



**TWACS Meters Fully Deployed Throughout System p. 4**

## Electric Rates Increase this Summer

### Customer Charges Increase Less than \$5 a Month for Residential Consumers

Effective June 1, the customer charge on your monthly electric bill is going to increase by about \$5. This will result in an increase in the co-op's annual revenues of about 3 percent.

"Several years ago, VVEC made a commitment to design rates that were more in line with the cost of providing service on a per revenue class basis," says VVEC's Director of Finance Clyde Willard.

A 2009 cost of study on VVEC's rates provided information on what the customer charge should be in each revenue class, so the co-op could recover costs associated with providing service to each meter location.

"Historically, the customer charge has been set at an amount that was considerably less than what recent cost of service studies have shown it should be," says Willard. "When the customer charges are set too low, it causes a portion of the fixed cost to be recovered in the energy charges. Rate designs such as this tend to result in members who use large amounts of electricity paying a greater portion of the fixed costs when compared to the fixed costs being recovered from the smaller electric users. Our intent is for there to be equality through each rate class."

Willard goes on to point out the rate increases will be less than \$5 a month

for residential and small commercial consumers, and less than \$10 a month for large power consumers.

The increase will be applied to all bills mailed on or after June 1.

Residential Class	\$20.20 to \$25.00
Small Commercial Class	\$25.25 to \$30.30
Large Power Class	\$50.50 to \$60.00

**Rate Comparison - Summer Rates (Assuming a .005 Power Cost Adjustment)**

**Residential**

kWh Billed	Current Rate Billing	New Rate Billing	Dollar Increase
0	\$20.60	\$25.50	\$4.90
500	64.41	69.31	4.90
1,000	108.22	113.12	4.90
2,000	195.84	200.74	4.90
2,500	242.25	247.15	4.90
5,000	474.30	479.20	4.90

**Small Commercial**

kWh Billed	Current Rate Billing	New Rate Billing	Dollar Increase
0	\$25.76	\$30.60	\$4.84
500	70.33	75.17	4.84
1,000	114.90	119.74	4.84
2,000	204.04	208.88	4.84
2,500	248.61	253.45	4.84
5,000	471.45	476.29	4.84

**VVEC Board of Trustees**

- District 1 - **Jim Brackett, 720-4531**
- District 2 - **Jack Bogart, 371-9587**
- District 3 - **Vernon Lewis, 341-5225**
- District 4 - **John Hibdon, 847-2320**
- District 5 - **Jimmy Lambert, 760-7029**
- District 6 - **Dennis Lenox, 396-1574**
- District 7 - **Charles Huerter, 333-3107**
- District 8 - **Ken Howard, 724-9965**
- District 9 - **Buddy McCarty, 272-5134 or 272-5364**

**General Manager** - Alice Houston

**VVEC Headquarters**

8901 E. 146th Street N., Collinsville

**Mailing address**

P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021

**Phone number**

(918) 371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948

**Office hours**

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,  
Monday through Friday

**Editor** - Kay Rabbitt-Brower

VVEC offices will be closed Friday, April 18 in recognition of Good Friday. Please call 918-371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948 if you need to report an outage.

**Winter Residential Rates**

October through March usage,  
November through April billing

Customer Charge                    \$20.20

**Energy Charge**

1st 1,000 kWh                    \$0.0738/kWh

Over 1,000 kWh                    \$0.0678/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.



**Swingin' in Style**

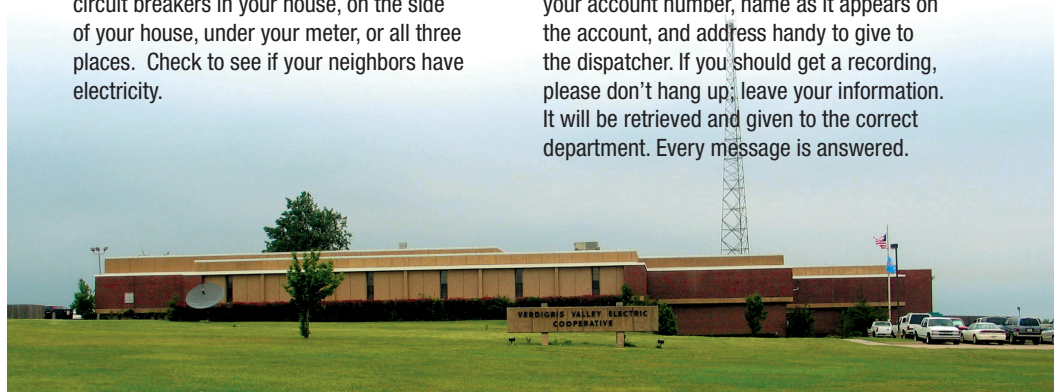
*Ed Donnini of Owasso is the winner of the patio swing featured in the Green Country Co-ops booth at the Tulsa Home & Garden Show in early March.*

*Members from each of the electric co-ops in northeast Oklahoma dropped by to visit, ask about the co-ops' various programs and services, and of course, to rest a moment on the swing.*

*Ed says he and wife Jacki are currently working on their back patio, and they will enjoy the swing once the project is completed.*

**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.



Power Circuit is published monthly by Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Collinsville, Oklahoma (ISSN 10884378) for its members in Tulsa, Rogers, Washington, Nowata and Osage counties. Periodical postage paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma and other additional mailing offices. Subscription price is \$0.19 per month. POSTMASTER - send address changes to Power Circuit, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021.

VOLUME 73 • NUMBER 4 • APRIL 2014

## TWACS Meters Fully Deployed Through-out System

“They are fully deployed and working as we intended,” says Randy Riddle when providing an update on the TWACS meter program. Riddle is VVEC’s manager of operations and technical services.

In April 2012, VVEC began installing the Two-Way Automated Communication System (TWACS) meters on about 600 locations in the Owasso area. Installations continued for about 18 months, until the state-of-the-art meters had been installed system-wide.

Riddle explains the meters operate by sending a signal over existing power lines from the meter directly to the co-op. They do not utilize cell phone towers or radio frequencies.

“The signal rides a 60-cycle wave, similar to a surfboard riding a wave

on the ocean, when it is sent out and when it returns,” explains Riddle.

After extensive research on a variety of smart meters, VVEC chose TWACS because of its long history of reliability, and tech support.

Riddle goes on to explain that utilizing TWACS meters was the next step in the progression of meter technology.

“Years ago meters were read by co-op personnel, then members read their meters and sent in their readings. Next we implemented Turtle meters which sent in reading electronically every 24 to 26 hours.

“We replaced those meters with the TWACS meters which collect readings on an hourly basis and send them once every 24 hours,” he says.



## Guard Electronics with Surge Suppressors

When severe weather occurs this time of year, it can ruin your TV, computer, stereo equipment and anything that’s plugged into the wall.

That’s because it can create a power surge – a phenomenon that’s responsible for millions of dollars of property damage every year.

Although a surge can enter the home through the path of the cable TV, satellite dish cable, or telephone lines, our suppressors protect against surges that enter through the electrical lines.

Surges don’t always destroy your electronic equipment and appliances,

but over time, they can damage them and shorten their life.

VVEC offers a two-part surge protection system at a economical price.

The protection begins outside your house with a meter-base unit designed to prevent high-voltage spikes from entering your home. It’s installed by our own personnel and redirects spikes and surges to your grounding system. It protects any appliance with an electric motor, such as refrigerators, washers and dryers, dishwashers, and heating and cooling systems.

The second part involves special plug-in protectors for each specific piece of electronic equipment you choose to protect.

For more information on our surge suppression equipment, please contact our member services department at 918-371-2584, ext. 6226.

April 2014 VVEC Power Circuit 3

## Just a Reminder....

Applications for VVEC’s Adopt-A-School and Fire Department grant programs are due by 4 p.m. Friday, April 21.

If you have any questions about these programs please contact Kay Rabbitt-Brower, 918-371-2584, ext. 6214.



# Buy Energy Efficient Appliances and Earn Rebates

Utilizing energy efficient appliances in your home is a win-win situation. You can improve your home's energy efficiency, and you can earn rebates too!

VVEC offers rebates on electric water heaters, ground-source, air-source and dual-fuel heat pumps, and room air conditioners. All need to be Energy Star rated.

Electric water heaters for new construction or conversions from gas, and have a minimum energy factor of .90 are rebated up to \$199 if purchased elsewhere, or full price (less taxes) if purchased from VVEC. We also offer \$50 rebates on 40-gallon or larger replacement tanks when replacing a tank with less than a .90

efficiency rate, and the new tank has a .90 or higher efficiency.

A \$50 rebate is available for Energy Star-rated room air conditioners.

Ground-source heat pumps for new construction or gas conversions are rebated at \$300 per ton and must have an EER value of 19.1 or greater. Replacement units will be rebated at \$150 per ton, and must meet the same EER criteria and be a gain of at least 3 EER. Replacing an air-source heat pump with a ground-source meeting the same requirements will be eligible for a \$150 per ton rebate.

Air-source heat pumps (with electric resistance backup) meeting a 16.5 SEER or greater will be rebated at \$150 per ton for new construction

or gas conversions only. Replacement units are not eligible for rebates. Dual-fuel heat pumps (using natural gas, propane or fuel oil for supplemental heating) meeting the same ratings will be rebated at \$150 per ton for new construction or replacement units.

If you have questions about this program, please contact Jane Van Sickle at 918-371-2584, ext. 6226. You can download a rebate form from our Web site - [www.vvec.com](http://www.vvec.com). **The completed form must be submitted to us within 90 days of purchasing the appliance.** Certain restrictions apply and new units are subject to on-site verifications.

## RECIPE



### Old-Fashioned Caramel Cupcakes

#### 1 butter recipe cake mix

Prepare cupcakes following instructions on cake box.

#### Old-Fashioned Caramel Frosting

1 cup butter

1 16-oz. pkg. dark brown sugar

1/2 cup evaporated milk

1/4 tsp. baking soda

1 Tbsp. light corn syrup

4 cups powdered sugar

Melt butter in a 3-qt. heavy saucepan over medium heat. Add brown sugar; bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Stir in evaporated milk, baking soda, and corn syrup; bring to a boil. Remove from heat, and let cool completely (about 1 hour.) Transfer to a bowl.

Gradually add powdered sugar to caramel mixture, beating at medium speed with an electric mixer until blended. Beat at high speed 2 minutes or until creamy. Use immediately.

Makes 3 cups.

Frost each cupcake with Old-Fashioned Caramel Frosting.