



BECi News



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BECi reminds members power bills reflect earlier electricity use

Beauregard Electric reminds members that high energy use during the winter could lead to higher power bills after temperatures begin to rise.

General Manager Kevin Turner points out that monthly power bills reflect energy use that occurred during the previous 30 to 60 days.

Thinking about how electricity is used - and how much is used - is not usually a priority for many homeowners and businesses, especially during high demand periods such as the recent cold snaps and winter storms. But that changes when the bill arrives.

According to Randy Pierce, CEO of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge, consumers should be aware that unusually high power bills can arrive long after extreme weather is gone.

"When we have unusually cold winters or very hot summers, high bills begin to arrive once the weather has turned milder. Then consumers want to know why their bill has gone through the roof. They often question if their meter is functioning correctly," Pierce said. "In the great majority of cases, it's simply because so much more power was used."

He said there could be a span of two months from the time a kilowatt hour is consumed and the time it shows up on a bill, pointing out that unlike groceries and gasoline, electricity is billed and paid for long after it is actually consumed.

Other factors may come into play, such as longer billing cycles and more energy use due to the fact that schools and businesses shut down during inclement weather and families stayed indoors and used far more power than normal playing with electronics,

watching TV, baking, etc.

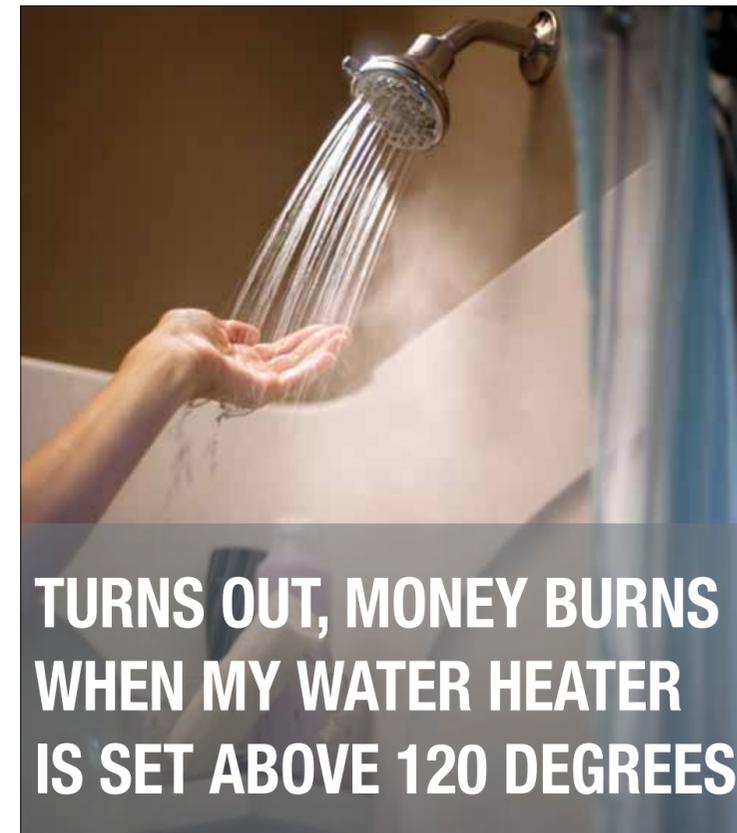
In the winter, heating costs generally account for the largest percentage of residential bills and consumers are quick to reach for the thermostat without realizing just one degree difference can increase heating costs 6-8 percent. Those who have electric heat are often hit the hardest. Electric heat is the most inefficient form of heating, and during extreme cold weather it creates more energy use, which in turn leads to higher electric bills.

In December, January and the first half of February, temperatures were exceptionally cold as a polar vortex brought extremely cold weather for an extended period. In December, only seven of the 31 days had lows exceeding 40 degrees. (Acct. No. 274001)

Pierce noted that electric co-ops are non-profit, member-owned power providers that only charge what is required to cover the cost of serving their members.

Remember that all electricity usage counts, and it really adds up. BECi offers the following tips to help save energy and money on your bill.

1. Thermostats should be set at 68 degrees.
2. Use more blankets at night instead of raising the temperature on the thermostat.
3. Set ceiling fans on reverse to re-circulate heat that builds up near the ceiling. Fans should rotate in a clockwise motion during winter, which can save consumers up to 15 percent.
4. Use insulated curtains or other window coverings on cold nights.
5. During the day, open interior blinds or curtains to let the sun warm up the home.
6. Warm water faucet leaks should



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be fixed immediately, as they raise energy consumption rapidly.

7. Close vents in unused rooms.
8. Don't leave ventilation fans in the kitchen or bathroom running longer than necessary, as they replace warm inside air with cold outside air.
9. Check around doors for air

leaks; use caulking, sealing and weather stripping to close up seams, cracks and other openings to the outside. Even placing a heavy towel across a door jamb on the floor can help a little, but it is much more efficient to buy these inexpensive products to tighten up those leaky areas.

Official Notice of Beauregard Electric's 2014 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Members of Beauregard Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BECi), will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014, at 10 a.m. at the BECi office in DeRidder, Louisiana.

Election of directors will be conducted by mail in accordance with the bylaws, which provide for rules to be established by a credentials and election committee of BECi members. Conduct of business at the meeting will be set forth in the bylaws. (Acct. No. 132633001)

Annual Meeting Agenda

- Reading of the notice of the annual meeting and proof of due publication of mailing



- thereof, or the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting, as the case may be.
- Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meetings of the members and taking of necessary action thereon.
- Presentation and consideration of reports

of board officers, directors and committees.

- Report of the elections committee on the balloting for the election of directors.
- Unfinished business.
- New business.
- Adjournment.

DOOR PRIZES—A Special Drawing for three door prizes will be held at this year's BECi annual meeting. Those at least 18 years of age in attendance and registering will be eligible.

- TWO (2) FLAT SCREEN TELEVISIONS
- APPLE IPAD

From the Manager



By Kevin Turner
General Manager

BECi's founding principles haven't changed in 75 years

I have to admit history wasn't one of my favorite subjects in high school. All those dates and names and events always seemed hard to remember and even harder to comprehend.

And I could never understand why my teachers thought it was relevant to anything I was doing at the time.

But when I think back on the history of Beauregard Electric, I can see how the past can be intriguing and especially important in terms of helping us chart our course into the future.

I hear folks often talk about how much times have changed, particularly when discussing the things they see nowadays on television, on the internet, in movies and in magazines - things that would make a sailor blush.

It seems we're living in a day and age when certain values, moral standards and codes of public conduct are quickly and irreversibly eroding.

But just when all the vulgarity, crudeness and filth permeating our culture begin to create a sense of overwhelming sadness and disappointment, I'm uplifted by the fact that there are still organizations where the same principles and standards that applied decades ago still stand firm today.

BECi is one of those organizations. Your co-op was founded on a set of beliefs and principles that, I'm proud to say, are still in place 75 years later. BECi emerged as a necessity after the large for-profit utilities serving the developed town centers balked at bringing power to the countryside.

Instead of airing their gripes on Facebook and logging in to some chat room to vent their spleens under the cloak of anonymity about how badly they'd been mistreated - as some might do today - folks living right here in this community rolled up their sleeves and got to work rectifying the situation.

They organized, developed a plan, rallied public support, sought help where they could find it and dragged up seed funding by going door-to-door to collect the required \$5 membership fee, which, to be sure, was a lot of money in those days. (Acct. No. 92580001)

They marshaled resources and acquired the equipment and personnel necessary to build an infrastructure capable of meeting the needs of those living on farms and ranches and in villages across southwest Louisiana. In the process, they created local jobs and

infused the community with a sense of hope, optimism and can-do spirit.

Were there critics who contended bringing power to the countryside simply wasn't practical? Certainly. Were there those who believed cooperative organizations - or collectives, as some called this business model - were too socialist for their tastes? Yes.

But BECi's founders forged ahead anyway because they knew that if left to the whims of the "invisible hand of the marketplace" they would never have access to the benefits of electricity as the costs were too great to build many miles of power poles and lines to serve just a few far-flung farms and country homes. (Acct. No. 81241001)

They knew the large power companies were only geared toward satisfying the needs of Wall Street, not Main Street, and that the bottom line was profits, not service.

Besides, the idea that every member would be entitled to have one vote when it came to electing board members and making other decisions pertaining to the co-op seemed appropriately democratic. And the idea of exercising the local community's right of self-determination and autonomy with the goal of improving its quality of life and future prosperity seemed fitting for any free republic.

From there, the BECi story is truly inspirational as the community joined together to deliver electricity - and all the modern conveniences that came with it - to rural southwest Louisiana.

Prominent local citizens such as Senator G.F. Hennigan, W.D. West, R.I. Davis, E.H. McMinn, S.J. Welborn, Rufus Morris, J.E. Cochran, L.C. Cole, Earl Manning, Mary McNamara and many others saw the project through.

Today, BECi has 4,838 miles of lines serving over 40,000 locations, and our employees - all local people, contribute their time and resources to maintaining healthy communities and supporting local businesses in the area served.

Though we've certainly grown over the decades to meet the needs of our members, our guiding principles have remained unchanged. Equality, democracy, self-determination, commitment to community - these are standards we still hold dear and continue to uphold. It's a pleasure and a privilege to serve you, and we look forward to the next 75 years.



You could win \$50!!

Beauregard Electric is offering its members an opportunity to win the Co-op's Lucky Account Number Contest by publishing four account numbers somewhere on pages 6-7 of Louisiana Country.

Look for your account number hidden somewhere on these pages.

To win, you must locate your account number (listed on your electric bill) on these pages and then contact the Co-op. To claim your prize, call 800-367-0275 or 463-6221 by April 15.

Your Cooperative Connection

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