



Why energy efficiency is important

Have you ever heard the fable about the ant and the grasshopper? On a sunny summer day, a grasshopper was flitting about and came across an ant toiling under the weight of a kernel of corn.

"Why all the hard work?" the grasshopper asked.

"I'm collecting this corn for winter and recommend you do the same," the ant replied.

"Why bother storing corn now? There's plenty to go around!" the grasshopper scoffed, hopping off into the sun.

Well, we all know how that winter went for the grasshopper, who never got around to storing any corn.

That valuable lesson also applies to the electricity we use every day. Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative and electric co-ops across the country stand at a crossroads. At the moment, we are able to power our homes with the mere flip of a switch as safe, reliable and affordable electricity remains readily available. The grasshoppers of the world are happy.

But in recent years, several factors — increasing demand for electricity, rising fuel and construction costs, and decisions limiting what types of power plants we can build — place our energy future in limbo. The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that our need for electricity will climb by 30 percent between now and 2030. Unfortunately, the power available may not be able to keep up with this growth as construction of new generation capacity is being put on hold while Congress reworks national energy policy.

However, we do have a powerful resource to tap in the meantime: energy efficiency. With widespread energy-efficiency measures in place, including those we've implemented on our distribution lines as well as those you can take at home, annual growth in electricity demand could drop by almost 0.5 percent, to 2.2 percent, according to

the Arlington, Va.-based Cooperative Research Network.

In other words, saving electricity now will both reduce your current utility bills and soften the blow against future power supply short-comings. And being energy-efficient doesn't mean being flat-out stingy with energy use. It means doing things in your home you normally would, but in a smarter way. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) are a great example. By simply changing an old incandescent bulb to a swirled CFL equivalent, you can get the same light while using 75 percent less electricity.



Bob Matheny
SVEC President/CEO

SVEC is on your side in this effort, and we have a long history of helping members get the most out of the power coming down our lines. The vast majority of electric cooperatives across the nation — 92 percent — join us in these efforts.

Please contact us if you would like to learn more about making your home more energy-efficient.

Currently, SVEC and the Tennessee Valley Authority are offering the **FREE energy right**® Home e-Valuation "do-it-yourself" energy audit. You can complete the online version by visiting our Web site, www.svalleyec.com, or you may request a paper copy to complete and mail in (the postage is paid). Your information will be analyzed, and you will receive a report showing you where your energy dollars are going and giving you recommendations on how to save energy and money. In addition, TVA and SVEC will send you a **FREE** kit of energy conservation tools to get you started on the path to energy efficiency.

For more energy-efficiency information, visit www.energysavers.gov, a valuable Web site maintained by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Together we can save those "kernels of power" for an uncertain future, and reduce our electric bills in the meantime.



Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative

Serving all or portions of Bledsoe, Grundy, Marion, Sequatchie, Coffee, Hamilton, Rhea and Van Buren counties.

Service Centers:

512 S. Cedar Ave.; P.O. Box 31,
South Pittsburg, TN 37380
Telephone — 423-837-8605
Toll-free — 800-923-2203

97 Resource Road; P.O. Box 518,
Dunlap, TN 37327
Telephone — 423-949-2198

3396 Main St.; P.O. Box 441,
Pikeville, TN 37367
Telephone — 423-447-2131

14002 Highway 41; P.O. Box 100,
Tracy City, TN 37387
Telephone — 931-592-2511

14087 Highway 28,
Whitwell, TN 37397
Monday/Wednesday/Friday
Telephone — 423-658-7832

After hours: 888-421-7832



Call or stop by your local SVEC office for your FREE home energy survey. Complete it and receive this FREE energy efficiency kit.



American Red Cross helps at home, too

November 2008-January 2009 donations

American Red Cross
Annual donation drive
\$1,000

Grundy County Volunteer Support Committee
Foster children's programs
\$500

Marion County Sheriff's Department
Needy Children's Fund
\$500

Sequatchie County Santa for All Seasons
Children's programs for coming year
\$500

Bledsoe Literacy Council
Fees for GED tests
\$500

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 110 — Bledsoe County
Assistance with transportation expenses
\$1,000

We Care Community Services Food Pantry
Food bank serving SVEC members in Van Buren and Bledsoe counties
\$200

STARS
Assistance for the Aging and Disabled Program.
\$1,000

Individuals and families
\$33,992.71

We have all heard of the American Red Cross. We see its internationally recognizable logo on the news anytime there is a disaster anywhere in the world. But did you know that help is available even if the disaster affects only your personal world?

In fact, one of the most common kinds of assistance given by local Red Cross chapters is assistance to the victims of house fires.

The SVEcares board approved a \$1,000 contribution to a local chapter to help keep it in operation. Currently there is an outreach office in Jasper and in Dunlap; however, with the precarious state of the economy, donations have been down, and services might have to be limited or eliminated in the future.

The Greater Chattanooga Area American Red Cross serves more than 725,000 people in 13 counties, including Marion, Sequatchie, Bledsoe and Grundy counties.

During the past year, the Greater Chattanooga Area Chapter:

- Delivered 55,912 hours of service from more than 500 volunteers with a dollar value of \$1,245,840
- Helped 866 people who were victims of house fires
- Provided thousands of hours of CPR/first aid training
- Trained 5,230 people in CPR and first aid
- Trained 286 lifeguards

- Administered babysitting training to 105 young people
- Provided 1,594 services to military families through its Service to the Armed Forces department
- Supported nine disaster action teams as first responders to disasters within the chapter's jurisdiction
- Provided 200 volunteers to help patients and families at area hospitals
- Dispatched 30 volunteers who worked a total of 319 days to assist in major disasters across the country

The Greater Chattanooga Area Chapter of the American Red Cross depends on voluntary contributions of time and money from the people who live and work in southeast Tennessee and north-west Georgia.

Funding to support area services comes solely from local donations designated to the Greater Chattanooga Area chapter. Your contributions help provide emergency disaster relief, assistance to military families, health and safety training and other vital services to the community.

Your tax-deductible donations may be sent to the chapter house at 801 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37403. Please make checks payable to Greater Chattanooga Area American Red Cross. You may also call 423-265-3455 to donate with your credit card or donate online at www.chattanoogaaredcross.org.



Local Red Cross volunteers set up at the Marion County Fair to distribute information and recruit volunteers.



CFL savings NOT chicken feed



Poultry producers can see a marked savings in their lighting costs by making the switch to CFLs.

According to results from an electric co-op evaluation in southern Alabama, chickens grow to maturity just as well in broiler houses illuminated by energy-efficient compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) as those employing traditional incandescent versions. Even better: Their owners see a significant reduction in electric bills.

“Based on preliminary numbers, farmers here have seen considerable energy-cost savings, and there have been no problems with the birds — growth- or health-wise,” says Greg Fleming, member services manager at Covington Electric Cooperative in Andalusia, Ala.

Covington Electric and its wholesale power supplier, Power-South Energy Cooperative, also located in Andalusia, are nearing the end of a 10-month trial that leaves no question about CFL effectiveness for poultry operations. Incandescent bulbs were replaced with equivalent CFLs in one broiler house on three different farms.

“Each facility had anywhere from 65 to 75 bulbs in different configurations — some 60 watts and 100 watts, others at 40 watts and 100 watts,” notes Power-South member services representative Cory Ellis. “The amount of light controls how much the birds eat, and some of the house had 32,000 to 34,000 broilers in them.”

Energy costs are critical to the profitability of poultry farms, Ellis adds. “Our initial numbers indicated a 73-percent savings on lighting expenses using CFLs.”

The only adverse result from the study, which started in January, was the poor performance of dimmable CFLs. Most failed within a month of being installed.

“We had only one nondimmable bulb fail anywhere,” Ellis reports. “And dimmable CFLs (at \$15 each) actually increased lighting costs. Clearly, dimmable CFL technology is not there yet.”

The ins and outs of CFLs

When Thomas Edison sparked light from a bit of carbonized sewing thread in 1879, could he have imagined that 130 years later the same basic technology would still be keeping the world out of the dark?

By any measure, Edison’s incandescent lightbulbs have had a good run. But as of 2012 this time-tested technology will be phased out in the United States in favor of a more efficient generation of lightbulbs.

As a result, store shelves increasingly will be lined with more energy-efficient alternatives, the bulk of which will be compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). You have probably seen these corkscrew-shaped bulbs by now and may have even outfitted your home with them. But what makes them so much more efficient?

CFLs are made of two components: a gas-filled tube — the “swirly” part — and an electronic ballast — the plastic base. Light is produced when mercury molecules, contained in argon or neon gas in the bulb, are excited by an electric current. These molecules then react with a phosphor coating on the inside of the tube, which creates light. With a white coating, you get white light, with a red coating, red light, etc.

Incandescent bulbs, on the other hand, produce light by running a current through a tightly coiled metal filament, typically tungsten. Atoms in the filament produce light when heated to around 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit. As a result, about 90 percent of the power consumed by a typical incandescent lightbulb is emitted as heat, as anyone who has changed a



hot bulb knows well. CFLs, in comparison, produce 75 percent less heat.

Benefits of CFLs go beyond cooler bulbs. A 75-watt incandescent lightbulb will burn out after about 40 days of continuous use, whereas a CFL can keep going for a full year; CFLs require one-third less energy than incandescent bulbs, saving roughly \$30 in energy costs over the bulb’s lifetime, according to Energy Star.

As CFL technology advances, new bulb and light quality options will expand its use to a wider range of applications. Installation guidelines should be followed to ensure CFLs perform correctly.

For example, not all CFLs perform well on dimmable switches and three-way fixtures, so be sure to check the packaging to see if the bulb’s ballast design matches your needs. You’ll also get more value if you leave CFLs on for 15 minutes or longer; switching them on and off can shorten their lifespan.

Exterior lighting offers a great place to use CFLs, but if you live in a colder climate, look for specially designed cold-weather versions — standard CFLs may not work well below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

To learn about the latest ways you can use CFLs to make your home more energy-efficient, visit Energy Star at www.energystar.gov.

SVEC hits another all-time peak in January

The cold temperatures of January are a month behind us, but January of 2009 brought with it 17 days when the minimum temperature registered freezing or below, according to Chattanooga weather data. There were even two days when the maximum temperature was below freezing!

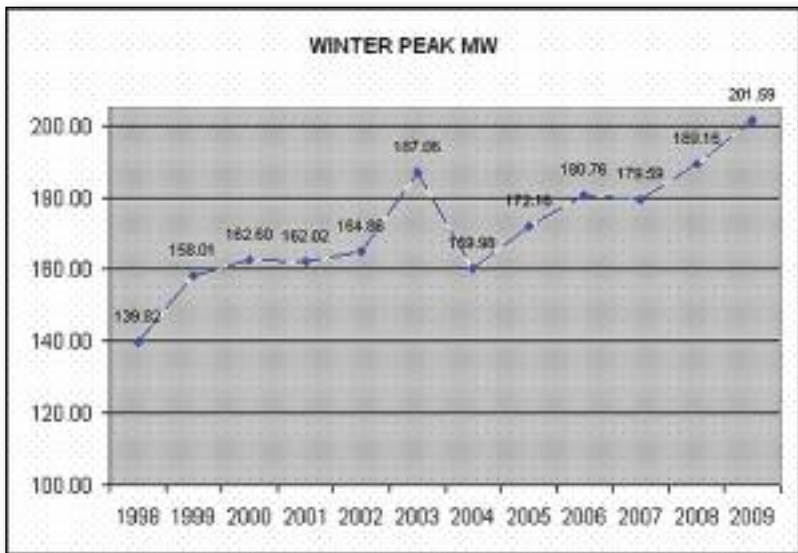
The record or near-record low temperatures our region experienced in January caused Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative to hit a new all-time system peak of 201,590 kilowatts, surpassing by 6.58 percent the previous peak set just last January.

Peak demand is the electric utility industry equivalent of rush hour traffic, the time when resources are stretched to max. Each time a new peak is hit, the Tennessee Valley Authority and its distributors must re-evaluate their ability to provide electricity to everyone who needs it and make plans to ensure reliable service to our customers even at times of highest demand.

It is predicted by the U.S. Department of Energy that demand for electricity will rise by 40 percent in the next 20 years. Even if the country can dramatically increase efficiency and conservation, demand for electricity will continue to grow as our population and economy grow.

This means that Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative must keep ahead of our system's growth by investing in upgrades and additions to our transmission and distribution lines, our substations and the new technologies that help us stay as efficient as possible.

In the next 18 months, plans are in the works for two new substations in the Marion County service area, another substa-



The chart above graphically shows the steady increase in electric use in the SVEC service area in the past decade. As our population and our need for electricity grow, SVEC is planning ahead to meet increased demand.

tion in Bledsoe County and upgrades to approximately 30 miles of line across the SVEC service area.

However, our plans aren't all about what new equipment will be needed. We also have a maintenance plan that details steps and procedures aimed at getting the most out of our existing equipment.

As the population of our service area continues to grow, we are planning ahead to be able to meet that demand and to give our new members the same quality service that our long-time members expect and enjoy.

Electrical contractors updated on electric code



Charlie Young, deputy electrical inspector, addresses the changes in the 2008 National Electrical Code to a group of about 50 electricians during the update meeting in South Pittsburg.

SVEC hosted a series of informational meetings in January and February to bring local electrical contractors up-to-date on changes in the National Electrical Code that went into effect Jan. 28.

Charlie Young and Dwain Wright, our area's Tennessee deputy electrical inspectors, and their supervisor for Middle Tennessee, Dwyot Thornton, conducted the classes, which highlighted the changes in the code that are now in effect.

All of these changes have been made to help ensure the safety of the residents of the state of Tennessee.

Contractors who stay up-to-date on the National Electrical Code save time, money and frustration at inspection time, and the homeowners who hire them to install or upgrade their electrical systems receive a quality installation at a lower cost in a more timely manner.

Electricians who missed the meeting should contact their area's inspector at their local SVEC office for information on the changes and resources or for additional details on the updates.



Sixth- and seventh-graders: 4-H Electric Camp is hands-on fun



Participants of 4-H Electric Camp learn the basics of electricity, new technology, energy conservation and electric safety through "hands-on" activities such as generating electricity with "kid power" and driving an electric vehicle.

The 18th annual 4-H Electric Camp will be held June 23-26 on the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville. The camp is sponsored by electric cooperatives across the state, municipal electric utilities and UT Extension.

At the popular event, participants will study basic principles of electricity and electric safety. "Learning by doing," they will explore new technologies, participate in "hands-on" projects and gain valuable electric safety and energy conservation information.

While at the camp, students will also have time to go swimming, be treated to an afternoon at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge and enjoy a number of exciting programs and activities related to electricity.

4-H members in the sixth and seventh grades who are interested in participating in 4-H Electric Camp and have not attended the camp in the past should contact their local Extension office in early April to register. SVEC offers one scholarship per county.

Local UT Extension offices:

Bledsoe County - 447-2451
 Grundy County - 592-3971
 Marion County - 942-2656
 Sequatchie County - 949-261



Do we owe you money?

The following is a list of inactive Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative member-owners who are entitled to have their initial deposits returned to them.

All deposits not returned must, by law, be turned over to the state of Tennessee under the Unclaimed Property

Carter, Daryl J.
 Condra, Calvin Eugene
 Coulter, Anna
 Curtis, Misty Dawn
 Davidson, Jennifer R.
 Evans, Cindy DBA The
 Market
 Full Gospel Church
 Glasco, Jason M
 Graves, Richard Lee

Hall, Billy Joe
 Holland, Jerry Glenn
 Horton, Morgan
 Johnson, David Allen
 Jones, Dennis Burr
 Lee, Michael Barrett
 Leitner, Cathy Cannon
 Lettner, Michelle Leann
 Oxford, Minsy S.
 Phillips, Tabitha Paige

Act. The deposits of deceased people belong to their rightful heirs.

If you or someone you know is on this list, please contact Lisa Holtcamp with a current address or phone number at 837-5046 or 1-800-923-2203, Ext. 5046, by April 15.

Picklesimer, Rebecca A.
 Pittman, Sherri Annette
 Potvin, Mark
 Rasdall, Tara
 Reeves, Debbie Kay
 Rhodes, Linda Phipps
 Rogers, Iris Rose
 Sales, Eulalio Matta
 Salinas, Vanette
 Shipley, Travis Lee

Smith, Timothy E.
 Stewart, Carl David
 Sullivan, Margaret J.
 Taylor, Erica L.
 Toney, Nita A
 Wheeler, Lewis Alexander
 Willis, Lisa
 Yount, Michael D.