

Don't Be Fooled by Common Energy Myths

Eating carrots will greatly improve your eyesight. Cracking your knuckles leads to arthritis. Watching too much TV will harm your vision. We've all heard the old wives' tales, but did you know there are also many misconceptions about home energy use? Don't be fooled by common energy myths.

Myth: The higher the thermostat setting, the faster the home will heat (or cool).

Many people think that walking into a chilly room and raising the thermostat to 85 degrees will heat the room more quickly. This is not true.

Thermostats direct a home's HVAC system to heat or cool to a certain temperature. Drastically adjusting the thermostat setting will not make a difference in how quickly you feel warmer. The same is true for cooling. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees during summer months, and 68 degrees during winter months.

Myth: Opening the oven door to check on a dish doesn't really waste energy.

While it can be tempting to check the progress of that dish you're cooking in the oven, opening the oven door does waste energy. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, delaying the progress of your dish and, more importantly, costing you additional money. If you need to check the progress of a dish, try using the oven light instead.

Myth: Ceiling fans keep your home cool while you're away.

Believe it or not, many people think this is true. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Ceiling fans circulate room air but do not change the temperature. A running ceiling fan in an empty room is only adding to your

electricity use. Remember to turn fans off when you're away and reduce your energy use.

Myth: Reducing my energy use is too expensive.

Many consumers believe that reducing energy use requires expensive up-front costs, like purchasing new, more efficient appliances or construction upgrades to an older home. But the truth is, consumers who make small changes to their energy efficiency habits, such as turning off lights when not in use, sealing air leaks and using a programmable thermostat, can see a reduction in energy consumption.

Remember, energy efficiency doesn't have to be difficult. Focus on small changes to save big. Learn more about ways to save energy by visiting victoryelectric.net or visiting us on Facebook or Twitter.



Save on your electrical use by using the oven light instead of opening the oven.

Victory Electric Nominada '5 Estrellas Cooperativa'

Victory Electric ha sido nombrado un "5-Estrellas Cooperativa" por la Asociación Nacional de Cooperativas Eléctricas Rurales (NRECA). La designación de 5 estrellas, reconoce alto nivel de participación en cooperativas del voto, una campaña nacional fuera-del-voto de la Victory Electric. La campaña no partidista busca aumentar el número de votantes en áreas atendidas por las cooperativas eléctricas en todo el país.

"Las cooperativas eléctricas juegan un papel único y especial como una voz en sus comunidades", dijo el CEO NRECA Jim Matheson. "Ese nivel de compromiso fuerte es evidente en la conversación Victory Electric ha creado en torno a la oportunidad de votar. Las elecciones son importantes, especialmente en las zonas rurales, y Victory Electric ha utilizado el programa de cooperativas vote para aumentar la conciencia de nuestro deber cívico en



cada día de la elección. Me complace darles la en hora buena por este logro, ya que hacen una diferencia real en las comunidades que sirven."

La Campaña Voto Cooperativas fue lanzado por cooperativas eléctricas de Estados Unidos en respuesta a la continua apatía de los votantes, sobre todo en zonas rurales de América. Desde su lanzamiento en Febrero, más de 560 cooperativas eléctricas se han unido a través de cooperativas votar para aumentar el número de votantes en áreas atendidas por las cooperativas.

Lea "La lucha contra la Disminución de la votación rural" en la página 8 en *Kansas Country Living* para más información sobre Kansas "5-Estrellas Cooperativa. Visita vote.coop que se comprometan a votar en las elecciones de este año y encontrar una variedad de recursos de volantes.



Los miembros se reúnen para dar la bienvenida a los candidatos, un evento para promover el voto en las cooperativas.

Regla de Clima Frío: Efectivo 15 de Noviembre al 15 de Marzo

Los miembros cooperativos que no pueden pagar sus facturas de electricidad durante el periodo de clima frío pueden calificar para este programa, siempre que cumplan con ciertos requisitos de buena fe al intentar pagar.

- ▶ Los miembros deben cumplir con requisitos para calificar para el programa se resumen a continuación.
- ▶ Los miembros deben notificar a la Cooperativa indicado su incapacidad de no pagar sus facturas de servicio en su totalidad.
- ▶ Los miembros deben aplicar a programas de asistencia financiera federal, estatal

o local que pueden ser elegibles para recibir ayuda en el pago de facturas de servicios públicos.

Los miembros y la cooperativa llegarán a un acuerdo de pagos mutuamente aceptables. Tenga en cuenta que si no se siguen los requisitos, desviar ilegalmente servicio de utilidad, recibiendo servicio por manipulaciones o incumplimiento de un acuerdo de pago, le descalificará de recibir las prestaciones en virtud de la regla de clima frío.

En ningún caso la cooperativa desconecta un servicio si la temperatura es pronosticada por el servicio meteorológico

local a caer por debajo de 35 grados F, dentro de las 24 horas siguiendo el tiempo de desconexión.

Victory Electric reserva el derecho a la desconexión entre 8 y 5 del Lunes al Viernes cuando la temperatura está en o por encima de 35 grados.

La regla de clima frío es garantizar la salud y seguridad no están amenazadas injustificadamente durante los meses de los frío.

Si tiene preguntas sobre la regla de clima frío, póngase en contacto con Sandy en 620-227-2139.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Dodge City, KS 67801
616-227-2139
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THE VICTORY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE CEO

Why We Celebrate Cooperatives

Every October, cooperatives from all sectors across the country celebrate National Cooperative Month. The purpose of this annual celebration is to recognize the cooperative difference and remind you, the members of the co-op, about Victory Electric's purpose.

I must admit occasionally, I too have been somewhat cynical of the many different "days" and "months" that are celebrated, but National Cooperative Month is truly an opportunity to celebrate.

Celebrating National Cooperative Month informs others about our unique business model, which is based on the Seven Cooperative Principles: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

For co-op employees and members who are familiar with the principles, the month of October is a great opportunity to renew our connection to each other and the purpose of our co-op. The mission of Victory Electric is to provide a safe reliable service at a competitive rate, provide economic development opportunities and

services for our consumers, and to ensure the financial stability of the cooperative through the use of prudent business practices and the latest technology.

In the U.S., there are more than 29,000 co-ops serving in every single industry. Many cooperatives join together during the month of October to educate members in the community about cooperatives. Some co-ops include credit unions, Ace Hardware, True Value, Do It Best Hardware, and agricultural co-ops. Co-ops are even represented on the shelves at our local grocery stores, with brands such as Land O'Lakes, Welch's, Organic Valley, Sunkist, Ocean Spray and many more.

According to the latest data, more than 130 million people belong to a co-op in the U.S. alone, and co-ops employ more than 2 million Americans.

This speaks to the heart of why we must take every opportunity to celebrate and teach others about the cooperative business model. So, plan your own co-op celebration by purchasing co-op products, look to do business with co-ops right here in our local community and be an active member of Victory Electric.

Thanks, Shane



Shane Laws

Victory Electric is Committed to Electrical Safety



Linemen Jeff Martinez, left, and Kyndell Pennick teach safety to Hodgeman County students at Farm Day.

Victory Electric gave electrical safety demonstrations at Progressive Ag Safety Day for elementary students.

Progressive Ag Safety Day is used to educate children attending Hodgeman County schools about the safety involved with equipment, public service entities, and much more.

Every year, Victory Electric promotes safety at programs like Farm Day throughout our service territory.

To learn more or to schedule a safety demonstration, call the office at 620-227-2139.

Non-Domestic Bills Mailed

Meters for fence chargers, small watering loads, and other small rural electric loads are classified as non-domestic services. Victory Electric will capture meter reads via automated meter infrastructure (AMI) each October and mail annually for the kilowatt-hours consumed in the previous year from November to October.

If you have any questions or concerns, stop in or call us at 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915.

Time Change Begins Nov. 6

On Sunday, November 6, remember to turn your clocks back one hour. This is also a great time to do the following:

- ▶ Change the batteries in smoke detectors.
- ▶ Have a professional check your fire extinguishers.

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"

This month's lucky winners are... **OSCAR OBANDO, TIM SMITH, DELBERT STEFAN, and VIRGINIA VILLA**



Efficiency Tip of the Month

Switching to energy-efficient lighting is one of the fast ways to cut your energy bill and save \$75 each year.

Cold Weather Rule Begins Nov. 15

Members who are unable to pay their electric bills during the cold weather period may qualify for this program, provided they fulfill certain good faith requirements when attempting to pay. The cold weather rule (CWR) applies November 15 through March 15.

The requirements members must meet to qualify for the program are summarized below.

- ▶ Members must notify the co-op and state their inability to pay their bill in full.
- ▶ Members must apply to federal, state, local or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid.
- ▶ Members and the co-op will reach a mutually agreeable payment arrangement.

Please note that failure to follow the above requirements, illegally diverting utility service,

receiving service by tampering, or defaulting on a payment agreement, will disqualify the member from receiving the benefits under the CWR.

In no event will the cooperative disconnect a service if the temperature is forecasted by the local National Weather Service to fall below 35 degrees, within 24-hours following the time of disconnection.

Victory Electric reserves the right to disconnect between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday when the temperature is at or above 35 degrees.

The CWR is to ensure human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

If you have any questions, call our office at 620-227-2139 during business hours.

Victory Electric Named '5-Star Co-op'

Victory Electric has been named a "5-Star Co-op" by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The 5-star designation recognizes Victory Electric's high level of participation in Co-ops Vote, a national get-out-the-vote campaign. The non-partisan campaign seeks to boost voter turnout in areas served by electric co-ops across the country.

"Electric cooperatives play a unique and special role as a voice in their communities," said NRECA CEO Jim Matheson. "That level of strong engagement is evident in the conversation Victory Electric has created around the opportunity to vote. Elections are important, especially in rural areas, and Victory Electric has used the Co-ops Vote program

to increase awareness of our civic duty on every Election Day. I'm pleased to congratulate them on this accomplishment as they make a real difference in the communities they serve."

The Co-ops Vote campaign was launched by America's electric co-ops in response to continued voter apathy, particularly in rural America. Since its launch in February, more than 560 electric co-ops have joined forces through Co-ops Vote to increase voter turnout in areas served by co-ops.

Read "Tackling the Decline in Rural Voting" on page 8 in *Kansas Country Living* for more information on Kansas' 5-Star Co-ops. Visit www.vote.coop to pledge to vote in this year's elections and find a variety of voter resources.



10th Annual

PUMPKIN

PAINTING AND CARVING

Festival

AT VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

9 – 11 A.M. | 800 PUMPKINS

PUMPKIN PAINTING AND CARVING

FACE PAINTING | GAMES | COSTUMES WELCOME

3230 N. 14TH AVE. DODGE CITY

Join us for a couple of hours of fun! There will be 800 pumpkins available on a first-come, first-served basis. Pumpkin and kits will be provided free of charge. Limited to children ages 13 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by Victory Electric Cooperative and Ladies Community Outreach

Straight Promoted to Crew Chief



Justin Straight

Victory Electric is pleased to announce the selection of **JUSTIN STRAIGHT** as the new crew chief.

"I started my professional career at Victory Electric," said Straight. "Looking back on my time at Victory, it is neat to see all I have learned and the progress I have made to leading a crew. I am thankful for the support I have been provided along the way."

Straight started at Victory Electric in December 2007 as a fourth class lineman. To become a crew chief, linemen have to meet a set amount of hours and have to pass knowledge and skills tests to move from fourth class, to third, and then to journeyman. After becoming a journeyman, they are eligible to hold a crew chief position.

A crew chief works with each line crew to oversee construction and maintenance so the lines are built safely and correctly.

"Our linemen work hard to further their knowledge and certifications," said Ryan Miller, supervisor of operations. "It is great when guys are at Victory Electric from beginning to end. Adding Straight as a crew chief was a great advancement for him and our crews."

We congratulate Justin on his promotion and know he will provide great leadership to his crew.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

Save on Fall Looks and Services with Salon Exotica

SALON EXOTICA is one of several local businesses providing savings for co-op connection card users at Victory Electric.

Filled with modern art, chatter between stylists and clients, Salon Exotica services women, men and children in downtown Dodge City.

Several stylists are offering 10 percent off of any service when members use their co-op connections card.

Since 2010, Salon Exotica has been serving the community at its downtown location but has been in business for more than 10 years.

"As a stylist offering the discount, it is helping my hometown," said **SHELLEY JAMES**, Salon Exotica stylist. "I grew up in Dodge City and earned my cosmetology degree from Dodge City Community

College. A lot of us have. It is nice to be able to give back to our community."

The salon is a full-service salon with cuts, colors, perms, extensions, make-up application, waxing, eye lash extensions, sugaring and more.

"When someone comes in, a little time in the chair can be refreshing. I like being able to help people feel a bit better," James said.

The Co-op Connections Card connects members with discounts. Check out the latest saving opportunities at connections.coop or victoryelectric.net/content/co-op-connections-card. Start saving on local and national discounts today, by using your Co-op Connections Card. If you need a new card, please stop by the office during business hours to get one and start saving.



Salon Exotica stylist Shelley James rinses a color from her client's hair.

FIND US ON

social media for ways to save and more

Victory Electric's Facebook page, Twitter feed and website are resources for news, energy efficiency tips and outage updates. We invite you to interact with us!

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