

Current REPORT

For members of Lynchess River Electric Cooperative



How to Reduce Your Water Heating Costs

Stop your money from going down the drain.

Water use and electricity go hand in hand. Heating water can account for 14 to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home. What's more, systems used to clean public water supplies and deliver it to homes require large amounts of electricity. If your home receives water from a well or spring, the pump also draws power. So when we use water, hot or cold, we're also using energy.

Techniques for trimming water use in your home are surprisingly simple.

- Significantly reduce hot water consumption by simply repairing leaks in fixtures—faucets



and showerheads—or pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.

- Reduce water heating costs in a matter of seconds by lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater. For each 10 degree Fahrenheit reduction in temperature, you can save between three and five percent in energy costs. Reducing the setting also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes. If you have a dishwasher without a booster heater, you may require water temperatures within a range of 130 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit for optimum cleaning.
- Adding insulation to your water heater can save around four percent to nine percent in costs. To determine if you need to insulate your water heater, touch it. A tank that's warm to the touch needs additional insulation. Insulating your water heater tank is fairly simple and inexpensive, and

Water Heater - cont'd page 3

Huge WIRE Yard Sale

Saturday, May 2

7 a.m. to 12 noon at

Lynchess River Electric Cooperative

1104 West McGregor Street in Pageland

Wide Variety • Great Food

Yard Sale spaces for rent - \$10 each

Call 843-675-3213 or 843-675-3227 for information and to reserve a space.



Co-op not profiting from members

Looking from the outside in, I can see why members may think Lynch River Electric Cooperative is profiting from the dramatic increases in your electric bills. My response, to put it bluntly, is that it's not true.

As a not for profit, service oriented cooperative we are not allowed to make a profit. In fact, any profits we do make over our operating expenses are eventually returned to members or the estates of deceased members as capital credits.

A review of our 2008 audited financial statement shows after operating expenses the co-op cleared a profit margin of just 3.8 percent. Conversely, the wholesale power cost percentage was 60.2. Because we operate on such a slim margin Lynch River must pass along the cost increases associated with producing and supplying electricity. We simply cannot afford to absorb these increases and continue to maintain a reliable and financially stable electric system.

We understand members' frustrations and can see how misinformation can circulate as to why your electric bills are much higher than last year. The simple truth is Lynch River must pay significantly more for the power we distribute to members.

And we can't forget this has been one of the coldest winters we've experienced in several years. The colder the outside temperatures are the more electricity you will use to stay warm. Heating and air conditioning accounts for about 56 percent of the energy use in the average home. The percent could be higher if you live in an older manufactured home.

We know members are upset about their power bills. We are too. Our employees who are on Lynch River and our board members have seen their bills sky rocket just as you have. They pay the same rate and wholesale power cost adjustment as you do so they can speak from experience.

So what's the solution? Well, we can start by working together. We are doing our part by cutting costs wherever possible without jeopardizing service to members. The co-op offers a number of programs to help you manage your bills, like Levelized Billing and H2O Select. Visit our Web site, www.lynchesriver.com, for energy saving tips or pick up a free Energy Saving Tips brochure at the co-op office.

Members can take a proactive role in controlling their energy use by practicing efficiency and conservation. One of the most important steps you can take is weatherizing your home.

We're here to help you get the most from your energy dollars so contact us to find out more about energy conservation and efficiency.



Robert G. Wannamaker

Viewpoint



Robert G. Wannamaker
Interim CEO

PRESIDENT AND CEO

Robert G. Wannamaker

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Scott Croxton - District 5

Chairman

W. Gary Leaird - District 6

Vice Chairman

John T. Blackwell - Member-at-Large

Secretary-Treasurer

Eric Horton - District 1

Myrtle L. Faile - District 2

James R. "Jib" Taylor - District 3

Jimmy C. Freeman - District 4

Cecil E. McLain - District 7

Johnny A. West - District 8

REMOTE PAYMENT SITES

Chesterfield

Piggly Wiggly Market of Chesterfield

33 West Boulevard

Chesterfield, SC 29709

Jefferson

The General Store

360 N. Harold Ingram Hwy.

Jefferson, SC 29718

Kershaw

Quality Appliance

407 South Hampton Street

Kershaw, SC 29067

Lancaster

The Energy Center, Inc.

667 Lancaster Bypass 9 E

Lancaster, SC 29720

Local Citizens Form an Electric Cooperative

The Rural Electrification Act of 1939 paved the way for the creation of electric cooperatives. Lynch River Electric Cooperative was formed on May 22, 1939 and incorporated July 8, 1939. Local citizens helped to establish the cooperative.

Incorporators and community leaders collected the \$5 membership fee from each member. Three members per mile of power line and a right-of-way easement were required in an area before plans could be made to build a power line. The first power lines were energized in late 1939 with approximately 710 original members and 175 miles of line.

The first trustees were W. T. "Bill" Gulledge of Pageland, Walter S. Cauthen of Lancaster, W. V. Hursey of Pageland, Frank Blackwell of Jefferson, G. W.

Kennington of Pageland, W. T. Holley of Jefferson, Otis Gregory of Kershaw, U. A. Funderburk of Pageland and B. R. Hinson of Heath Springs.

Other incorporators were J. C. Willis, Chesterfield County agent; F. W. Cannon, Lancaster County agent; R. H. Kirk, Sr., W. P. McManus and Jesse Sowell.

Electricity brought dramatic changes to co-op members. Most families wired their homes and bought electric appliances waiting for the day their power would be connected. Two electric appliances at the top of most everyone's list were the electric iron followed by the radio.



Worry-free Water Heating with



H2O Select® is an electric water heater program

offered to members of Lynch River Electric Cooperative. With no up-front out of pocket costs and only \$7 a month charge, you can receive an energy efficient electric water heater, normal installation and maintenance for ten full years.

Call Lynch River Electric Cooperative today to find out if you qualify for the H2O Select® program.

843-672-6111 • 1-800-922-3486
www.lynchesriver.com

Water Heater - cont'd from page 1

will pay for itself in about a year. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$10 to \$20. Choose one with an insulating value of at least R-8. In addition, don't set the thermostat above 130 degrees Fahrenheit on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket—the wiring may overheat.

- Have a qualified plumbing and heating contractor install insulation on gas- and oil-fired water heaters.

To learn more about trimming water use in your home, including pipe and water heater insulation techniques, visit www.energysavers.gov.

Visit www.lynchesriver.com for more energy saving tips.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, [H2O Conserve.org](http://H2OConserve.org)

**The Lynch River Electric
Cooperative WIRE Chapter
will meet**

**Tuesday, June 16
at 6 p.m. in the
cooperative training room.**

Please plan to attend and bring a guest.



May is National Electrical Safety Month

Compact fluorescent light bulbs offer many advantages over incandescent bulbs. They last longer, produce less heat and use less electricity. There are, however, some things to consider.

- When Installing a spiral CFL, hold the plastic base not the glass tube. Gripping the glass tube may crack the seal at the base leading to reduced bulb life or overheating. Follow the same procedure when removing the bulb.
- For 3-way and dimmable fixtures, look for CFLs specifically designed for those purposes. Using standard CFLs in these fixtures is a fire hazard.
- Start by switching to CFLs in rooms where bulbs burn the most hours, the hallway, kitchen and porch, for instance and in hard to reach places.

The typical CFL bulb uses 66-75 percent **less** electricity to produce the same amount of light as a comparable incandescent bulb.



Source: CFLbulbs.com

Visit Us On the Web

KidzLink connects students and teachers to information on electricity, electrical safety and energy efficiency.

Check it out at

www.lynchesriver.com



Protect your home and family from fires and electrocution.



Electrical problems in older homes account for nearly 55,000 fires every year. These blazes cause more than 500 deaths,

injure more than 1,400 and rack up \$1.4 billion in property damage.

The risk of such fires is significant since half of all homes in the United State were constructed and wired prior to 1973, according to the U.S. Census Bureau—before the advent of garage door openers or home computers. Even more telling, one-third of U.S. homes were built before hair dryers or electric can openers were commonplace reports the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). Many homes

and electric systems are being overburdened, which leads to fires, injuries and deaths.

Owners of older homes can upgrade their electrical systems with newer fire prevention technology, such as arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs). These advanced electronic circuit breakers detect dangerous conditions in a home's wiring and cut off power before a fire develops.

Additionally, those living in older homes with children can install tamper-resistant receptacles. These devices look like normal electrical outlets, although they have a built-in shutter system that prevents children from inserting foreign objects into the slots. Use of tamper-resistant receptacles would prevent most of the 2,400 burns suffered by children each year from outlets.

Visit www.lynchesriver.com for additional electrical safety tips.

Source: *Electric Safety Foundation International*

Stay Alert for Utility Scammers

Lynches River Electric Cooperative would like to remind members how to identify co-op employees. Our employees wear uniforms bearing the Lynches River emblem and carry identification. The Lynches River logo is clearly visible on co-op vehicles.

There have been reports of utility scammers in South Carolina gaining or attempting to gain entrance to residents' homes. Another scam involves a man calling customers identifying himself as a bill collector for the utility company. The man asks for a credit-card number and says electric service will be shut off unless the bill is paid.

Co-op employees may work around or near your home, but have no reason to enter your home. Work crews do not collect money for bills or service work. Furthermore, our customer service representatives do not call members asking for payment or threaten members with disconnection if they do not pay.

If individuals come to your door and identify themselves as employees of the "power company," do not let them inside. Keep your doors locked and call Lynches River at 672-6111 or 1-800-922-3486, or call the authorities right away.