

VVEC Grant Supports Area Schools and Rural Fire Departments

More than an electric utility, Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative is a community partner. In fact, one of the seven core principles that guides cooperative operations is “Concern for Community.” So while VVEC’s primary objective is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to its members, it is also a concerned partner in the sustainable development of the local community.

One of the ways VVEC demonstrates its concern for community is by offering grants to schools and rural fire departments in its service territory.

Each year teachers, school administrators and fire department personnel are invited to submit an application for funds. Applicants are asked to explain how they will use the funds to improve the classroom experience

for students or to help protect residents’ lives and property from fire damage.

“The grant has helped out classrooms quite a bit,” VVEC Member Services Representative Chub Brewer says. “It allows schools to fund something that’s not in their budget to enhance the students’ learning experience.”

Brewer says that fire departments often purchase tools and equipment they might not otherwise be able to afford. One rural

fire department used grant funds to purchase blowers. The blowers force the fuel—things like flying leaves—back into the fire and help keep it from spreading further.

Grant applications are available on VVEC’s website: www.vvec.com, under the “Community Programs” tab. Applications should be sent to program coordinator Misti Frazier at P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021. This year’s application deadline is Friday, April 29 at 4 p.m.

Anyone with questions or those who need an application mailed to them can contact Frazier by calling 918-371-2584, ext. 6226 or by emailing her at mfrazier@vvec.com. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

“It’s a great program. We’re able to help and give back to the community. That’s what we try to do,” Brewer says.



Educators and fire department personnel in VVEC’s service territory can download a grant application from the co-op’s website: www.vvec.com.

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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

Power Circuit Editor

Laura Araujo

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.

Employee of the Year Announced

VVEC employees selected Data Processing Coordinator Kim Ford as 2015 Employee of the Year. She says she was surprised and honored to receive the recognition.

Ford has worked at the co-op since 2003; however, she has been part of the co-op community her whole life.

“My dad retired from the co-op,” she says. “I worked here during college and later came back.”

Ford, a Collinsville native, currently resides in Owasso with her husband and 16-year-old son.

She says the highlight of her job is the people.

“We’re kind of like a family,” Ford says of her co-workers.



Co-workers voted Kim Ford the 2015 Employee of the Year. Employee photos by Misti Frazier

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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Employees Honored for Years of Service



Five years: Clint Tallant



Five years: Jimmy Brackett



Ten years: Dennis Lenox



Ten years: Tracy Horner, Jason Adair, Blake Leibovitz, Collin Creech, Stacey Breshears and Lori Prock



Fifteen years: Jeff Jones



Twenty years: Kimberly Loffer



Twenty-five years: Donnie Whisenhunt



Thirty years: Chuck Huerter and Keith Delozier

Average Monthly Payment Plan Eliminates Fluctuating Electric Bills

If your electric bill fluctuates from month to month, you might want to try the Average Monthly Payment Plan. The AMP Plan is available to VVEC members who meet all the following criteria:

- Have been a VVEC member for at least 12 months;

- Have not been late in paying the electric bill more than twice during the previous 12 months;
- The electric bill is currently paid in full.

Your average monthly payment is figured by taking your current month's usage plus the preceding 11 months' usage and dividing them by 12. This total is then figured into the appli-

cable rate along with any taxes and plus or minus one-twelfth of your balance forward.

The average is recalculated every month in the same manner.

If you are interested in participating in the AMP Plan or have any questions, please call our billing department at 918-371-2584, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

RECIPE

Game Day Pork Nachos

Serves 6

- 12 ounces ground pork
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- Salt to taste
- 8 cups tortilla chips
- 8 ounces Mexican-style shredded cheese
- 15-ounce can black beans, drained
- 4 scallions, sliced
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 chipotle in adobo (canned)
- 1/2 cup salsa

Preheat the oven to 350°F. In a medium skillet over medium heat, cook the pork until it's no longer pink, 5 to 6 minutes. Remove from the heat, add the chili powder and salt to taste; set aside. Arrange 1/4 of the chips on a large oven-proof platter or baking dish. Use a slotted spoon to arrange 1/4 of the pork on top. Top with 1/4 of the cheese, 1/4 of the beans, and 1/4 of the scallions. Repeat 3 times, making 4 layers.



Game Day Pork Nachos are perfect for February's football championship or any game day. Recipe and photo courtesy of the National Pork Brand.

Bake until the cheese is melted and nachos are heated through, about 30 minutes. (If the top gets too brown, loosely cover with foil.) While nachos are baking, in a small bowl, combine the sour cream and chipotle pepper. Add more chipotles to taste. Top na-

chos with the sour cream mixture and salsa. Serve hot, with additional salsa on the side.

Nutrition Information: 570 calories; 26 grams protein; 34 grams fat; 85 milligrams cholesterol; 38 grams carbohydrates; 8 grams fiber