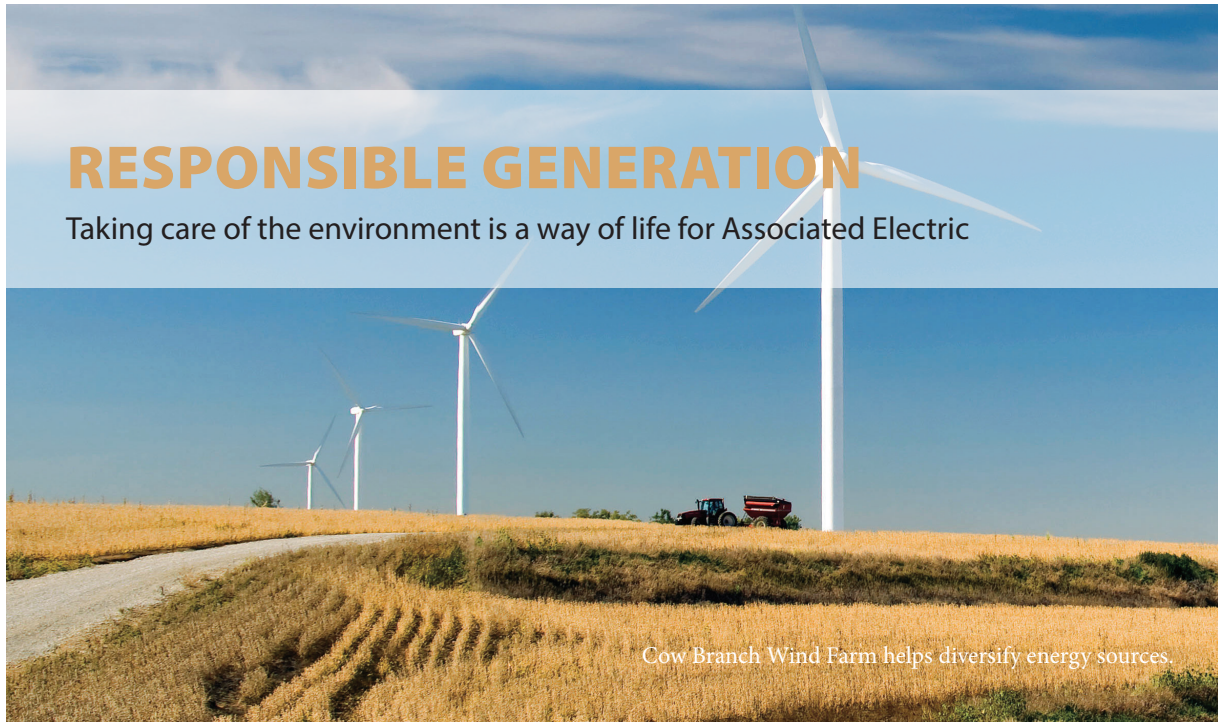


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RESPONSIBLE GENERATION

Taking care of the environment is a way of life for Associated Electric

Cow Branch Wind Farm helps diversify energy sources.

An old saying states that people who live and work in rural America are the original environmentalists. After all, communities so connected to the land, air and water for their well-being are naturally tuned to safeguard them today and for future generations. When it comes to power generation for member-consumers, Associated Electric Cooperative reflects the values of the people who receive its electricity. Generating power responsibly is a key priority.

Power generated the right way

Balancing reliable and affordable electricity with environmental responsibility is a longstanding commitment Associated Electric makes to those receiving its electricity. By adding significant amounts of wind power to diversify generating sources, investing in environmental controls and staying up to date with regulations and technologies, Associated continues to comply with environmental regulations

“Making sure our power generation activities safeguard air, water and land is a big responsibility. Our track record shows Associated delivers meaningful results members can be proud of.”

- Brent Ross, Associated Electric managing director of environmental, health and safety

at an affordable cost for members. This requires teamwork throughout the generation cooperative.

Environmental commitment delivers results
“Making sure our power generation activities safeguard air, water and land is a big responsibility.”

Continued on Page 2



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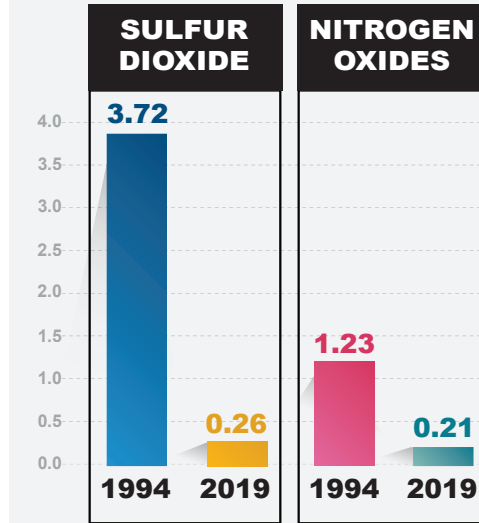
Laura Araujo

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RESPONSIBLE GENERATION: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AECI POWER PLANT EMISSIONS - 1994 & 2019



Our track record shows Associated delivers meaningful results members can be proud of,” says Brent Ross, Associated’s managing director of environmental, health and safety. “It’s a team effort.”

Ross and his staff keep up with complex federal and state regulatory changes, conduct safety and environmental training and audits, and monitor employee safety. They also handle reporting to state and federal agencies, permits, plus monitor and take samples of water, air and soil to ensure Associated continues to be a good steward of natural resources.

Significant investments make the difference

More than \$1.1 billion has been invested by Associated to reduce air emissions since 1994, resulting in tremendous improvements in air quality. Emissions from Associated’s coal power plants have dropped 80 to 90%, depending on the specific emission being monitored. While the current results are impressive, compliance with new and changing land, air and water regulations is an ongoing priority.

“We understand how important our environment is to everyone we serve, so making a

difference with measurable results is what we strive for each day,” Ross said.

Wind power diversifies generation sources

Associated was the first utility provider in Missouri of large-scale wind power and remains a leader. Already receiving power from seven wind farms, an eighth wind farm later this year means Associated will have 1,240 megawatts of wind power delivered from 626 wind turbines across three states. Locking in long-term, fixed-cost wind power helps Associated diversify its generation sources for years to come.

Electric cooperatives comply with net metering laws

While large utility-size solar installations have yet to make sense for Associated, about 30 megawatts of solar power is being produced by member-consumers connected to Associated’s member systems. Net metering laws mandate the process for local cooperatives to purchase any excess energy produced by the solar systems located at the homes and businesses of member-consumers.

A legacy of environmental excellence

Associated Electric received the U.S. Department of Interior’s highest honor for its innovative, successful reclamation that improved water quality and transformed 1,000 acres that previously served as a coal mine into productive pasture, wetlands and forest.

Today, the land features ponds that provide fishing and wildlife habitat, woodlands that provide shelter for many species, land leased to neighboring farmers for pasture, soil and crop research and planted habitat for Monarchs and other pollinators.

Responsible generation for today and tomorrow

Whether the challenge is managing generation sources or making investments to ensure land, air and water are protected, Associated Electric takes its responsibilities seriously. Members wouldn’t have it any other way.

For more information about Associated Electric and its environmental efforts, visit www.aeci.org. ■

CHOCOLATE CARAMEL PEANUT BUTTER PIE

SERVES 4

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1/2 cup milk
- 8 ounces whipped topping
- 1 graham cracker crust
- Chocolate chips
- Chocolate syrup
- Caramel syrup

Place cream cheese in a mixer bowl and beat with an electric mixer until fluffy. Add powdered sugar and peanut butter; beat until blended. Add milk; mix until blended. Fold in whipped topping. Pour into crust. Sprinkle with chocolate chips. Drizzle with chocolate syrup and caramel syrup. Freeze until set. *Recipe courtesy of culinary.net*

OKIE EATS



Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: energy.gov

OFFICE CLOSED NOTICE

VVEC offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26th and 27th in observance of Thanksgiving.

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

• First, 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.

• Then, call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948. 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, leave your information; every message will be answered. Or, download the SmartHub app to report outages from your smartphone.

WINTER RESIDENTIAL RATES

October through March usage, November through April billing

Customer Charge | \$30.00

Energy Charge | \$.07772/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 59.87 mills per kWh.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

**VOLUME 79 | NUMBER 11
NOVEMBER 2020**



VVEC's headquarters in Collinsville, Oklahoma

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

VVEC donations support local non-profits

The COVID-19 pandemic has created additional hardships on some of our communities with newly unemployed, those who were already struggling, and many with furloughs given due to the lack of work/sales with the pandemic.

Many charitable organizations have reported more than a 40% increase in the need for assistance related to the COVID-19 crisis. It is also reported they are feeling enormous financial pressure as the uncertainty of the pandemic continues.

The VVEC board of trustees approved donations to be made to area non-profit organizations helping communities in the five counties we serve. The donations will help the organizations continue to serve local families in need. The organizations include:

- ✓ Neighbors in Need
- ✓ Skiatook Emergency Assistance Center (SEAC)
- ✓ Owasso Community Resources
- ✓ Dividing Bread Ministry, and the
- ✓ Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma

We strive to be member-focused and community-driven. We are thankful and proud to be able to make these donations, especially at a time when these organizations may in a “normal year” feel under pressure with the upcoming holiday season; add the pandemic, and they are in considerable need for donations. ■

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS

Neighbors in Need is a non-profit food pantry located in Owasso, serving Owasso, Collinsville, Skiatook, Sperry and Oologah. The organization strives to serve families who may be facing temporary hardships to feed their family; their goal is that no one in the community goes hungry.

SEAC - Skiatook Emergency Assistance Center provides emergency assistance and resources for needy families in the Skiatook, Sperry and Avant communities including a food pantry, utility assistance and rent assistance.

Owasso Community Resources provides emergency assistance including food assistance, utility and rent assistance and back-to-school supplies to families experiencing economic hardship, who reside in Owasso, Collinsville and Sperry.

Dividing Bread Ministry is a food pantry serving Skiatook, Sperry, Hominy and Owasso. They also have a weekend backpack program that feeds 150 children every week in the Hominy, Avant and Collinsville school districts.

Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma works with area agencies—including Living Word Family Church in Nowata, Mary Martha Outreach in Bartlesville, and Christ’s Cupboard in Pawhuska—to meet food needs.

