

LEDs for the Holidays By Tom Tate

“LED, LED, LED” (imagine this being chanted the way “USA” is at the Olympics). While LEDs won’t necessarily anchor a relay to victory, they are most certainly the current champions when it comes to energy-efficient lighting. So, let’s discuss using LEDs for your holiday decorating enjoyment.

When I was a kid, we enjoyed decorating with large painted incandescent bulbs. My dad would hang them around the front door, and we’d deck out the tree with a couple of strings. They were glorious—and hot, posing a real danger when used on a dry tree.

Fast-forward a couple of decades, and the energy conservation movement created a demand for more efficient options.

Enter the mini incandescent light strings. These are still widely used today and dramatically reduced the power consumed by their predecessors.

As is true in our technological age, manufacturers didn’t stop looking for even more efficient alternatives. This led to the introduction of LED lights. The first incarnations generated less-than-appealing garish blues, greens and reds but quickly softened into a more eye-pleasing spectrum. Today, LEDs are the undisputed champs of holiday lighting.

You could literally wrap your home in LED light strings, become visible to the International Space Station and still have a pleasantly manageable power bill at the end

of it all. Now there is no reason to let concerns over cost of operation limit your decorating genius.

LEDs are also showing up in other forms and places. They are available in clear tubes that you can wrap around objects for extra interest (the tubes glow), and many yard figures are constructed with these as the main structural element. Imagine the possibilities.




You have worked hard all year to reduce your energy consumption to save money and slim down your carbon footprint. Now reward yourself with a splendid holiday display that will be the envy of all who see it while still being miserly with power use.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



HOLIDAY LIGHTING COMPARISON

Holiday lighting options have come a long way over the last few decades. The chart below shows three types of lighting options, including wattage and operating cost comparisons.

TYPE OF LAMP	WATTAGE PER LAMP	WATTAGE PER 50 LAMPS	SEASONAL OPERATING COST*
C9 INCANDESCENT 	7	350	\$13.33
MINI INCANDESCENT 	.425	21.25	\$0.81
LED 	.069	3.45	\$0.13

*Using 40 days of operation, 8 hours per day, \$.119 per kWh (DOE average)
 In addition, the LED will last as much as 40 times longer than the incandescent lamps.

Source: energy.gov



Photo courtesy of Straight Talk

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VVEC offices will be closed at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24 and will be closed all day, Friday, Dec. 25. and Friday, Jan. 1. Call 918-371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948 to report an outage.

Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage,
 November through April billing

- Customer Charge \$25.00
- 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 percent of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Three Trustees Retain Board Positions Following District Meetings

Members in districts 2, 4 and 6 met on different dates in October to elect their representatives to the co-op's board of trustees. No quorum was reached at those meetings so trustees Jack Bogart, district 2, John Hibdon, district 4, and Dennis Lenox, district 6, retain their positions.



Jack Bogart



John Hibdon



Dennis Lenox

Steps to Take 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 in 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, & address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, please leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



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What Would Life be Like Without Electric Co-ops?

By Adam Schwartz

In the holiday movie classic, “It’s a Wonderful Life” the lead character, George Bailey (played by Jimmy Stewart), wishes he had never been born due to financial troubles he is experiencing. Through the help of an Angel, he sees how many lives would have been negatively affected if he didn’t exist. George comes to realize that, even with his problems, he has a wonderful life with great friends and family.

So what do you think life would be like if community leaders had not founded Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative 77 years ago?

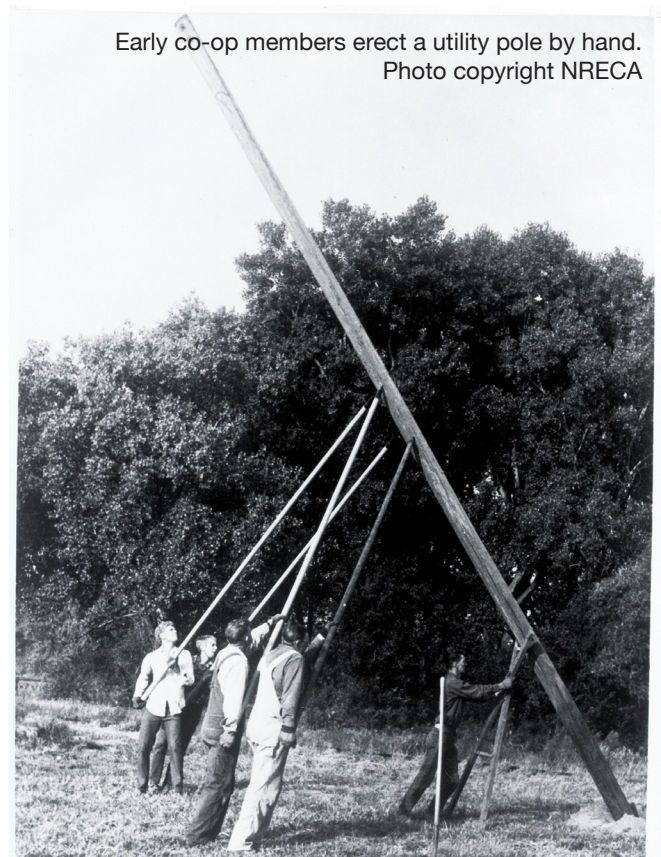
Living in the U.S. in 2015, it is nearly impossible to imagine life without electricity. So many of our modern conveniences that improve the quality of our lives are dependent on electricity as the “fuel” to make them work. From the alarm clock that wakes us up, to the refrigerator that keeps our morning milk cold and fresh. From the HVAC unit that keeps us cool in the summer and warm in the winter, to the vacuum that lets us clean more efficiently and all those kitchen appliances that save us time and physical energy. Of course, so much of our entertainment, whether it comes from the TV, radio or computer, depends on the kilowatt-hours that your electric co-op provides. Just think, there would be no smartphones or cell phones if there were no electricity.

Businesses of all kinds rely on electricity to produce and sell the products we need. So, it is no wonder that many electric co-ops feel that, while our primary product is electricity, we are really in the quality of life business.

As we celebrate the season that reminds us to be thankful for all we have, it is important to remember the 1.3 billion people in the world who still live without reliable electric service. That is equal to about four times the U.S. population!

Many of the things we take for granted living in the U.S. are much harder and more time consuming for people in developing countries around the world. We are proud members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) that is working through their affiliate, NRECA International, and the NRECA International Foundation to help bring power to people in developing countries like Haiti and Liberia. (www.nreca.coop/it-starts-with-power/)

We are thankful that our community ancestors right here had the vision and foresight to do for ourselves what needed to be done, gathering our friends and



Early co-op members erect a utility pole by hand.
Photo copyright NRECA

neighbors to form our electric co-op. As the electric business of the 21st century continues to evolve, you can count on Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative to meet all of your electric energy needs. More importantly, we are here to help improve the quality of your wonderful life.

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop.

Great Deals with your Co-op Connections Card

The year's busiest shopping season is under way. Don't forget to take advantage of the great deals available by using your Co-op Connections Card.

Visit www.vvec.com/content/local-co-op-connections or www.connections.coop for a full list of businesses. Some of the merchants are listed here.

Andersonville Cottage Bed & Breakfast in Claremore: Buy one night (plus tax) and get one night free. Contact 918-341-2224.

Cheryl's Digital Keepsakes in Bartlesville: Receive two free copies of any complete project. Contact 918-214-2544.

Dri-Rite Carpet Cleaning in Owasso: \$10.00 off two-room

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Gracie Land Dog Boarding Kennel in Collinsville: 10 percent off total bill per dog. Contact 918-371-1705.

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TinyBlessings 4D Ultrasound in Owasso: \$15.00 off Deluxe or Platinum package.

Contact 918-516-2524.

Trummel Drug & Gifts in Oologah: 10 percent off gifts (in gift department only). Contact 918-443-2414.

VapoRhea in Owasso: \$10 off purchase. Contact 918-694-8273.



RECIPE



Photo and recipe courtesy of Ocean Spray®

Chocolate Dipped Cranberry Cookies

Yields about 3 dozen

- 1 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 egg
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups Ocean Spray® Fresh or Frozen Cranberries, coarsely chopped
- 1 1/3 cups semi-sweet chocolate bits, melted
- 1 1/4 cups chopped nuts, optional

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease cookie sheets. Using an electric mixer, beat shortening and sugar together in a medium mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Add vanilla and egg; mix well. Combine flour, baking powder and salt in a separate mixing bowl. Add to shortening mixture, mixing until a soft dough forms. Stir in cranberries. Immediately drop dough by rounded teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheets. Bake for 10 minutes or until golden brown. Transfer cookies to a wire rack; cool completely. Dip half of each cookie into melted chocolate and then in nuts. Allow chocolate to dry completely.