

# Rate Increase Effective May 1

By Clyde Willard

Beginning May 1, residential electric bills will be increasing. For the average residential account that consumes 2,000 kWh per month, the increase will be approximately 40 cents per month for the summer bills and \$10.80 per month for the winter bills. The actual percent increase will vary from member to member. The greater your electric usage is per month, the less of a percentage increase you will see.

Several years ago, VVEC made a commitment to design rates that were more in line with the cost of providing electric service to each class of user. Beginning in 2015, VVEC conducted a new Cost of Service Study to determine what the current fixed cost was to provide electric service to each meter. The study determined that the fixed cost or "Customer Charge" to serve each residential meter should be \$37.40 per month. The Customer Charge for a residential account per month is currently \$25.00. In keeping with the commitment made several years ago to align rates closer to the actual cost of providing service, the Board of Directors made the decision to increase the monthly customer charge from \$25.00 to \$30.00. The Customer Charge will still

not be at the level it needs to be, but it will be closer to the study's amount. Increasing the Customer Charge instead of the energy charge to recover increased fixed costs will result in residential accounts paying a larger share of the cooperative's fixed cost through the Customer Charge instead of the energy rate. If the kWh charge would have been increased instead of the Customer Charge, more of the fixed cost would then have to be recovered through energy usage. Within the residential class that would have meant the larger electric users would have continued to pay a far

greater share of the fixed costs than the smaller users.

In addition to the Customer Charge increasing, the winter residential kWh charge will change from a declining block rate to a single block rate. Instead of the energy rate declining for any kWh usage in excess of 1,000 kWh, the energy rate will be the same for all kWh billed. The focus is now on year-round energy conservation.

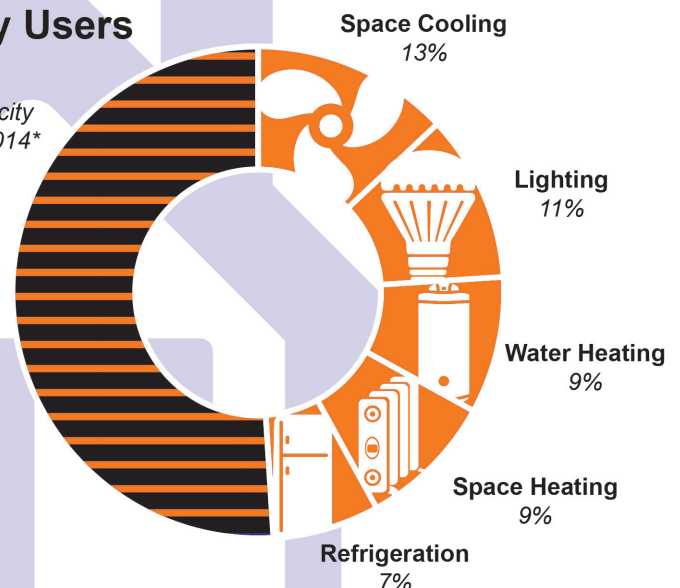
For more information, please see the Rate Comparison chart on Page 3.

*Clyde Willard is director of finance for VVEC.*

## Top Five Energy Users in U.S. Homes

*Estimated residential electricity consumption by end use, 2014\**

**Other uses** include TV, set-top boxes, home entertainment and gaming systems, monitors and networking equipment, clothes dryer, small electric devices, heating elements and motors.



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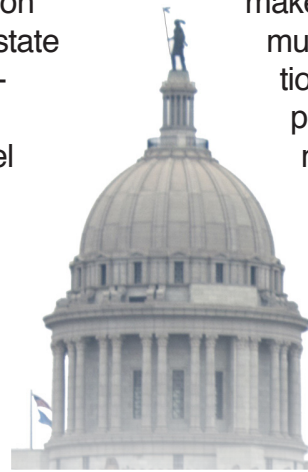
## Representing Members at the Capitol

On February 1, the Second Regular Session of Oklahoma’s 55th Legislature convened. The same evening, the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the “Out of the Gate” Legislative Reception at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Attendance at the reception included 77 state representatives and 25 senators in addition to many agency heads, state officers and commissioners. Secretary of Energy and Environment Michael Teague, Deputy Secretary of Environment Tyler Powell and State Auditor & Inspector Gary Jones were also present. Including co-op representatives, more than 380 people

gathered. Trustees and management from VVEC were in attendance.

In order to help legislators make informed decisions regarding policies that affect rural citizens served by Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives, it is important to establish relationships with them. We believe it is imperative that we let them know how cooperatives make a difference in our communities. The co-op delegation discussed the effects of possible legislation on co-op members and served as an informational resource to the legislators. Keeping the concerns of VVEC members before state legislators is one of the most important responsibilities of a VVEC trustee.



### 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

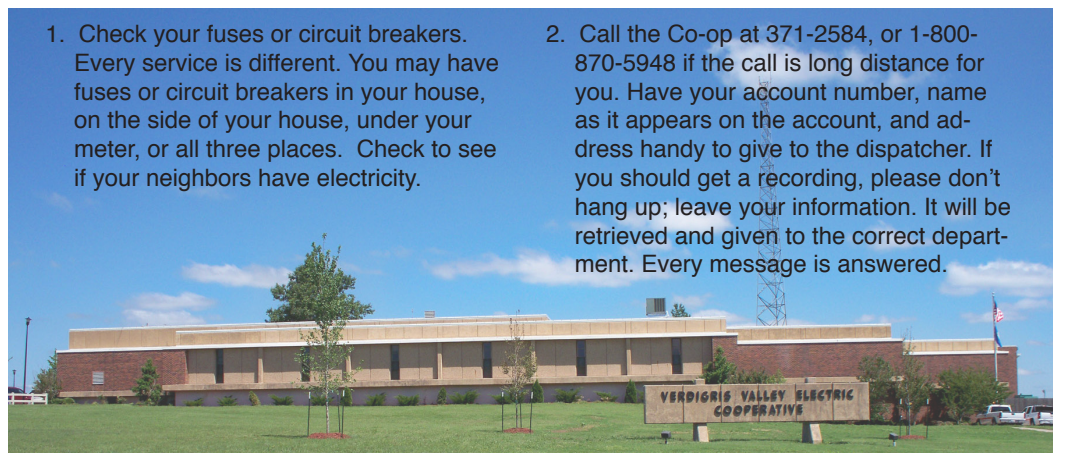
A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

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.

### 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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# Rate Comparison: Residential, Small Commercial

		SUMMER			WINTER		
	kWh Billed	Current Rate Billing	New Rate Billing	Dollar Increase	Current Rate Billing	New Rate Billing	Dollar Increase
RESIDENTIAL	0	25.50	30.60	5.10	25.50	30.60	5.10
	500	71.82	75.75	3.93	67.47	72.47	5.00
	1000	118.15	120.89	2.74	109.46	114.34	4.88
	2000	210.79	211.19	0.40	187.28	198.08	10.80
	2500	259.71	258.94	-0.77	226.21	239.96	13.75
	5000	504.34	497.68	-6.66	420.79	449.31	28.52
SMALL COMMERCIAL	0	30.60	30.60	0.00	30.60	30.60	0.00
	500	77.68	77.98	0.30	76.96	77.25	0.29
	1000	124.77	125.36	0.59	123.32	123.91	0.59
	2000	218.93	220.13	1.20	216.03	217.22	1.19
	2500	266.02	267.51	1.49	262.40	263.87	1.47
	5000	501.43	504.41	2.98	494.18	497.15	2.97

## Application Deadlines Approaching

• Youth Tour and Energy Camp essays are due **March 7, 2016**. For students taking the test, contact Misti Frazier to schedule a time for it to be administered. Frazier can be reached at 918-371-2584, extension 6226 or at [mfrazier@vvec.com](mailto:mfrazier@vvec.com).

• Adopt-a-School and Rural Fire Department Grant applications are due **April 29, 2016**. To download an application or entry form visit [www.vvec.com](http://www.vvec.com), and click on the community programs tab.



## Great Deals with Your Co-op Connections Card

Take advantage of the great deals available by using your Co-op Connections Card. Visit [www.vvec.com/content/local-co-op-connections](http://www.vvec.com/content/local-co-op-connections) or [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) for a full list of businesses. Some of the merchants are listed here.

Acapulco Golden Tans in Owasso: 10 percent off tanning packages and products. 918-376-9140.

Bit of Country in Bartlesville: 10 percent off all boots. 918-331-0200.

C & A Roofing and Construction, LLC in Claremore: 5 percent off any project labor. 918-637-6634.

Cheri's Daylight Donuts in

Collinsville: 15 percent off total purchase. 918-855-0359.

Egleston Chiropractic Clinic in Owasso: 10 percent off (not redeemable if patient has insurance). 918-274-2911.

Fit for Her in Owasso: one free month with select memberships. 918-376-2828.

Golden Corral in Claremore: buy any adult meal with drink and get \$2 off meal. 918-342-5510.

Harmony Star Marble, LLC in Claremore: 5 per-

cent discount on all products or free kitchen sink with purchase of granite kitchen. 918-695-6840.

Liberty Tax Service in Owasso and Claremore: 25 percent off. 918-272-2757 and 918-341-2229.



## RECIPE

### Spinach Stuffed Eggs

*Yields 12 (2 half-egg) servings*

- 12 hard-cooked eggs, peeled
- 3/4 cup chopped frozen spinach, drained
- 3 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons chopped green onions
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper

Cut eggs in half lengthwise. Remove and mash yolks. Mix the spinach, cream cheese,



Spinach Stuffed Eggs. Recipe and photo courtesy of the American Egg Board

Parmesan cheese, sour cream, green onions, salt and pepper into the yolks. Spoon or pipe

mixture into egg whites. Garnish with fresh herbs. Refrigerate until serving.