



# ElectricNews

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. ~ Serving our members' needs since 1939

## Cooler weather means more power blinks

After bouts of unseasonably warm weather to start off the season, the cool and crisp fall air will be a welcome change for many. However, with the decrease in temperatures comes the inevitable increase of outages and blinks caused by animals.

Most people attribute outages to storms and high winds, but there doesn't have to be a cloud in the sky or a storm in the air to cause a power outage. Although a number of outages may be caused by high winds blowing tree limbs onto lines, the culprit in the fall of the year is likely to be of the furry or feathery variety.

"When the air begins to turn cold, a lot of times we see an increase in the amount of outages on our system that we can attribute to animals," Line Superintendent Randy Burkeybile said.

***"Transformers put off heat. Squirrels, raccoons and other animals will climb onto the transformers for warmth, and they get into places they shouldn't be. Before you know it, there is a power outage."***

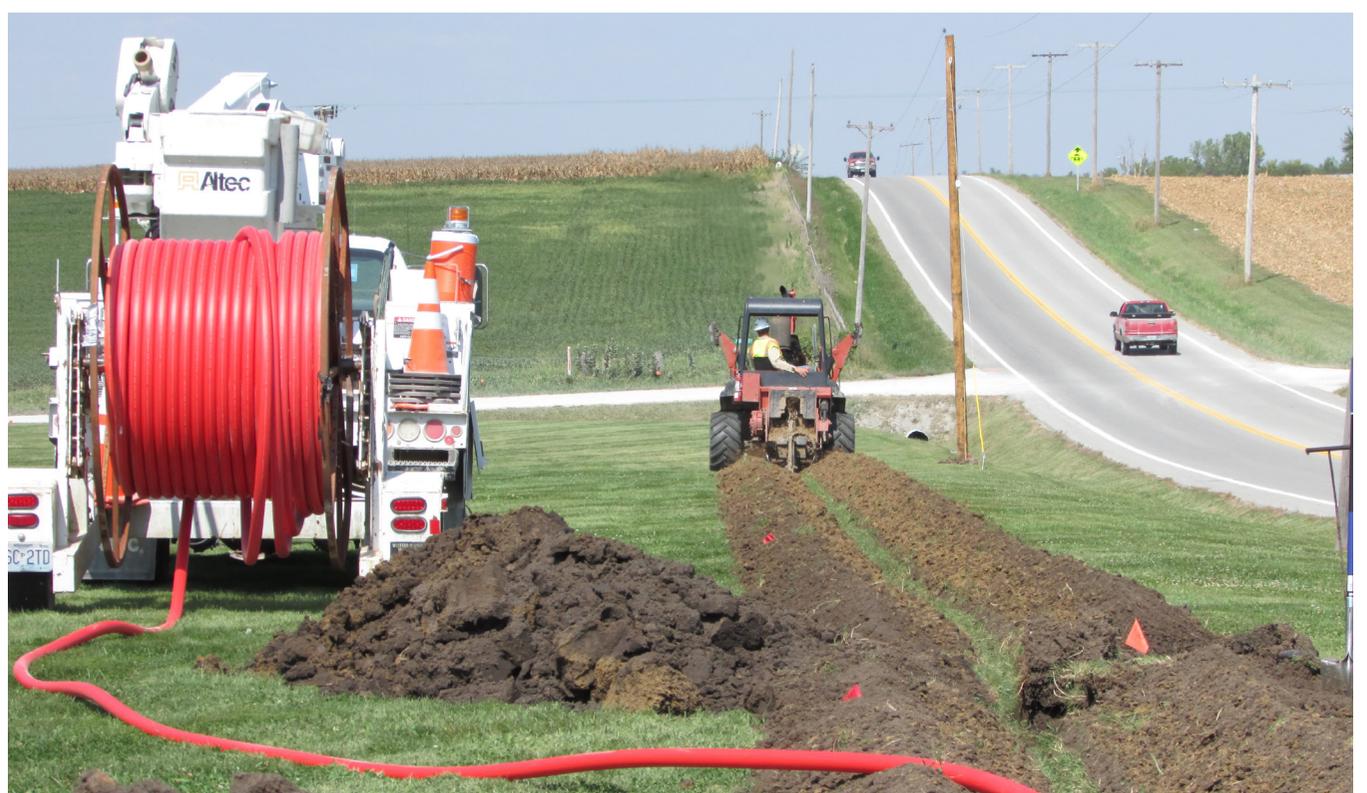
***--Randy Burkeybile,  
WCE Line Superintendent***

The number of outages attributed to animals can increase in the fall when squirrels begin preparing for winter. Squirrels and other animals climb on equipment, such as transformers and fuses, and the equipment shuts down in order to protect the rest of the system.

"The reason these instances sometimes tend to increase in the fall is because the transformers put off heat," Burkeybile said. "Squirrels, raccoons and other animals will climb onto the transformers for warmth, and they get into places they shouldn't be. Before you know it, there is a power outage."

Animals on the transformers can also cause the monotonous "blinks" that keep the lights off only long enough to force you to have to set every digital clock in

Continued on page 3



**NEW TURN LANE COMING...**Prep work began in September for a new turn lane off Highway 13 into the headquarters lot south of Higginsville. The turn lane is part of a facilities improvement project that started last year, and will improve safety for those making the turn into the headquarters location. Two accidents in front of the building just weeks apart this summer reiterated the need for the turn-lane. Work includes relocating power lines to make room for the lane expansion.

(Above photo) Trenching along Highway 13 in preparation for running underground electric lines.

(Left photo) Utilityman Eric Wegener and Groundman Doug Bird lay conduit in the trench.

**WCE offices will be closed Friday, Nov. 10 for Veterans Day and Thursday & Friday, Nov. 23-24 for Thanksgiving.**

**Headquarters:**  
7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452  
Higginsville, MO 64037  
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803

**District office:**  
506 N. Broadway  
Oak Grove, MO 64075

**PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-874-5349**

**Website:**  
www.westcentralelectric.coop

**24-Hour Number:**  
1-800-491-3803

**General Manager:**  
Mike Gray

*This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider and employer.*

**Board of Directors:**  
Densil Allen, Jr. President  
Clark Bredehoeft, Vice-Pres.  
Dale Jarman, Treasurer  
Robert Simmons, Secretary  
Stan Rhodes, Asst. Sect.  
Max Swisegood, Director  
Richard Strobel, Director  
Sandra Streit, Director  
Jeremy Ahmann, Director

## Can you help us locate these people?

The following members have capital credit refund checks due them. Checks mailed to the last address on file for these members have been returned. If you can provide a current address for any of the members listed below, or the name of an heir if the member is deceased, please contact Sandy Starke at 1-800-491-3803 or 1-816-565-4942.

Aber, Randy	5.88	Doss, David & Kathy	138.46	Lindstrom, Michael	60.66	Rossmann, Janet E	15.78
Adams, Charles C & Dorothy M	5.79	Douglass, William B	22.35	Livengood, Suzi M	12.00	Rutledge, Thomas R	5.48
Allen, Connie Mack	5.69	Dubiner, Dannalee	24.37	Logue, Nellie	192.47	Schneider, Keith E & Angela	9.82
Anstine, Sandi	74.68	Dunn, Aaron	94.53	Long, Misty R	18.49	Scroggs, Joseph & Virginia	129.60
Aquino, John A Jr & Terri C	28.25	Eagleson, Mike	135.29	Lutjen, Kerry	0.08	Sears, Bonnie J	2.19
Arnold, Edward M & Vicki L	18.18	Ehlers, Teri	122.78	Mackay, Uteva	119.24	Sears, Brian & Teresa	206.40
Bales, Lee A & Cynthia F	5.68	Engelhart, Mark & Tara	205.98	Madden, Todd & Lacey	11.27	Seaton, Richard	167.13
Ballew, Jesse	92.53	Erskine, Brenda L	6.71	Madrigal, Richard & Beverly	1.17	Seymour, Jane	18.07
Barker, Rolla D	7.90	Erwin, Patrick Jr & Barbara	171.60	Main Const Inc	12.87	Shelby, Judy K	32.52
Bartow, Daniel P & Kathryn J	7.43	Farnsworth, Loren & Stephen	17.90	Maniscalco, Steve & Lillian	255.91	Shoemaker, Kenneth D	5.61
Benson, Charles & Terry	25.39	Farris, Daniel W & Hillery	8.90	Manuel, Sherrie	10.77	Shore, Darren	51.41
Berns, Ruby P	5.46	Fettters, Claude & Dolores	84.86	Marion, Glenn	151.85	Shroyer, Paul & Linda	124.98
Blackmore, Cecil G	1.11	Follin, Thomas	66.35	Mathis, George	1.95	Smith, Audrey	230.58
Blanton, Cheryl	112.58	Gassen, Beverly	142.24	Mathis, Robert & Helen	6.11	Smith, Curt	55.28
Boatman'S Trust Co	14.30	Gillotti, Dominick & Lisa	160.31	Mccloud, John	69.72	Smith, Linda	66.63
Bowling, Dan	11.01	Goldsberry, Edward	111.28	Mcdaniel, Michael E & Louanne	29.03	Smoot, Herbert & Marjori	161.50
Boykin, Ben	31.13	Goodrick, Donald & Kelly	5.09	Mcgill, Roscoe	19.17	Speegle, Cheryl & Delo Thompson	10.01
Bradley, Plez J & Jacqueline S	14.12	GTE %Rob Tyler	14.28	Mcgirl, Walter Jr & Stephanie	169.72	Stark, Bruce W	1.55
Bratton, John D	47.51	Hall, Stephen & Cynthia	174.90	Mcmillen, Bernadette	72.70	Steinmetz, Martin	18.51
Brooks, Sandra	11.67	Hanes, Lisa	7.11	Medlin, Randy	36.31	Stewart, Christine H	8.07
Bruns, Scott & Kimber	7.46	Hansen, Paul E & Shirley Pomer	6.57	Meiklejohn, Ron & Hazel	24.17	Stille, Brent	20.89
Bryan, Mark	41.51	Harris, Dennis & Teri	6.00	Mickelson, Dennis & Tammy	55.53	Stockdell, H Joan	64.23
Burnor, Joseph & Jeanette	5.36	Hastings, Robert & A Goyette	5.57	Milazzo, Chris M	35.08	Stone, Joyce	5.36
Burrier, Sherri R	12.20	Hays, Richard	10.60	Miller, Mary	5.28	Stosberg, Carol	96.28
Butler, William F & Carol	5.85	Hazlett, M	13.98	Minyard, Tom & Estelle	53.38	Stuart, Timothy & Barbara	188.44
Campbell, Ronald & Diana	96.00	Heater, Ann	99.53	Mohler, Burrell E Jr & Jeanne	6.39	Sun Bear, Lee	18.25
Cannon, Robert L	5.22	Heath, Elbert & Joyce	286.59	Molloy, Glen W	6.09	Swanstrom, Matt & Bonnie	40.34
Cantrell, Cheryl	5.76	Hedrick, Clara	108.96	Moore, Denny	5.02	Swisher, Jerry & Cindy	191.42
Carlson, Kurt A	25.13	Hegeman, Kim	27.65	Moore, Olen & Emily	132.78	Tate, Billy & Valorie	7.69
Carlyle, Nate & Amanda	9.15	Hendren, Raymond & E McKinley	5.48	Morgan, James	55.47	Thomas, Michael L	6.30
Cash Advance	25.25	Hendrickson, Michael G	29.57	Morris, Buck	5.18	Thompson, Sarah A	27.55
Catron, Kelli L	38.53	Herron, Kenneth E & Patty	5.00	Myers, Ronald P & Kathryn	27.56	Thompson, Steven	6.34
CDR Enterprises Inc	5.36	Hicks, Denise	7.96	Nanez, Francisco B	42.16	Thorp, Sherry	61.36
Chabot, Lisa	97.80	Hieronimus, Samuel	5.34	Negron, Lydia E	6.61	Tomlinson, Jeremy L & Kari	16.26
Chadwick, Diane	157.48	Hilke, Paul & Cathy	154.20	Neitzert, John R Jr	7.29	Treece, Irene	105.85
Chester, Joule & Doris	155.37	Hill, George E	42.32	Newby, Duane	29.17	Twyman, Stephen	22.17
Chisholm, Shawn R	216.36	Hogan, Steve & Betty	123.70	Nix, Linda	67.83	Urusemal, Joseph J Jr	11.15
Ciro, Louis Jr	6.81	Holsey, Angela	8.13	Otterman, Karen	76.95	Vaughn, Timothy R Sr	13.87
Colhour, Angela	32.87	Hoover, Glen & Sherry (Operty #2)	121.65	Owings, Helen	338.30	Wahn, Michael S & Jennifer	5.11
Collett, Mary Anna	1.97	Hopkins, Shannon	130.88	Parker, Robert S	8.94	Waldrep, Russell S & Kelly	5.76
Collins, Ruth	9.07	Huff, Valerie	58.81	Patterson, Harold & Donna	145.99	Walters, Deb	91.30
Cook, Theoplis & Yvonne	7.20	Iiams, Charles E & Juliette	8.79	Pearson, Lori	49.13	Walton, Kelly Lynn	10.98
Cooper, Darrell D	48.07	Iiams, Crystal	10.18	Pelloquin, Lisa	40.80	Wareham, Ted A & Linda	41.49
Cornwell, Taralee M	169.53	Ivlow, Marna	113.42	Penix, Gary	30.30	Watt, Michael I	11.40
Crall, Theron & Lynda	206.94	James Trucking Co %Frank	16.08	Penix, Sherril	18.83	Wehlermann, David & Corinna	42.47
Craney, Jeffrey & Diana	129.50	Jeanneret, Robert	253.11	Penn, Gorman T	7.50	Wells, Darrell	35.24
Craven, Darla	247.51	Johnson, Anita	21.39	Pereira, Luis E	7.78	Wells, Linda	27.43
Crawford, Johnny	14.87	Johnson, Jerry & Janet	10.22	Peters, Dale & Sue	123.29	West, Michelle	5.78
Creighton, E A	6.82	Johnson, Lomond K	21.39	Pfost, Lisa M	9.53	Whitworth, Karen	7.00
Cruwell, Alta	70.99	Johnson, Lori Suttles	7.47	Pilcher, Charles K & Luann	6.82	Wilcoxon, Matthew C & Mary	5.23
Daniels, John	7.62	Kammerer, Lisa	100.69	Poe, Richard & Nancy	5.62	Williams, John F	9.58
Demarco, Wesley & Darlene	19.27	Kane, Richard	177.83	Porter, James P	7.37	Williams, Layton E	3.53
Denman, Tony L	14.26	Kane, Richard C & Pamela	25.12	Purkey, Juanita	11.50	Wilson, Jeffery & Vicki	6.14
Dennis, Glenn E	28.07	Kauffman, Keney & Mistie	6.36	Quisenberry, Dennis	179.20	Wilson, Larry P li & Kendra	10.30
		Kavadas, Shawn M & Johnna	8.50	Rahe, Denis & Alice	254.19	Winchell, David & Connie	91.04
		Kirk, Melissa	14.09	Rasmussen, Hope	5.72	Wise, Benjamin & Joanne	6.74
		Koch, John	125.71	Reed, Russel & Linda	101.39	Wood, Brian	59.95
		Krause, Brian	12.93	Rehmsmeyer, Jim & Kathy	119.10	Woody, Darin & Caralynn	144.57
		Lakewood Mhp %Bob Liddle	13.60	Richards, Robert	74.30	Wyatt, Jerry W	5.49
		Landis, Michael & Lisa	127.37	Ridenhour, Marcia K	10.25	Wyatt, Rod & Donna	7.31
		Langley, Brian & Donald Casey	10.49	Rigby, Robert Jr	127.56	Wycoff, Jeff & Jody	327.77
		Laneman, Mark	6.92	Rinnella, John & Debbie	15.48	Yurisich, Christy	158.54
		Leduc, Stephanie	61.22	Roberson, Jeff & Stacy	14.80	Zielke, Kevin H & Jennifer	15.47
		Lewellen, James & Lyn	9.25	Robinson, Gene & Donna	57.82	Zink, Janet	181.39
		Lindley, Mike & Debbie	222.91	Rodriguez, Benjamin V lii	8.07		



FIRST ANNUAL AMEC LINEMAN'S RODEO...AMEC Safety Instructor Tim Pirtle (center) gives instructions to West Central Electric linemen during the first lineman's rodeo held at the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives in Jefferson City in September. WCE linemen participating were Derek Cole (left) Brandon Heck, Adam Beck and (not pictured) Pete Nelson.

# Cooler weather means more power blinks

From page 1 the house.

Your cooperative is doing what it can to reduce outages attributed to animals by installing insulated "bird wire" and wildlife protection devices to prevent animals and birds from making contact with electrical equipment. These devices are not only meant to protect the electrical system, but also the birds and animals.

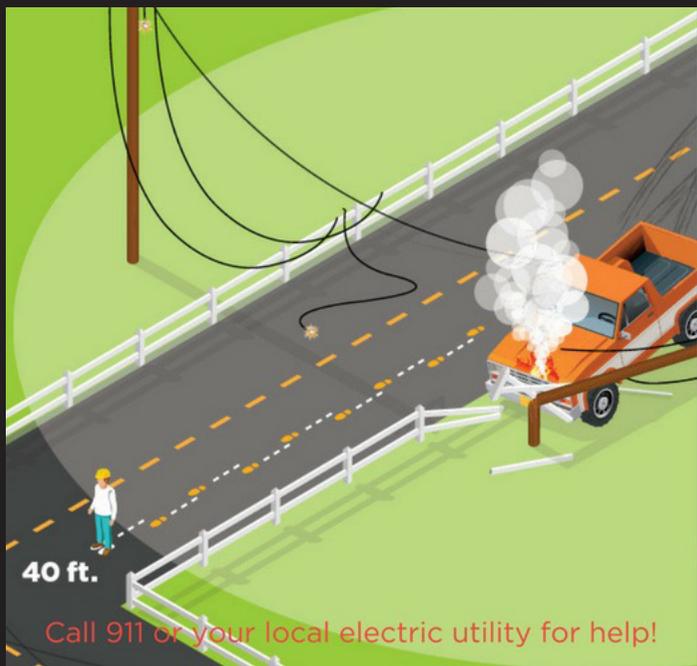
Your cooperative is working hard to reduce the number of outages experienced by our members. **When calling in an electrical outage, please be sure to have your map number available. It can be found under the "service information" section located in the center of your billing statement.** Outages may be reported at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942, or on our website at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop).

# DIY test to check home for air leaks

A sure-fire way to detect air leaks is with a pressurization test in your home. You can hire a professional energy auditor to do a blower-door test, but here's how to do your own, from the U.S. Department of Energy:

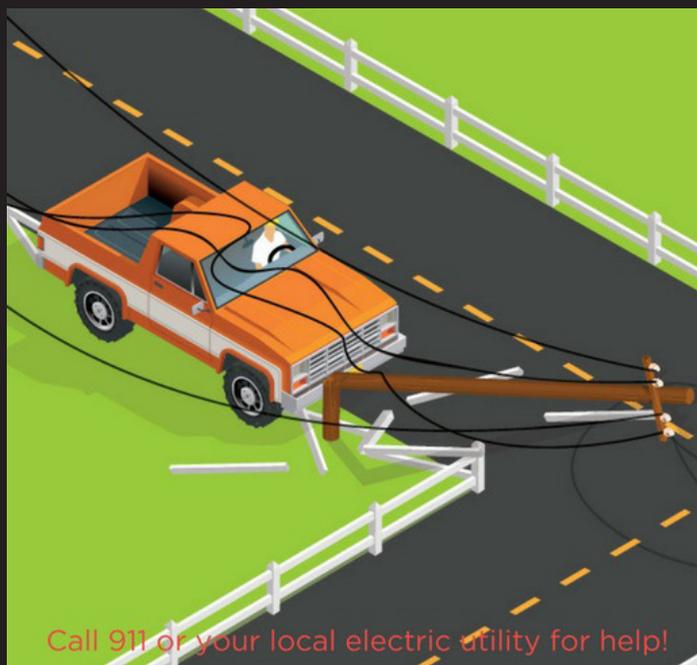
1. Turn off all combustion appliances such as gas-burning furnaces and water heaters, on a cool, very windy day; if you don't want to turn off your furnace, you can just turn on all exhaust fans
2. Shut all windows, exterior doors and fireplace flues
3. Turn on all exhaust fans that blow air outside, such as your clothes dryer, bathroom fans, or stove vents, or use a large window fan to suck the air out of the rooms
4. Light an incense stick and pass it around the edges of common leak sites; wherever the smoke wavers or is sucked out of or blown into the room, there's a draft; you also can use a damp hand to locate leaks – drafts will feel cool to your hand.

## Do you know what to do if your car crashes into a utility pole?



### IN A FIRE:

- Jump out of the vehicle, making sure NO part of your body or clothing touches the ground and car simultaneously.
- Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 ft. away from the vehicle. The ground could be energized. Shuffling decreases the risk of electrical shock.



### NO FIRE:

Your safest option? Stay put until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel through to reach the ground. You are safe inside, but risk electrocution upon exiting.



## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to fall back on November 5! Set your clocks back by one hour.



# From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held August 24, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen. Robert Simmons, Secretary of the Cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Jeremy Ahmann and Sandra Streit. Absent was Dale Jarman. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray and Sheri Smiley, general counsel.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved.

## APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting held July 27, 2017; expenditures for the month of July 2017, new membership applications and membership terminations and the Treasurer's Report.

## APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following July 2017 reports were approved: Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement including the Financial Statistical Report with monthly budget comparisons and statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, and KWH sales; the written monthly Construction, Retirement, Maintenance and Operations Report and the Safety Report.

## AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft and Gray reported their attendance at the AMEC meeting. Items of interest included personnel issues, International program, Rural Missouri update, training, legislative and legal update, future meetings, the Grain Belt Express Transmission Line and the special legislative session. Strobel reported on the State Fair breakfast.

## NW ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC. REPORT

Swisegood and Gray reported attending the NW meeting and shared highlights including an AECL update, wind farms, solar, storm damage, key accounts event and policy updates.

## ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

The board discussed feedback from the annual meeting including ballot boxes with inspectors.

## OPERATION ROUND-UP DISCUSSION

Simmons reported on the meeting held by the committee. The board discussed the opt-in or opt-out option. A decision was made to make Operation Round-up an opt-out option for the membership. It was decided to hold off on implementing the program so members could be educated on what Operation Round-up is and how it would be and opt-out system. The committee was set to meet again on Sept. 1.

## REVIEW STANDING COMMITTEES

The following committees remained the same from 2016 appointments:

- Scholarship Committee: Simmons, Allen, Rhodes and Jarman
- Wage & Salary Committee: Allen, Ahmann, Bredehoeft and Strobel
- Bylaw & Policy: Swisegood, Jarman, Simmons and Ahmann
- Strategic Planning: Streit, Jarman and Rhodes

## MANAGERS REPORT

Gray presented the monthly Manager's Report which included capital credit check issues, road widening and sewer system and personnel issues. The Wage and Salary Committee was scheduled to meet on Sept. 13.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Directors voted to move the October board meeting to Oct. 19.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into executive session and reconvened following.

## ADJOURNMENT

FINANCIAL REPORT • <i>Statement of Operations</i> • July 2017			
	This month	YTD 2017	YTD 2016
Revenue	2,392,830	15,649,457	15,460,277
Power Bill Expense	1,495,010	9,434,079	9,693,259
Operation & Maint. Expense	255,935	1,660,135	1,588,036
Depreciation Expense	174,145	1,203,654	1,158,346
Interest Expense	103,934	751,743	712,433
<b>Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)</b>	<b>2,029,024</b>	<b>13,049,611</b>	<b>13,152,074</b>
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	79,256	637,930	436,703
Other Margins	13,981	175,047	114,744
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>93,237</b>	<b>812,977</b>	<b>551,447</b>

# Energy efficiency for the modern family and its many devices

If you are struck by the amount of screens, remotes, gaming controls, charging stations and cords that have become fixtures in your home, you are not alone. The typical American family is well connected and owns a variety of electronic devices. According to the PEW Research Institute, 95 percent of U.S. families have a cell phone and 77 percent of Americans own a smart phone. Nearly 80 percent of adults own a laptop or desktop computer, while approximately half own tablets.

Consumer electronics coupled with the growing array of smart home appliances and technology have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles. The increased reliance on our many devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

Using smart technology to manage energy savings

So how can we save energy when we are using more electronic devices than ever before? The answer may lie with some of those same electronic devices that have become indispensable to modern living. In many cases, energy savings is a touchscreen away as more apps enable you to monitor energy use.

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**Watch for "Vampire Power" users -- appliances like your computer or game console -- which drain energy and money even when not in use.**

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From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use across several platforms—controlling your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices. One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, like Nest models. Using your mobile device, you can view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is used and make adjustments accordingly. For example, program your thermostat for weekday and weekend schedules so you are not wasting energy when no one is home. Check and adjust the program periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

You can also ensure efficiency by purchasing ENERGY STAR-certified appliances. Many new appliances include smart-technology features such as refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or when a door has been left open. New washers, dryers and dishwashers allow you to program when you want the load to start. This means you can program your task for off-peak energy hours—a smart choice if your electric rate is based on time of use.

### "Old school" energy savings for new devices

Of course there are the time-tested "old school" methods of energy efficiency that can be applied to the myriad of household electronic devices and screens. Computers, printers, phones and gaming consoles are notorious "vampire power" users, meaning they drain energy (and money) when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off or placed on a timer.

While modern life involves greater dependence on technology, your best resource for saving energy and money remains your local electric co-op.

Regardless of your level of technical expertise with electronic devices, West Central Electric Cooperative can provide guidance on energy savings based on your account information, energy use, local weather patterns and additional factors unique to your community.

*Anne Prince 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.*