

Current REPORT

For Members of Lynchess River Electric Cooperative

Record Cold Wave Impacts Bills

Lynchess River Electric Cooperative members experienced one of the most sustained periods of frigid temperatures in recent history during most of January and early February. Weeks of bone-chilling weather coupled with an ice storm in late January required heating systems to work overtime.

Phil Monroe, vice president of engineering and operations, said the cooperative set a new winter record for peak demand during the period.

According to Bow Burch, marketing representative and certified energy auditor, on average members' bills were one and a half times higher this January than in January 2009.

The chart at right provides a snapshot of just how cold it was and how electricity usage generally spiked on the coldest days and nights.

WSOC-TV meteorologist Keith Monday reported on the Channel 9 web site, "This winter continues to march toward the record books as one of the coldest in Charlotte's history."

Since Charlotte weather typically spills over into our area, that means the brutal cold wave is probably setting a record in our area as well.

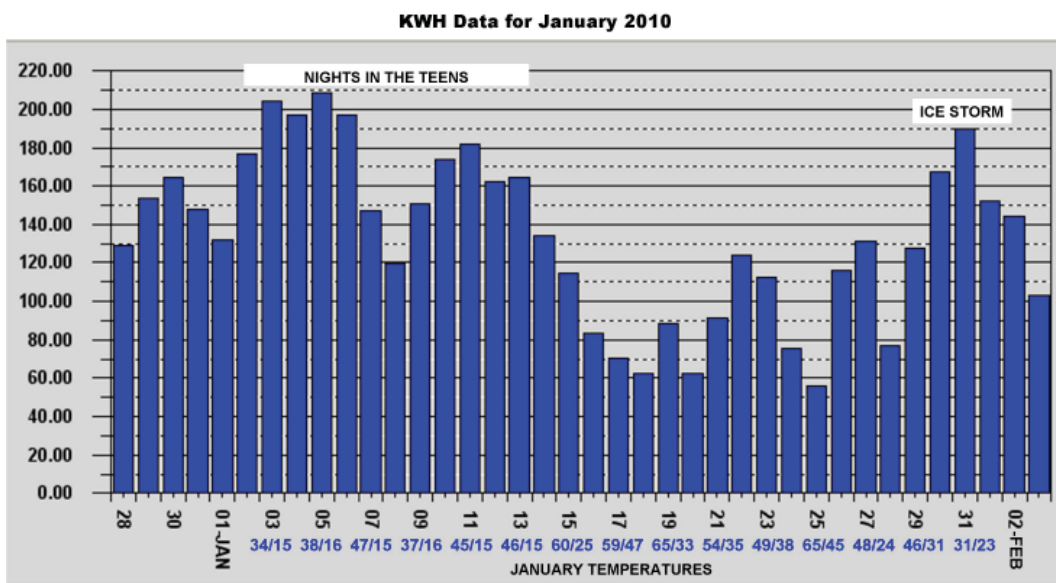
When electric heating is used it accounts for a large portion of the total electrical usage, and thermostat settings play an important role in heating costs.

As temperatures go down, the thermostat setting usually goes up. Raising the thermostat setting increases the operating cost. A difference of only one degree will increase heating costs by three percent. The difference between a setting of 70 degrees and 77 degrees is about 21 percent.

There are several other factors affecting your bill: the billing cycle, the efficiency of your heating system, the level of insulation in your home and the number of household members.

When we receive a call from a member concerned about a high bill, we can use our automated meter reading system (AMR) to graph the member's daily usage, then compare it to weather data and their usage history.

Armed with the AMR information, we can usually tell if high bills are weather related. It's pretty clear, the colder the temperature the higher the usage.

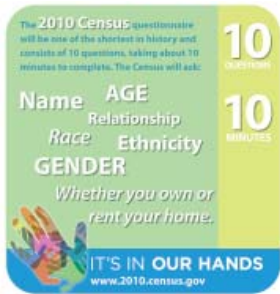


Stand Up and Be Counted

Viewpoint

I have a question for you. See if you know the answer. What takes only 10 minutes to complete, but will have a profound affect on you, your family, your community and your country for the next 10 years?

Give up? The answer is the 2010 Census. The purpose of the census is to determine the number and location of people living within our nation's borders. The Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. The 2010 Census will begin in April.



We urge Lynch River Electric Cooperative members to participate. We want everyone in our communities to be counted. The facts gathered in the census help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.

The census totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over a decade. Census data will affect how more than \$3 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years.

The 2010 Census is the shortest questionnaire in history. Completing the new census questionnaire is quick and easy. Just fill in your name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete.

Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. For details, access 2010.census.gov.

David C. Altman



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David Altman

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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



Rebates Start March 31

Members, here's your chance to replace your old, inefficient appliances with new energy-efficient appliances. Purchase Energy Star certified appliances and receive rebates from \$50 to \$500.

Rebates will be available only to South Carolina residents making purchases in South Carolina stores and with South Carolina contractors.

For a complete list of qualifying retailers, and qualifying appliances and whole house equipment visit appliance rebates.sc.gov

The program ends when all funds are exhausted, so don't delay.

More help is here!

Initiative aids owners of manufactured homes

IF YOU OWN A MANUFACTURED HOME – single- or double-wide, built between 1990 and 2008 – and you're a member of Lynchess River Electric Cooperative, you're eligible to apply for an HVAC system upgrade.

Selected participants will receive, at no charge, a major heating/air system tune-up or system replacement. Interested? Fill out the application below and mail it in or log onto HelpMyHouse.org/hvacupgrade to fill out an online application. To be eligible, entries must be received by midnight April 30. Selected participants will be notified by Friday, May 28.

This new Help My House energy efficiency program is part of a study, made possible by a grant from the South Carolina Energy Office and Central Electric Power Cooperative, Lynchess River



Shape Up Your Home for Energy Savings

Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider. The initiative will validate the effectiveness of energy efficiency technologies for people who live in manufactured homes.

CLIP OUT APPLICATION AND APPLY FOR A MAJOR HVAC SYSTEM TUNE UP OR SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

HVAC Replacement/Major Tune-Up application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Day _____ Night _____

E-mail _____

My co-op is _____ Electric Account No. _____

Type of manufactured home: (circle one) single-wide / double-wide

Year home built _____ Size of home _____ sq. ft.

Own home? (circle one) yes / no Own home site? yes / no

Primary residence? yes / no _____ Number of occupants _____

Type of heating: (circle one) electric furnace / gas / heat pump / other

Type of air conditioning: (circle one) central / window unit

Please include two photos, one of the entire front of your home and one of the back.



Shape Up Your Home for Energy Savings

Incomplete applications may not be initially considered. Applicants must have lived in their home for at least two years. By submitting an application, you are agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations of the program. You can obtain a copy of the rules, and a full description of the energy-efficiency study, by visiting www.HelpMyHouse.org/hvacupgrade, calling (803) 739-5066, or sending a request to the address below.

Mail entry to: Help My House; 808 Knox Abbott Drive; Cayce SC 29033-3311

WIRE Scholarship for Women

WIRE is now accepting applications for the WIRE Opportunity Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a woman who was not able to attend college after graduating from high school, but now wants to further her education.

A \$2,500 one-time scholarship will be presented to two electric cooperative members in South Carolina based on financial need and personal goals.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of a South Carolina electric cooperative
- Have graduated from high school or earned a GED at least 10 years ago
- Obtain acceptance into an accredited South Carolina college or university
- Demonstrate financial need

Women who have previously obtained a four-year college degree are not eligible for this scholarship; however, applicants may have previously earned a two-year degree or some college credits.

Applications are available at Lynchess River Electric Cooperative and online at lynchesriver.com. The deadline to apply is June 1.

Mail or fax the application to WIRE Scholarship Committee, Attention: Leigh Smith, Lynchess River Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 308, Pageland, SC 29728 or fax to 843-672-6118. Call 843-675-3213 for more information.

Visit Us
On the Web

Learn more about our
economic development
efforts under the
Commercial tab at

lynchesriver.com



Choose the right tree for the right place

Spring is right around the corner and chances are pretty good members of Lynchess River Electric Cooperative are itching to get outside to spruce up their yards. If planting a tree is on your to do list, there are some points to consider.

Determine ahead of time where the tree will go and how it will be used. It's equally important to investigate the characteristics of the tree to

minimize problems from roots clogging nearby drains, or cleanup from fruit, flowers and leaves. And finally, check to be sure it will not interfere with overhead power lines at full maturity.

In some areas, power lines are buried, so be sure to call **811** to get your underground utility lines marked for free. Always call before digging.

Now that the preliminary planning has been done, it's time to choose a tree to meet your needs. Tall trees with spreading canopies block the sun best. These trees should be planted on the south side of the home, 10 to 15 feet from the house, to shade the south-facing windows and roof. These tall trees will allow low-angle sunlight to pass through their leaves and branches in the winter months.

Broad, short trees are useful for blocking lower-angle sun. These trees should be planted 20 to 50 feet away from east and west walls in order to block the morning and afternoon sun during hot summer months.

Trees can enhance the look of your home, but they also can pose a liability to houses, people and power lines. Before planting a tree, look up to be certain it is clear of overhead power lines. When the weather is bad, trees and limbs can touch or fall on power lines, causing electrical outages.

That is why Lynchess River Electric Cooperative has an ongoing vegetation management program—to make certain our rights-of-way are clear of hazardous trees. Please help us keep our rights-of-way safe as well as beautiful.

To report trees that have grown into power lines, call Lynchess River at 672-6111 or toll free 1-800-922-3486.



Always call before you dig

To promote public safety and prevent damage to underground utilities, South Carolina law requires persons planning excavations to notify local utilities in advance of digging. Lynchess River Electric Cooperative is one of the utilities in South Carolina using a one-call service know as PUPS (Palmetto Utility Protection Service). Call toll-free (888) 721-7877. You must call 72 hours before starting the proposed work. The abbreviated and easy to remember **811** number supplements the 10-digit number, automatically connecting callers in South Carolina to PUPS.

