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STRIKING A BALANCE

Associated Electric Cooperative strives to power members' needs through balanced generation



The Chouteau power plant is a natural gas powered plant located in Pryor, Oklahoma. Natural gas makes up 29% of Associated Electric's generation mix. Photo by AECEI

For most things in life, balance is healthy. The same is true of the power generation mix that delivers electricity to your home, farm or business. Balance is a key part of the reliability Associated Electric Cooperative, the power generation and transmission cooperative for Northeast Oklahoma's electric co-ops, works toward every day.

Associated's balanced generation mix—featuring different fuels and ways to generate electricity—ensures lights come on when you flip that switch. Coal, natural gas, wind and hydropower generation means flexibility to meet members' needs. This mix lets Associated focus on reliability, along with providing electricity that is affordable.

By using coal and natural gas units members

"No one likes to be without electricity for even a minute. My job is to ensure every piece functions so these power plants stay on line."

- Joe Bader, Associated employee

receive electricity reliably from generators designed to run around the clock. These plants can increase or decrease their power output to serve members when they need electricity.

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STRIKING A BALANCE: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Above: Associated employees like Joe Bader go to work every day knowing their efforts keep the power flowing for members. Below: The New Madrid power plant in Marston, Missouri, generates power from coal; coal makes up 50% of Associated's generation mix. The Bluegrass Ridge wind farm is located in Gentry County, Missouri; wind makes up 12% of the generation mix. Photos by AECl

“Keep the turbine turning so we can keep the lights burning.”

Associated's maintenance programs ensure these generators are efficient and available when they're most needed. If one unit stops operating, others make up the difference.

Joe Bader, an Ozark Border Electric Cooperative member, is one of many Associated employees tasked with keeping plants running. Bader is a journeyman machinist/mechanic at the New Madrid Power Plant. He works on equipment that supports power production, including turbines. His motto? “Keep the turbine turning so we can keep the lights burning.”

Bader says being a co-op member drives him to serve diligently. He knows families like his depend on his work for the electricity that powers their lives. “That inspires me to do the best I can,” Bader says. “No one likes to be without electricity for even a minute. My job is to ensure every piece functions so these power

plants stay on line.”

Why members benefit from a diverse supply

Wind and hydropower also are important parts of Associated's generation mix. But there's a difference. They only produce electricity when wind and water are plentiful enough to make turbines spin. Generation from renewable sources, like solar, typically don't match members' peak use times—early in the morning on a winter day or late in the day during the summertime. This mismatch is why having a diverse power supply, with a foundation of around-the-clock resources like coal and gas, is important.

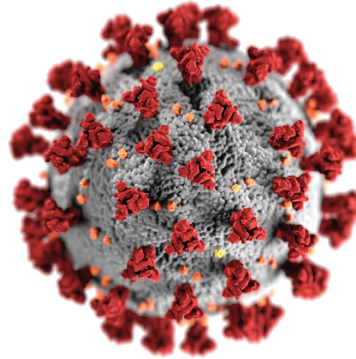
It's a balance

A balance of generation sources means the lights will keep burning for members throughout Associated's system. More than 700 employees like Bader work for Associated at its power plants and headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. Each is a critical part of the power supply picture, and each is devoted to ensuring you have affordable, reliable electricity when you need it.

In next month's issue: Affordable electricity is important to all members. We'll explore energy affordability and how Associated works to keep costs low. ■



2020 ANNUAL MEETING, DISTRICT MEETINGS CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19



In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic with concerns over contraction of the disease and social distancing, the VVEC Board of Trustees has approved the cancellation of our annual meeting, normally scheduled in October. The health and safety of our members, employees and the general public is of the utmost importance.

Following the decision to cancel the annual meeting in October, VVEC trustees also voted to cancel the district meetings citing the same concerns.



VVEC's headquarters in Collinsville, Oklahoma

OFFICE CLOSED NOTICE

VVEC offices will be closed Monday, September 7th, in observance of Labor Day.

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.

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL RATES

April through September usage,
May through October billing

Customer Charge | \$30.00

Energy Charge

1st 2,000 kWh | \$.08272/kWh

Over 2,000 kWh | \$.08782/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.

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EASY SHRIMP SCAMPI

SERVES 4

- 8 ounces linguine pasta
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup dry white wine, seafood or vegetable broth
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 1/2 pounds large or extra-large shrimp, shelled
- 1/3 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1/2 lemon, juice only

Cook pasta according to package directions. In large skillet, melt butter and oil. Add garlic and saute until fragrant. Add wine or broth, salt, red pepper flakes and black pepper. Bring to simmer and reduce by half. Add shrimp and saute until shrimp turn pink and opaque, approximately 2-4 minutes depending on size. Stir in parsley, lemon juice and cooked pasta.

Recipe courtesy of Aqua Star

OKIE EATS



Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

Source: energy.gov



Easy Shrimp Scampi. Photo courtesy of Aqua Star