

Be One of the Outstanding 8th Graders Heading to Energy Camp! p. 2

It's Fluorescent Friday Time!

February's Fluorescent Fridays are back!
 Each Friday in February we are giving away free packages of CFL light bulbs from the light booth set up in the lobby of our Collinsville headquarters. All you need to do is come in on any Friday in February and get your free light bulbs.
 Every member is eligible for one package of four bulbs during the promotion. You can only pick-up bulbs for yourself, not for friends or neighbors.
 The bulbs are equivalent to 75-Watt bulbs, and each package is valued at over \$7.
 As of Jan. 1, incandescent bulbs are being phased out by the Department of Energy.
 The phase-out begins with 100-Watt bulbs, but 40-

60-, an 75-Watt bulbs are also part of the phase-out, which finishes up in 2014.
 A CFL can save you more than \$100 on your electric bill before it burns out because it's so energy efficient – four times more than an incandescent bulb. In fact, incandescents produce more heat than light, so they use tons of energy and burn out quickly. CFLs last up to 10 times longer and use 80 percent less energy.



Lighting Choices

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, it costs the average consumer about \$4.80 a year to operate a traditional incandescent light bulb. By comparison, here's a look at the estimated savings offered by other major bulb types now lining retail shelves.

Halogen Incandescent
Estimated Annual Cost:* \$3.50
Energy Savings:** 25 percent
Hours:*** 3,000 to 4,000
Dimmable: Yes
How It Works: Electricity passes through a metal filament until heat makes it glow, and a gas-filled, coated capsule surrounds the filament to keep it hot with less energy.

Energy Star CFL
Estimated Annual Cost:* \$1.20
Energy Savings:** 75 percent
Hours:*** 8,000 to 10,000
Dimmable: Some
How It Works: Electricity passes through a gas-filled tube to produce ultraviolet light. A fluorescent coating inside the tube, phosphor, makes the light visible.

Energy Star LED
Estimated Annual Cost:* \$1
Energy Savings:** 75 to 80 percent
Hours:*** 35,000 to 50,000****
Dimmable: Yes
How It Works: Light-emitting diodes are small light sources illuminated by the passage of electrons through semiconductor material.

* To operate 60-watt bulbs, based on 2 hours/day of use
 ** Over traditional incandescent
 *** Varies by specific lamp type
 **** High-power white LEDs

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage,
November through April billing

Customer Charge \$20.00

Energy Charge

1st 1,000 kWh \$0.0731/kWh
Over 1,000 kWh \$0.0671/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

Climb a Pole

Be One of the Outstanding 8th Graders Heading to Energy Camp

Have you given any thought to what you are going to do this summer? VVEC can help you kick-off your summer with fun, new friends and lots of memories.

YouthPower Energy Camp is four days with young people your age learning about electric cooperatives by forming a Coke and Candy Co-op, climbing a utility pole, and riding high in a bucket truck.

You will also get to go swimming, spend an evening at Celebration Station in Oklahoma City, and tour a generation and transmission cooperative.

The camp is held each year at Camp Canyon near Hinton.

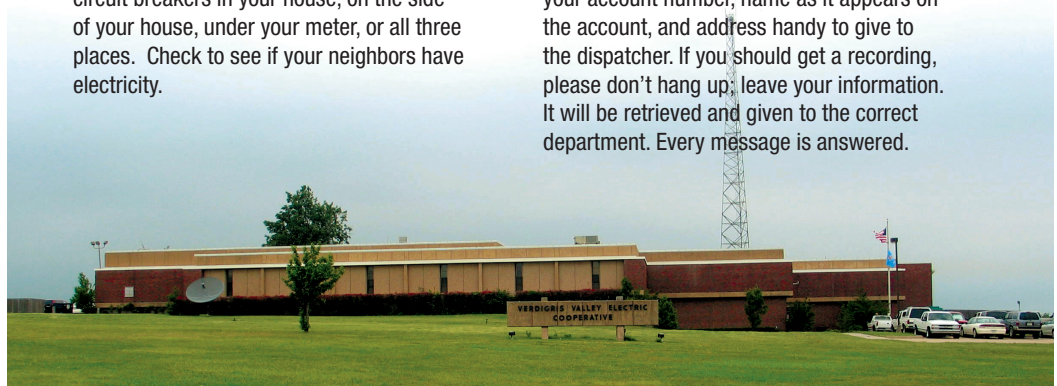
Eighth graders wanting to participate in our Energy Camp competition are asked to write a 250 word essay on *"Should America Expand Further into Nuclear Energy to Provide for Future Electricity Needs?"*

Deadline to submit essays to the co-op is 4 p.m. Friday, March 2. You can write your essay with a friend as a team, and then both of you can attend the camp as winners of VVEC's program.

This year's Energy Camp is May 29 to June 1. For more information, contact VVEC's Energy Camp Coordinator Paula Lanni at (918) 371-2584.

What to do if Your Power Goes Off

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is long distance for you. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, please don't hang up, leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



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Lori Prock
Billing Coordinator

Employee of the Year

Each year VVEC employees honor a fellow employee who consistently demonstrates excellence in his or her position. The 2011 Employee of the Year is Billing Coordinator Lori Prock.

Prock began her career with VVEC in 2005 in the billing section of the office services department. She had several responsibilities in various areas. In 2007, she began working in collections, and was promoted to her current position in 2009.

“The thing I like best about my job is the many opportunities I have to help people,” says Prock. “And the thing I like best about working at the co-op is the atmosphere. It’s like working for and with family. Everyone genuinely cares about each other.”

Prock’s perpetual smile and easy laugh make her popular with the eight people in her section.

“Lori understands her job and is highly qualified,” says Mary Edgecombe, consumer services representative. “Not only does she have the answers to our questions, she is a pleasant person and wonderful to work with.”

“I am greatly humbled the employees think enough of me to honor me like this,” says Prock. “I would not be able to do the job I do without the people I work with.”

Born near Ft. Smith, AR, she and her husband Tim have been married for 26 years. Tim is the pastor of Collinsville’s First Baptist Church. The couple has three sons; David, Daniel and Drew.

Several employees were recognized during the Employee Christmas Party for the years of service to VVEC and its members.

Below left are Connie Quinton, 10 years; Clifton White, 5 years; and Paula Lanni, 15 years.

Below right are (standing left to right) Gary Yarbrough and Mark Coulter, 20 years; (seated) Roger Penick and Lon Lambert, 30 years.



What is a Lumen?

A lumen is a way to measure how brightly a light bulb burns. Like buying milk by the gallon and bananas by the pound, we'll soon be buying light by the lumen.

In fact, new packages of light bulbs already sport a Lighting Facts Label that tells you the bulb's lumens instead of its Watts. That's going to take some getting used to.

Here are few guidelines from the Department of Energy:

- The light from a new bulb with 1,600 lumens — whether it's a CFL, halogen or LED — is about equivalent to a 100-Watt incandescent.
- Replace a 75-Watt incandescent with a 1,100-lumen bulb.
- Choose a bulb with 800 lumens to take the place of a 60-Watt incandescent.
- Look for 450 lumens to shine as brightly as a 40-Watt traditional bulb.

The Lighting Facts Label also reveals how much it will cost you to burn the bulb for a year, how long

the bulb will last —based on using it three hours a day — whether its light appears warm (yellowish) or cool (whiter) and how much energy it uses (in Watts).

"I Now Pronounce You..." Has Your Status Changed?

Have you recently tied the knot, gotten divorced or been widowed? If so, we need you to call us so we can update your account.

We need up-to-date, accurate information for your capital credit account, but also to make it easy for you to conduct your business with us. Federal legislation enacted after Sept. 11, 2001 prevents us from discussing the account with anyone not listed on it.

If you have been widowed, your account will be placed in your name, but we need you to update your application. If your parents, or another family member, were VVEC members and have passed away, we need to be aware of that because we cannot have an account in the name of a deceased person.

We will be glad to work with you on updating your account. Just call our consumer service representatives at 918-371-2584.



RECIPE

Chili Biscuits Cups

- 1 container Pillsbury Grands biscuits, separated into 8 biscuits
- 1 can (16 to 20 oz.) chili
- Finely chopped peppers or onions (optional)
- 3/4 cup shredded taco cheese or a Mexican blend

Heat oven to 400°. Lightly spray 8 muffin cups with baking spray or lightly grease each cup. Using hands or a rolling pin, flatten the biscuits to make a large round, about 5 to 6 inches. Fit into muffin cups so some of the dough is forming a collar. Put about 1 & 1/2 tablespoons of chili into each biscuit cup. Top with a little finely chopped bell pepper or onion, if using. Top each with shredded cheese. Put a piece of foil or baking sheet below the muffin tin to catch any possible drips. Bake for about 12 minutes, until browned.

YIELD: 8 snacks or 4 lunch or meal portions.