer at least a two-year warranty.

Cleaning up if a bulb should break

- Open a window and have people (including you) and pets leave the room for at least 15 minutes.
- Shut off the central forced-air heating/cooling system.
- If the bulb is broken on a hard surface, carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a glass jar (with metal lid) or sealed plastic bag.
- Use sticky tape to pick up any remaining pieces and powder.
- Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place wipes in the glass jar or plastic bag.
- Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

- Immediately place all clean-up materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area for trash pickup.
- Wash your hands after disposing of the materials.
- Check with your local or state government about disposal requirements in your specific area. Some states require broken and unbroken mercury-containing bulbs be taken to a recycling center.

For additional tips on cleaning up broken bulbs from carpeting, bedding and clothing, visit http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change_light/downloads/Fact_Sheet_Mercury.pdf

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency; Energystar.gov
Chris Grammes writes on safety issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Don't get burned this winter

As you warm yourself and your family indoors during the cold winter months, don't get burned.

Stay safe around heaters, stoves and other hot objects. Some tips:

- Keep your space heater several feet away from yourself, your furniture and your draperies while it's turned on. And never leave a child alone in a room with an operating space heater.
- Don't try to balance a child in one arm and a cup of hot coffee or tea with the opposite hand.
- Avoid loose clothing while cooking or tending to the fireplace. Throw on a short-sleeved shirt to cut your risk of catching your clothes on fire.
- Turn pot handles away from the edge of the stove to avoid knocking the pots over.
- Puncture microwavable plastic bags and keep containers slightly ventilated while they're in the microwave oven. This prevents buildup of scalding steam.
- If you have a grease fire, don't try to move or touch the pan. Instead, turn off the heat and cover it with a lid.
- Place fireplace ashes in a metal container outside by themselves. This gets them out of the house and isolates them from flammable materials.



CEMC bill statement gets an updated look

Redesigned statement provides more information for consumers

You have probably noticed some changes on your monthly electric bill from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. The newly designed bill statement began arriving at members' homes back in December.

Michael Batson, CEMC's financial services manager, says the redesign was driven by the desire for a clearer, easier-to-read statement.

"Jim Coode (CEMC general manager) and the board had a discussion about the need for more clarity on our bills, and they established the goal of determining what information was important to the members and what wasn't," Batson says.



**Michael Batson,
CEMC Financial
Services Manager**

"A committee of employees worked on this for several months. They reviewed examples (of bill statements) used by other co-ops around the country and tried to identify what was needed such as line-item details and a better explanation of various charges," Batson says.

"The most significant change is that we are now including second-notice information on the statement, which means we are no longer sending out a second notice for cut-offs. We estimate this will save our members \$100,000 per year in postage and printing costs," Batson says.

"We also tried to incorporate information that is relevant for the member as well as for our front-line personnel. This really is an effort to present more information to our members and to give them a better format for that information," Batson says.

A sample bill (front side) is shown on the opposite page, along with an explanation of the latest changes.

On the reverse side of the bill, members will find other useful information such as:

- the telephone number to call to report a power outage;
- past due account information;
- service fees;
- a listing of CEMC's available programs;
- bill-payment options;
- payment locations;
- CEMC office locations;
- energy assistance agencies; and,
- information on how to sign up as a Project Help and/or Green Power Switch contributor.

It is hoped that CEMC members will appreciate the improvements in the redesigned bill statement as well as the cost savings they are helping to bring about.

Account Information

Please notify CEMC of changes to the telephone number(s) associated with your account. An accurate telephone number allows us to keep you informed during power outages.

Meter Information

Gives date of meter reading, number of days of service, etc.

Customer Charge

The customer charge is for fixed costs associated with providing our members electricity. It includes facilities such as metering, poles, transformers, wire, etc. The customer charge is not a new charge. It was previously included on the monthly statement under energy charges.

TVA Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA)

This charge is determined by the Tennessee Valley Authority on a monthly basis. The FCA is driven by the cost TVA pays for coal, natural gas, etc., needed to produce electricity.

Landfill User Fee (Montgomery and Stewart counties only)

CEMC is a billing/collection agent for monthly landfill fees. Questions or concerns about this charge should be addressed to the Bi-County Solid Waste Management System at 931-648-5751.

Energy and Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) Rates

Rates are now displayed to provide more detailed information.

Current Month

The current month is shaded in green for quick reference.

Net and Gross Amount

The net amount due and the due date are shaded in green for quick reference.

The gross amount is listed separately to avoid confusion. Included with this is the date that service is subject to termination should the gross amount not be paid.

The "subject to termination" information is now being provided as a cost-saving measure. Providing this information on the monthly statement allows CEMC to discontinue mailing second notices for unpaid past-due balances.

Message Center

The message center will be used to communicate current information to our members.

Disconnect Date and Gross Amount Due

The disconnect date and gross amount due are displayed on the remittance portion of the statement for quick reference. No second notices will be mailed.



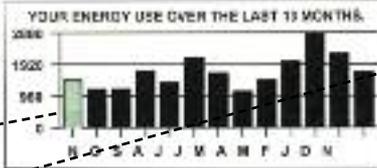
Account Number	0113703001
Rate	Residential Electric
Name	JOHN SMITH
Service Location	100 MAIN ST.
Telephone Number*	XXX.XXX.XXXX
Mobile Telephone Number*	

* Please contact us to update your telephone numbers

Service Period From	To	No. Of Days	Meter Number	Meter Reading Current	Previous	Multiplier	KWH Usage	Charges
11/01/2009	12/01/2009	30	H00000	1906	1869	40	1480	
Previous Transactions								
Previous Bill on 11/06/09								125.81
Payments made on 11/20/09								125.51 CR
Balance Forward								0.00
Current Transactions								
Customer Charge								14.00
Energy Charge 1480 kWh @ .0856500								126.78
TVA Fuel Cost Adjustment 1480 kWh @ .0032800-								4.85 CR
100W HPS Security Light(QTY 1)								5.46
Landfill User Fee								5.00

This Bill Does Not Reflect Payments After 12/07/2009

Period	No. Of Days	Usage	Charges
Current	30	1480	\$142.39
Previous	31	1200	\$120.61
Last Year	28	1720	\$169.27



Net Amount Due Due by 12/28/2009	\$147.39
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Gross Amount \$154.51 is due before 1/7/2010. If unpaid, service is subject to termination without further notice and reconnection fees will apply. (See back for more past due information)

CEMC Employees and Board Members wish you and your family a wonderful HOLIDAY SEASON and a SAFE and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Making your 2010 New Year resolutions? Please include using energy efficiently and wisely. For energy tips check out cemc.org or energyright.com

KEEP THIS STATEMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS
PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT - WHEN PAYING IN PERSON BRING ENTIRE STATEMENT



Place "X" in box to notify us of request on back. See Reverse Side

Account Number	Due Date	Net Amount Due
0000000000	12/28/2009	147.39
Meter Number	Disconnect Date	Gross Amount Due
H00000	1/7/2010	154.51

Amount Enclosed: _____

JOHN SMITH
100 MAIN ST.
ANYWHERE, USA

/ 3 5 2 4 6 0 0 3 9 8 /
Cumberland EMC
P.O. Box 2252
Birmingham, AL 35246-0039

01137030010000147390000154510

DOE approves Tennessee's Energy Star appliance rebate program

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) has announced approval by the U.S. Department of Energy for Tennessee's State Energy and Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program (SEEARP). Tennessee will receive \$5.9 million for the program's rebates and administrative costs and will be funded by federal dollars through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The program will be administered at the state level through ECD.

"This funding provided by the Recovery Act will help Tennessee families lower their utility bills and have a positive impact on the environment," said Gov. Phil Bredesen. "This will be a welcome addition to Tennessee's ongoing energy-conservation initiatives."

Eligible appliances will include air-source heat pumps, central air conditioners and room air conditioners with the Energy Star designation. A rebate of \$250 will be available for the air-source heat pumps and central air conditioners, while room air conditioners will be eligible for a \$40 rebate. The target date for the launch of the program is Earth Day, April 22.

"Tennessee has one of the highest per capita rates of residential electricity consumption in the U.S.," said Matt Kisber, commissioner, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. "By encouraging the use of Energy Star heating and cooling systems, we'll help Tennessee families reduce their energy use and save on their heating and cooling bills each month."

Statewide, the estimated energy savings for delivery and installation of qualified heating and cooling products is approximately 16 million kilowatt-hours per year. A reduction in energy use of that size translates to a yearly savings of almost \$1.4 million in energy costs for Tennesseans and reduces the amount of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere by 32 million pounds annually.

The state of Tennessee plans to partner with the Tennessee Valley Authority on the program to reduce administrative and processing costs as well as to help market and promote SEEARP. The collaboration will allow the state of Tennessee to focus the majority of the ARRA funding on consumer rebates. Consumers receiving rebates under the state's program may also be eligible for additional financial assistance through TVA's existing residential efficiency programs.

"With this approach, we can improve residential energy efficiency and reduce peak energy demand on the TVA grid," said Ryan Gooch, energy policy director for the Department of Eco-

nomics and Community Development. "Helping consumers purchase more efficient heating and cooling systems will produce significant energy savings and have the biggest positive impact on the environment."

"By encouraging the use of Energy Star heating and cooling systems, we'll help Tennessee families reduce their energy use and save on their heating and cooling bills each month."

Matt Kisber, commissioner, Tenn. Dept. of Economic and Community Development

Only qualifying Energy Star heating and cooling units purchased after the program launch will be eligible, and rebates will not be retroactive. For the latest updates, visit www.tnecd.gov/recovery/energystar.

The U.S. Department of Energy announced in July 2009 that \$300 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act would be made

available to states and territories to promote the purchase of Energy Star-qualified appliances. Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For more information on Energy Star, visit www.energystar.gov.

In recognition of super spellers



Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation congratulates the winners of Cheatham County's Fifth through Eighth Grade Spelling Bee for students from Cheatham, Sycamore and Harpeth Middle Schools. From left are Jina Sandifer, CMS, first place; Eli Brown, SMS, second place; Jason Smith, HMS, third place; Sara Burke, CMS, fourth place; Trevor Gaines, CMS, fifth place; and Maura Cauley, SMS, sixth place. Each of these students received a certificate and cash award from CEMC in recognition of his or her scholastic achievement.