

CURRENT REPORT

Published for Members of Lynches River Electric Cooperative

Use Energy Efficiently *And get more bang for your buck*

Wise energy use through conservation and efficiency saves you money while protecting the environment.

Let's start off by defining these two terms. Conservation is the careful use of resources. Those resources may be the fuels used to produce electricity, like coal and natural gas. Energy efficiency is using less energy to perform the same function.

For instance, an older model refrigerator may keep food at the correct temperature, but it uses more electricity to keep food cold than a new, energy efficient model.

Below are five easy and affordable tips that will help you conserve energy and use it more efficiently.

- Seal cracks and gaps around your home by adding weather stripping around leaky doors and caulking around window frames.
- Change furnace and air conditioner filters monthly. Dirty filters restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your heating and cooling system by making it work harder.
- Clean the refrigerator inside and out. Throw out leftovers more than a few days old. Check the temperature settings on your refrigerator. Ideally, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum operating efficiency.
- Pulling down the shades on your windows this spring and summer can save on cooling costs. Your house will stay cool and comfortable by blocking out the hot summer sun.

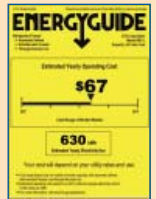
- Use a clothesline during warmer months and let sunlight and breezes dry clothes naturally. This will reduce your electric bill by not running a dryer.

For more energy saving tips visit lynchesriver.com.

Look for EnergyGuide and ENERGY STAR Labels

When it comes to shopping for and comparing appliances and home electronics, look for the EnergyGuide and ENERGY STAR® labels to ensure the energy efficiency credentials of the product.

The Federal Trade Commission requires yellow EnergyGuide labels on most home appliances (except for ranges and ovens). These labels provide an estimate of the product's energy consumption or energy efficiency, and compare it to the highest and lowest energy consumption or efficiency estimates of similar appliances models.



Home electronics such as computers, televisions and home audio equipment will display the blue ENERGY STAR label instead. The ENERGY STAR label indicates these products have met strict energy efficiency criteria established by the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Ensuring the appliances and electronics you take home are energy efficient can make a big difference in the long run. The average home boasts two TVs, three telephones and a DVD player. If these items were replaced with ENERGY STAR qualified models, it would save more than 25 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions a year, equivalent to removing more than 2 million cars from the road.



Report an Outage
1-866-675-5732



Manage Your Energy Dollar

Viewpoint

I hope you enjoy this month's Current Report. This issue is all about saving energy and saving money.

As you look through the articles, you'll find home energy efficiency tips, what to look for when buying new appliances and how CFL bulbs reach the end of their lifespan.

Interested in renewable energy? Our article on Green Power explains how green power is made and offers you an opportunity to invest in this home grown renewable energy program.

I also want to say a few words about our Levelized Billing program. While Levelized Billing doesn't save you money, it is designed to help you manage your monthly electric bills. In a nutshell, the Levelized Billing program uses a rolling average of the past 11 months plus the current month's bill. The result is electric bills that are fairly consistent from month to month.

The benefit of the Levelized Billing program is you will know about what to expect when you receive your bill each month. The higher energy use during the winter and summer months will be averaged in with the spring and fall bills, when you typically use less electricity to heat and cool your home.

There are some qualifications you must meet before signing up for the program. You must have an acceptable credit history with Lynch River, have a zero balance at the time of sign up and have been a member of Lynch River for one consecutive year at the same location.

Call our office if you would like more information or to sign up for Levelized Billing.



Safety is Our Priority

I'm going to switch gears here and talk about safety. Safety is always on our minds at Lynch River Electric Cooperative. Our line crews who work with electricity think about it every day and take precautions to ensure their own safety by always wearing their hard hats, rubber gloves and rubber sleeves.

Inside employees know the importance of safety too. Although the chance of an electrical mishap is slim, other injuries could result from falling, slipping or tripping.

I'm happy to report our safety efforts have paid off. Lynch River is a Presidents Safety Contest first place winner in the Division II category for reporting zero recordable accidents in 2010.

I want to congratulate all employees for their part in making this award possible. Maintaining a safe environment for employees and consumers helps to keep our insurance costs low, which benefits the cooperative and our members.

David Q. Altman

PRESIDENT AND CEO

David Altman

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Scott Croxton - District 5

Chairman

John T. Blackwell - Member-at-Large

Vice Chairman

Eric Horton - District 1

Secretary-Treasurer

Myrtle L. Faile - District 2

Theresa Hicks - District 3

Jimmy C. Freeman - District 4

Daryl Faulkenberry - District 6

Steve Chewning - District 7

Randolph Mackey - District 8

VISIT US ONLINE

lynchesriver.com

REMOTE PAYMENT SITES

Chesterfield

Piggly Wiggly Market of Chesterfield

1303 West Boulevard

843-623-6590

Kershaw

Quality Appliance

407 South Hampton Street

803-475-2302

Lancaster

The Energy Center, Inc.

667 Lancaster Bypass 9 E

803-283-6148

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Lynch River Electric Cooperative is a member owned electric cooperative committed to delivering reliable electric energy and related services at a competitive price, which will improve the quality of life of its members and communities.

CURRENT REPORT EDITOR

Leigh C. Smith

Email: leigh.smith@lynchesriver.com

Power Your Home with Renewable Energy



Lynches River Electric Cooperative first introduced SC Green Power to members in 2004. Green Power is a renewable energy program generated by Santee Cooper and distributed by Lynches River.

Renewable Energy Portfolio and Research

At present Green Power renewable energy is produced primarily from landfill methane gas. Three solar demonstration projects in the state are sending power to Santee Cooper's electric grid. Studying the feasibility of off shore wind farms is also underway.

Good for the Environment

In 2001, when the first landfill generators went on line, the new green power plant generated 3.3 megawatts of electricity. Today, five green power plants located throughout the state produce a total of 23.9 megawatts of electricity from garbage, a renewable resource.

The methane gas from decomposing garbage when used actually removes pollution from the atmosphere. Methane gas, if released into the atmosphere, is a potent green-house gas. It's global-warming potential is 21 times greater than carbon dioxide.

Get on the Green Team

Lynches River offers members the opportunity to join the Green Team. Start by choosing your level of participation. Green Power is sold in blocks of 100 kilowatt hours, which is about 10 percent of a typical household's monthly energy use. And, 100% of all Green Power revenues are used for renewable energy projects. Enroll in the program by phone, online or by completing and mailing the form below.

More Information Online

To learn more about Green Power visit lynchesriver.com or scgreenpower.com.



More Opportunities to Go Green

Green Power Events

You can make your event or conference a "green" event by purchasing affordable one-time Event Green Power. Depending on the size of your event, Santee Cooper may help with your marketing needs.

Green Power Partners

Our commercial and industrial accounts can support our renewable energy efforts too by purchasing Green Power for their businesses.

Contact Us

Call 675-3213 or 800-922-3486 ext. 213 for more information.

Yes! I want to get on the Green Team!

Please complete, clip and drop off this form at the Lynches River office, or include it in your next bill payment. Check the box below to show the amount you wish to invest in Green Power on your monthly electric bill.

- 1 block @ \$3 per month 3 blocks @ \$9 per month
 2 blocks @ \$6 per month _____ blocks @ \$3 per block per month

Name _____

Lynches River Account Number _____

My Service Address _____

Daytime Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Signature _____

By signing this form, I understand that participation in Green Power is voluntary by Lynches River members. A member may discontinue participation at any time. Lynches River Electric Cooperative and Santee Cooper may alter, amend or end Green Power at any time. Each block adds an extra \$3 to a monthly electric bill.

CFL Bulbs Die Differently

Don't be fooled; a popping sound or smoke means a CFL's end-of-life mechanism WORKS

Worried when you hear a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) pop or sizzle? Despite confusion caused by an e-mail hoax circulating since April 2010, these sounds signal the bulb is working safely in its final hours. Smoke, a popping noise, and even a slight odor are typical and do not pose a fire risk as claimed in the misleading e-mail.

According to Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL), an independent not-for-profit firm that tests and sets minimum standards for electricity-consuming items, about 130-150 million CFLs are sold every year in the U.S. While the bulbs produce 75 percent less heat than their incandescent cousins, differences between the bulbs go deeper than the amount of heat released. As the first wave of CFLs begin reaching the end of their lifespan, consumers are learning the bulbs die differently, too.

Most folks know traditional incandescent light bulbs tend to burn out the same way: a pop, a flash, and, when shaken, the familiar rattle confirming the bulb needs to be changed.

With CFLs, light dims over time and the lamp may produce a more dramatic pop, emit a distinct odor, and even release some smoke. Sometimes the plastic at the base of a CFL will turn black, which is normal in most cases as safety standards require application of special flame-retardant plastics.

CFLs are one of the products regularly tested to specific requirements for electrical safety, fire, and shock hazards. Any popping sounds or smoke that a consumer might see when a CFL burns out means that the bulb's end-of-life mechanism worked as it should have.

Consumers should look for the UL mark on packaging when purchasing CFLs. If a CFL carries the UL mark, consumers know Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. has investigated the product to meet specific safety requirements.

For more information, visit www.safetyathome.com

Source: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.



Read Your Meter to Track Usage

Reading your electric meter doesn't have to be a job just for Lynchés River Electric Cooperative. You can read your own meter to better monitor your energy use.

Checking your meter monthly lets you track spikes or dips in your electricity use. Having that information at your fingertips allows you to make better energy choices, and nip potential unseen problems (such as a well pump that won't turn off) in the bud.

Digital meters are easy to read. Simply write down your current reading. The next time you read the meter, write down the reading. Subtract the first reading from the second to see the amount of electricity you have used during the period of time between readings.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy (EnergySavers.gov)

Visit Us
On the Web

Learn more about
Green Power at

lynchesriver.com



Choose the Right Bulb for the Job

When choosing CFL bulbs, be sure to select the types of CFLs appropriate for the different fixtures in your home.

Bulb manufacturers now offer more style choices, including:

- Indoor floodlight (reflector)
- Torchiere
- Chandelier
- 3-way
- Ceiling fan
- Globe