

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE CEO

Dividing Lines

What makes electric co-ops different from other types of utilities?

Because Victory Electric is a cooperative, we often refer to “the cooperative difference.” The differences between electric co-ops and other electric utilities range from the nomenclature used—co-ops serve “members” not “customers”—to the business model itself.

For example, electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis. Revenues above operating costs, called “margins,” are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

In the U.S., there are two other kinds of not-for-profit electric providers: public utility districts (PUDs) and public power districts (PPDs). There are also two other types of electric utilities: city-owned municipal electric systems and profit-driven investor-owned utilities. In every case, utilities receive financial assistance from the federal government in some fashion. Following is a look at each.

Cooperatives, PUDs, PPDs

Electric cooperatives are joined by public power districts—located exclusively in Nebraska—and public utility districts (all in the Pacific Northwest) as being not-for-profit. But while cooperatives choose directors/trustees from the membership (those served by the co-op) and are required by state law to hold annual membership

meetings, PUDs and PPDs are local government units—similar to school districts—and are not required to hold annual meetings or allocate capital credits. In addition, their directors (commissioners in the case of PUDs) are elected on the state ballot. Candidates only need to reside within the PPD/PUD’s boundaries to serve on a board; they do not have to receive power from the utility.

Federal assistance to electric co-ops comes in the form of low-interest loans from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), formerly the Rural Electrification Administration. Based on current interest rates, RUS loans actually make money for the federal government—about \$274 million in fiscal year 2012. Aside from aiding in construction of critical infrastructure that keeps electric service reliable and electric rates affordable, RUS financing remains important because household incomes in co-op service territories run about 11 percent lower than the national average.

Co-ops serve an average of 7.4 consumers per mile of line, over

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Terry Janson

“It’s really about improving the quality of life in the communities we serve.”

Mark Your Calendars

April 2013

S	M	T	W	U	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

The 68th Annual Meeting of Victory Electric has been scheduled for April 9 at the Western State Bank Expo Center.

A meal will be served and everyone attending will have a chance to win some great door prizes.

Stay tuned for more details on the upcoming annual meeting.

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"



This month's lucky winners are... Darrell Woods, Stanley Smith, Tom Peterson, Marivel Esquivel, Aurelia Garcia, Betty Davis, Felipe Delgado, Arthur Dole, and Roscoe Dyre. Come by Victory Electric Cooperative to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!

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which they collect annual revenue of about \$14,900. Nationally, electric co-ops pay \$1.4 billion in state and local taxes each year.

Municipal Electric Systems

Municipal electric systems are distribution utilities owned by a city, borough, or other incorporated community. As public entities, they can levy taxes, issue government bonds, and adopt and enforce rules and regulations.

Not-for-profit municipals serve the most consumers per mile of line, an average of 48, and collect an average of \$113,301 per mile of line. The federal government subsidizes municipals, too—when cities or boroughs issue tax-exempt bonds, interest paid to bond owners is not taxed. The cost of this benefit in 2003 (the last year data is available) was \$909 million, or \$55 per consumer.

Investor-Owned Utilities

Investor-owned utilities, or IOUs, are

governed by and generate profits for shareholders (stock owners) who do not necessarily live in the utility's service area. IOUs average 34 customers and \$75,498 in revenue per mile of line.

In virtually every case, IOUs charge electric rates that include amounts for presumed federal tax liabilities. However, available tax breaks (investment tax credits and accelerated depreciation) allow IOUs to retain most of the taxes collected, a total of roughly \$107 billion to date. At a cost to the government of \$4.6 billion in 2010, this federal subsidy to IOUs works out to about \$44 per customer.

Back to the Cooperative Difference

Victory Electric is here to provide affordable, reliable, environmentally responsible electric power. But at the core, it's really about improving the quality of life in the communities we serve. That's the main difference—the cooperative difference.

'Til Next Time, TJ

Seven Members Nominated for Board Election

On February 5, 2013, the committee of nominations, who were appointed by The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., Board of Trustees, submitted the following candidates for Trustees of the cooperative.

► DISTRICT 5

Gary Gillespie

► DISTRICT 7

Brad Ochs

James (Jim) Ochs

► DISTRICT 9

Richard Lightner

► DISTRICT 10

Pat Morse

Susie Faulds

Scott Gurtner

Trustees will be elected to a three-year term at the Annual Meeting of Members on April 9, 2013. All members in these districts will be eligible to vote for the candidates.

Victory Electric Master Electrician Passes



Jerry Hurst

GERALD "JERRY" HURST was a part-time master electrician for only a short time, but he left a lasting impression with the employees of Victory Electric.

"Jerry will be greatly missed," said Jim Meis, manager of electrician services at Victory Electric. "I knew him in the early days as a co-owner of A.C. Electric, and then he worked with me at Meis

Electric for about 10 years. Most recently, he came out of retirement and worked part-time for the past year at Victory Electric. He was a hardworking individual who took great pride in his work."

Hurst, 65, passed away December 22, 2012. Jerry was born February 1, 1947, in Bethesda, MD. He was the son of Vybert "V.G." and Dolly Hurst. Jerry was raised in Ness City and later moved to Dodge

City. He was a master electrician and the owner of A.C. Electric. Jerry loved to fish, play poker, and spend time with his granddaughters.

He is survived by his wife, Kay, son, Capt. Justin Hurst (Beth); daughter, Dr. Shawna Harris (Matt), all of Dodge City; brother, Kenny Hurst (Cheryl) of Overland Park; and two granddaughters, Madison Hurst and Avery Harris.

Biggest User: How to Estimate Your Home Appliances' Energy Use

You've had your fridge forever. With the exception of some crumbling parts of the seal, it's in pretty good shape and keeps your food cold. Why worry about budgeting for an upgrade?

For starters, inefficient appliances can have a huge impact on your home's monthly electric bill. Replacing a refrigerator made before 1993 with a new, ENERGY STAR-rated model could knock \$65 to \$100 off your power costs each year.

When evaluating older appliances, one key question emerges: Which is the biggest user? To estimate the energy consumption of an appliance, use this general formula provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's EnergySavers.gov:

▶ $(\text{Wattage} \times \text{Hours used per day} \times \text{Days used per year}) \div 1,000 = \text{Annual kilowatt-hour (kWh) used}$

Remember: 1,000 watts = 1 kilowatt (kW).

▶ Then calculate the annual cost to use an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by \$0.10 per kWh used. For example, a PC and monitor:

▶ $[(120 \text{ Watts} + 150 \text{ Watts}) \times 4 \text{ hours per day} \times 365 \text{ days per year}] \div 1000 = 394 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.10/\text{kWh} = \$39.40/\text{year}$

You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance or on its nameplate. The wattage listed shows the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Because some appliances have a range of settings—just like the volume on a radio—the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time.

Keep in mind that as electronics and appliances become more technologically savvy, they often draw power even while turned off. A good indicator of this—called “phantom load”—is to check the device for a light that stays on all the time.

Phantom load will add a few watt-hours to energy consumption,

but a few watt-hours on each of your electronic devices adds up. To avoid this silent power draw, unplug the device or invest in a “smart” power strip, which allows certain electronics—like a cable box, which takes time to reboot after it's been unplugged—to continue using electricity while others can be completely shut down.

Here are examples of the range of wattages for common household appliances:

- ▶ **Clothes washer:** 350–500 Watts
- ▶ **Clothes dryer:** 1800–5000 Watts
- ▶ **Dishwasher:** 1200–2400 Watts (heat drying feature increases energy use)
- ▶ **Hair dryer:** 1200–1875 Watts
- ▶ **Microwave oven:** 750–1100 Watts
- ▶ **Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet):** 725 Watts

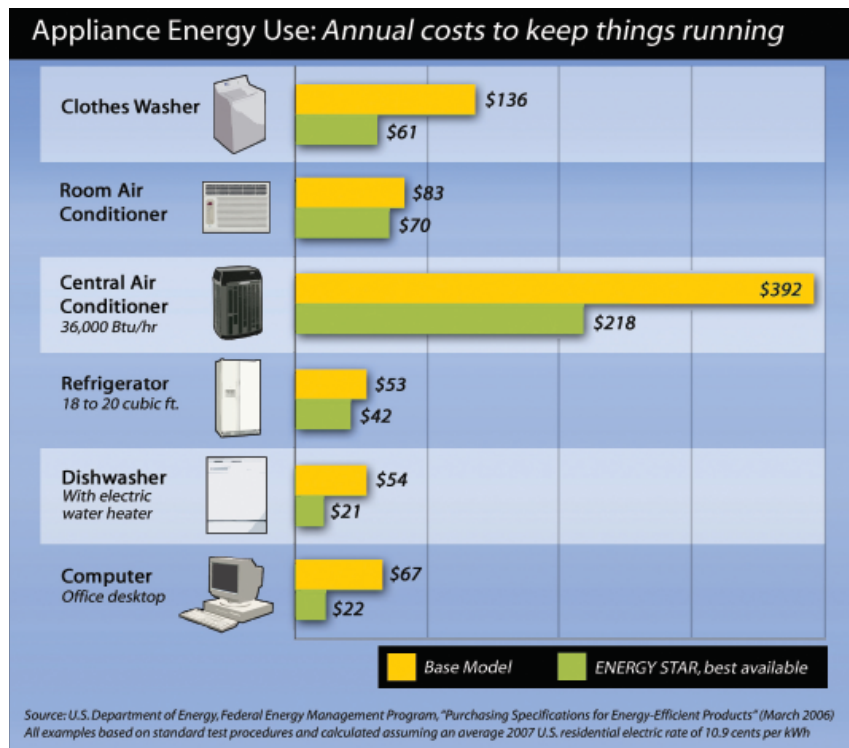
Once you calculate how much money you spend to run aging home appliances, compare this to what it would cost to use more efficient models. There are other benefits, too. For example, not only have clothes washers become 64 percent more energy efficient since 2000, but the tub

size has increased by 9 percent. With a new model you can wash more clothes for less money every month.

Don't want the hassle of adding up the potential savings? Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives' website, www.TogetherWeSave.com, demonstrates how small changes like replacing an appliance or unplugging electronics lead to big energy savings. On the website under 'Add Up Your Savings,' you can walk through a typical home's kitchen, living room, and other common areas. Upgrade appliances and make other energy-smart choices in each room. Each time you make a change, you're shown how much money you could save on your annual electric bill.

Before any energy efficiency upgrade, remember to check <http://energy.gov/savings>, www.dsireusa.org, and www.victoryelectric.net to find if rebates or incentives are available.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, ENERGY STAR



Mayor Usuario: Aprenda a Calcular el Consumo de sus Electrodomésticos "Energía para ver si es el Momento para una Actualización"

Usted ha tenido su nevera por siempre. Con la excepción de algunas partes desmoronadas del sello, está en muy buena forma de mantener su comida fría. ¿Por qué preocuparse por el presupuesto para una actualización?

Para empezar, electrodomésticos ineficientes pueden tener un impacto enorme en la factura mensual de electricidad de su casa. Sustitución de un refrigerador hecho antes de 1993 con una nueva calificación ENERGY STAR modelo podría ahorrar \$ 65 a \$ 100 de descuento en su factura cada año.

Al evaluar los electrodomésticos más antiguos, una pregunta clave: ¿Cuál es el mayor usuario? Para estimar el consumo de energía de un dispositivo, utilice esta fórmula general proporcionada por los EE.UU. Departamento de Energía de los EnergySavers.gov:

► **(Vatios x horas de uso por día Del día x utilizados por año) ÷ 1.000 = Anual de kilovatios-hora (kWh) que se utiliza**

Recuerde: 1.000 vatios = 1 kilovatio (kW).

► A continuación, calcular el costo anual para usar un aparato multiplicando los kWh por año por \$.10 por kWh utilizado. Por ejemplo, un PC y el monitor:

► **[(120 + 150 Vatio Vatios) x 4 horas por día x 365 días al año] ÷ 1000 = 394 kWh x 10 centavos / kWh = \$39.40/años**

Generalmente, usted puede encontrar los vatios de la mayoría de los aparatos estampados en la parte inferior o posterior del aparato o en su placa de características. Los

vatios enlistados muestran la potencia máxima consumida por el aparato.

Debido a que algunos aparatos tienen una gama de ajustes-al igual que el volumen de una radio-la cantidad real de energía consumida depende de la configuración utilizada en cualquier momento.

Tenga en cuenta que, como aparatos electrónicos y electrodomésticos se vuelven más conocedores de la tecnología, a menudo consumen energía aun estando apagado. Un buen indicador de la llamada "carga fantasma"-es comprobar el dispositivo para una luz que permanece encendida todo el tiempo.

Carga Phantom agregará unos cuantos vatios-hora de consumo de energía, pero unos pocos vatios-hora en cada uno de los muchos dispositivos electrónicos se suma. Para evitar este consumo de energía silenciosa, desconecte el dispositivo o invertir en una tira "inteligente" de energía, que permite a la electrónica-como ciertas una caja de cable, que necesita tiempo para reiniciar después de haberlo desenchufado, para seguir utilizando la electricidad, mientras que otros pueden ser totalmente cerrados hacia abajo.

Estos son ejemplos de la gama de potencias de los aparatos domésticos comunes:

- Lavadora de ropa: 350-500 Vatios
- Secadora de ropa: 1800-5000 Vatios
- Lavavajillas: 1200-2400 Vatios (función de secado por calor aumenta el consumo de energía)
- Secador de pelo: 1200-1875 Vatios

► Horno de microondas: 750-1100 Vatios

► Refrigerador (sin escarcha, 16 pies cúbicos): 725 Vatios

Una vez que calcular la cantidad de dinero que gasta para ejecutar el envejecimiento de los aparatos electrodomésticos, comparar esto con lo que costaría utilizar modelos más eficientes. Hay otros beneficios también. Por ejemplo, no sólo tienen lavadoras de ropa convertida en energía un 64 por ciento más eficiente desde el año 2000, pero el tamaño de la bañera se ha incrementado en un 9 por ciento. Con un nuevo modelo que pueda lavar más ropa por menos dinero cada mes.

No quiere la molestia de sumar los ahorros potenciales? Touchstone Energy® sitio web de las cooperativas, www.TogetherWeSave.com, demuestra cómo los pequeños cambios como sustitución de un aparato o desconectar la electrónica conduce a grandes ahorros de energía. En el sitio web bajo "Sume sus ahorros", se puede caminar a través de la cocina de una casa típica, sala y otras áreas comunes. Actualice los aparatos o hacer otras opciones inteligentes de energía en cada habitación. Cada vez que realice un cambio, le muestra cuánto dinero se puede ahorrar en su factura de electricidad anual.

Antes de cualquier mejora de eficiencia energética, recuerde revisar <http://energy.gov/savings>, www.dsireusa.org y www.victoryelectric.net de encontrar si los descuentos o incentivos disponibles.



Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook

Visite nuestro sitio web www.victoryelectric.net. En nuestro sitio Web, usted encontrará un calendario de eventos, con frecuencia pregunta, pago de factura y energía calculadora sólo por nombrar algunas herramientas!

También puede ser una fan de Victory Electric en Facebook buscando Victory Electric Cooperativa Assn, Inc. Consulte nuestra página en Facebook para actualizaciones, información de interrupción y consejos de eficiencia de energía. Facebook es una excelente forma de mantenerse en contacto con nuestros miembros.