

Energy efficiency: helping you take a bite out of your electric bill

When some people go to the grocery store, they carry a list with them. Otherwise, they're bound to forget something.

The same goes for the hardware store when they want to undertake some projects around the house. They ask themselves, "What materials do I need?" And if the work involves weatherization, they want to know if it will really help save money on their electric bill.

Generally, the answer to that last question is a resounding "yes." Even small energy-efficiency measures will save money. For as little as \$2, the cost of an outlet and switch plate insulator kit, you can begin to drastically improve comfort around your residence.

What areas should you focus on? Start with the basics: applying weather stripping and caulk around doors and windows, replacing traditional incan-

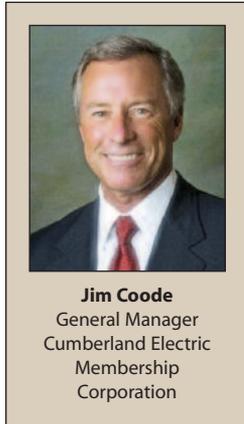
descent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) and insulating your water heater. Then look at

some bigger expenditures: adding insulation to your attic, installing a programmable thermostat and sealing ductwork. You can find even more ways to save on the U.S. Department of Energy's EnergySavers.gov website.

We at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation are committed to doing everything possible to keep your electric bills

affordable. And we're controlling costs through innovation — our energy-efficiency programs are just one way we can help you manage your energy use.

For more information about these projects and other energy-efficiency programs, visit CEMC at www.cemc.org or call 1-800-987-2362. It's just one more way we're looking out for you.



Jim Coode
General Manager
Cumberland Electric
Membership
Corporation



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

By replacing your five most-used lightbulbs with Energy Star-qualified bulbs, you could save \$70 a year.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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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.

Clint Black to perform free concert at Clarksville's Rivers and Spires Festival

Country Music Association and Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Clint Black will be the featured headliner at the 2011 Rivers and Spires Festival April 14-16 in downtown Clarksville. Black will take the stage as the main event at 9 p.m. Saturday, April 16. The concert is free and open to the public.

Black is recognized for his string of hits in the '90s such as "Killing Time," "Nothin' but the Taillights," "Like the Rain" and "No Time to Kill." Many also know him from his appearance in the film "Maverick" and his stint on "Celebrity Apprentice" with Donald Trump. Black has had more than 30 singles on the U.S. Billboard country charts, and of those, 22 were No. 1 hits. During his 14 years with RCA Records, Black sold more than 12 million albums. In the early 2000s, Black formed his own record label, Equity Music Group.

The band Here Come The Mummies will be performing at the festival Friday night. Known for their funk/R&B-style music, mummy costumes and lively stage presence, Here Come The Mummies bring a definite flair and mystery to each show, as no one knows their true identities. HCTM is a group of nine musicians based in Nashville, and their fanbase is vast and varied.



Clint Black

"We are very pleased with the acts that we have booked so far and will continue to announce other acts that will be performing as well," said Theresa Harrington, executive director of the Clarksville-Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Each year the festival grows larger, both in size and attendance, and much of this is due to the headliners and various bands we have been able to book."

A list of activities and entertainment is available on the festival website, www.riversandspires.com. Some of the popular events include Jazz n' Wine, Kidz Zone, Teen Area and Green Zone. Applications are available online now for bands, artists, businesses, vendors and those who wish to participate in the festival.

In 2010, more than 42,000 people filled the streets of downtown Clarksville for the free three-day event. At the International Festivals and Events Association annual conference, the Rivers and Spires Festival was named "Best New Event," beating out more than 1,500 other festivals.

Booths and sponsorships are still available for the 2011 event. To participate in the festival as a vendor or sponsor, contact festival director Doug Barber at 931-245-4344 or dbarber@clarksville.tn.us. More information can also be found at www.riversandspires.com.



Contractors meet

Todd Thompson, Tennessee Valley Authority residential trade ally manager (standing), addresses heating and air conditioning contractors who are members of the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation Quality Contractor Network (QCN). Only QCN member firms are authorized to install heat pumps for consumers participating in CEMC's heat pump program, which features low-interest loans and up to 10 years to pay back in installments included in your electric bill. For a list of QCN members in your area, visit our website at www.cemc.org.



Staying on top of unsafe products

By Christine Smith

Each year, thousands of product recalls — many of them electrical devices — occur in the United States. Given that some recalls involve items that have already done great harm, it's important to stay on top of developments.

Recalls begin in two ways: A federal regulatory agency issues a mandatory recall, or the manufacturer voluntarily recalls the product after receiving information that it could be unsafe.

Stay on top of the dozens of recalls that are issued every week with these key sources:

Recalls.gov

Six government agencies joined forces to create www.recalls.gov. The site pulls its information from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Coast Guard and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In addition to having the latest information, www.recalls.gov allows users to keyword-search through its archives.



The website also boasts a mobile phone application that enables consumers to have information when and where they need it. For example, at a yard sale or a day care center, a consumer can type in the name of a particular product to see if a recall has been issued.

Some of the agencies, including the CPSC, have RSS feeds, which provide Internet users with new information automatically every day. Some also use Facebook, Twitter and other applications to share information easily.

ConsumerReports.org

This popular website contains a safety blog on recalls and additional information, including illustrations of unsafe products. Users can sign up for the safety blog to receive information on a daily basis.

Sources: Recalls.gov, Consumer Reports. Christine Smith writes on electrical safety 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.

Try reading this in a foreign language

The *Tennessee Magazine* is now available online in its entirety and in 45 foreign languages.

"As with many digital publications, this is meant to complement the printed magazine," says Robin Conover, editor of the magazine's statewide edition. "This gives CEMC members a convenient option for reading, searching and sharing articles of interest with others."

To access the online version, log onto www.cemc.org and click on *The Tennessee Magazine*. When you click on a particular article, you will see a drop-down box where you can choose the language you prefer to read. Enjoy!

Member Appreciation Days are coming soon

The dates have been set for Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's annual springtime cookouts known as Member Appreciation Days.

During seven days in April, apron-wearing CEMC employees will be serving up lunch for our members at each of the cooperative's district business offices. In addition to a free lunch, members will be encouraged to register for an electric grill to be given away at each location.

Here is the schedule for this year's CEMC Member Appreciation Days:

Tuesday, April 12 - Dover
 Thursday, April 14 - Clarksville
 Friday, April 15 - Gallatin
 Monday, April 18 - Portland
 Wednesday, April 20 - White House
 Thursday, April 21 - Springfield
 Monday, April 25 - Ashland City

Serving hours are 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. All ages are welcome, so please make plans to join us!



CEMC District Operation Supervisor Homer Mayes serves a customer during last year's picnic event in sunny White House.

CEMC crews wage ongoing battle to keep electricity flowing to your home

In a remote section of Stewart County, a two-man bush hog crew works to clear dense brush underneath electric power lines. Their efforts will assure that no tree saplings grow up into the lines this year.

Two miles away, a six-man contractor crew operates a Sky Trim machine, sawing limbs off of tall, mature trees that have grown dangerously close to the lines.

It's all part of a \$3 million ongoing effort by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation to keep electricity flowing to your home and business.

"In a way, it's like we're in a battle against the trees because of the fact that sometimes trees cause power outages," says Gerry Hester, CEMC's right-of-way supervisor. "At the same time, we recognize the many good and positive benefits

that trees have on our way of life, so we take pains to protect trees as much as possible, too."

The problem, Hester says, is when tree limbs fall onto the lines and disrupt electrical service to numerous customers. The "problem" may be on your private property, but the damage is affecting many of your neighbors. Your power is off, and so is theirs. It's Hester's job to make sure CEMC's rights of way are clear enough to assure a constant flow of electricity through the lines.

Sometimes that means cutting or removing the tree, which can aggravate an unsympathetic homeowner.

"Most of time, people understand the situation, and they'll let us do what we have to do without making the situation worse," Hester says. "But there have been customers who only care about their trees and insist that we leave them alone no matter what. That's when my job is difficult.

"The bottom line is we have to keep the lights on for everybody. We try to explain it so everyone understands we're not trying to be ugly, we're really working for them to prevent outages. Most people understand that."

The best way to avoid a conflict between trees and power lines on your property is to never plant a tree where its trunk or limbs will grow into the lines overhead.

For tree-planting and other useful landscaping tips, visit the website of the Arbor Day Foundation, www.arborday.org. In Tennessee, Arbor Day is observed on the first Friday in March — March 4 this year.

At left, a device known as a Sky Trim removes tree limbs that have grown too close to electric power lines. Below are CEMC's bush hog operators — Carlos Lackey, left, and James Whitehead — with the machine that clears dense undergrowth in the right of way. This prevents new growth from interfering with the lines.



Out with the old, in with the new

Incandescent bulbs to be cleared off store shelves over next three years

By Megan McKoy-Noe, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Although many consumers have heard of compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) and other energy-efficient lighting options, traditional incandescent bulbs still represent the bulk of the residential lighting market. That may soon change.

Under the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, new standards will require lightbulbs to generate more light with less power. All general-purpose lightbulbs that produce 310 lumens to 2,600 lumens of light must be 30 percent more energy-efficient than incandescent models. As a result, incandescent bulbs, starting with 100-watt varieties, will be phased out beginning in 2012. While there are exemptions, by 2020 most bulbs will be required to produce 45 lumens per watt. As a result, more efficient bulbs will replace today's 40 W, 60 W, 75 W and 100 W general service incandescent bulbs.

"Up to 12 percent of your monthly electric bill pays for lighting, so removing energy-wasting bulbs from the market will have a big impact on America's energy use," says Erik Sorenson, a project manager with the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), which represents companies that fashion products used in the generation, transmission, distribution, control and end use of electricity.

A 60 W to 100 W incandescent bulb produces around 15 lumens per watt, with much of the energy wasted as

heat. A standard CFL, however, can produce as much as 100 lumens per watt. CFLs aren't the only lighting alternative — consumers can also save energy by using halogen bulbs and solid state bulbs (SSL), commonly referred to as light-emitting diodes or LEDs. LEDs are beginning to pull ahead of CFLs in lighting output. Cree (cree.com), a leading manufacturer of LEDs, announced a year ago that a laboratory prototype achieved 208 lumens per watt.

The transition to more energy-efficient lightbulbs will take place over the course of three years. California residents have a head start, as the manufacturing of 100 W bulbs terminated in January 2011. In 2012, other states join the transition, with the manufacturing of 75 W bulbs ending in 2013 and their 60 W and 40 W cousins disappearing a year later. As an added bonus, the replacement bulbs will be required to last longer.

"For the first time, federal law sets a minimum rated life of 1,000 hours for bulbs — the amount of time at least half of all tested bulbs operate successfully," notes Sorenson.

Some consumers have already made the switch. Since 2000, incandescent lamp shipments dropped from 1.7 billion to fewer than 1.2 billion annually, while Energy Star estimates that CFL shipments reached 400 million last year. Currently, CFLs have captured 30 percent of the lighting market. (Responding to continuing consumer resistance against CFLs, Congress is considering repealing the incandescent ban.)

"New bulbs use less energy while providing the same amount of light," emphasizes Sorenson. "Consumers should start shopping for bulbs based on the amount of light or brightness needed." For example, a 43 W halogen bulb, 15 W CFL or 12 W LED offer comparable light to a 60 W incandescent bulb.

To find out more about lighting changes, visit NEMA at www.nemasavesenergy.org.

Sources: NEMA, Energy Star CFL Market Profile, Department of Energy EERE Energy Efficiency Trends in Residential and Commercial Buildings (2010)

What's Watt

Power Consumption Comparisons of Equivalent Lighting (in watts)



Incandescent	Halogen	CFL	LED
100 W	70-72 W	23-26 W	N/A
75 W	53 W	18-20 W	N/A
60 W	43 W	13-15 W	12 W
40 W	28-29 W	10-11 W	8-9 W

Source: National Electrical Manufacturers Association, Enlighten America