



The Light Issue

of the Current Communicator

December 2012

News for the member-owners of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative

Provisional Rates Go Into Effect in December

Higher Energy Costs

CVEC members are aware that our 10-year wholesale energy contract ended on May 31 and that our members began paying more for energy as a result of the higher cost of wholesale energy. Since then, members could see the higher costs displayed on the **Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)** line on their monthly electric bill.

CVEC used the PCA factor to pass through the higher costs, as a temporary measure, until the Co-op could file a rate case with the **Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC)** to include higher wholesale energy

costs in our regular rate schedules. The SCC has reviewed CVEC's rate filing and granted permission to implement the new rate schedules beginning December 1, 2012.

Most bills issued during the month of December will include charges from days in November **and** charges from days in December. Bills issued during the beginning of December will be comprised of charges from mostly days in November. Bills issued during the latter days of December will only include a few days from the month of November and mostly from days in December.

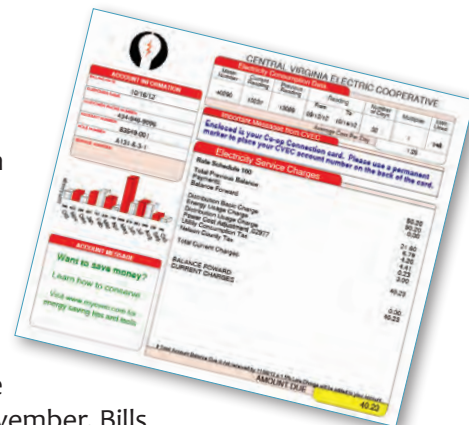
To be fair to all members, CVEC **will prorate** December bills to reflect the number of days billed at the old rate and at the new rate.

Basic Distribution Charge

In addition to incorporating the higher wholesale energy cost, a rate filing allowed CVEC to evaluate other charges and make adjustments as approved by the SCC. One charge that will be changed is the **Basic Distribution Charge**. In conducting a cost of service study, the Co-op found that the actual cost for the Basic Distribution Charge should be increased. Based on our cost of service study, the monthly fixed charge for residential service has increased from \$21.60 to to \$25.70, which includes a \$5.75 monthly charge for metering and billing.

While the fixed charge is increasing, CVEC is reducing the distribution charge which varies, based upon kWh consumption. This balances the interests between members that consume energy throughout the month with those that have little to no energy usage.

Members may view the entire new CVEC rate schedule by visiting www.mycvec.com or may discuss your bill by calling our Member Services Department at **800-367-2832**.



Comfort & Convenience

What Do They Cost?

If the energy manager in your home is serious about becoming more efficient and saving money, the concepts of comfort and convenience are a good starting point. Here is how it works. Look at the history on your electric bill and find the month with the lowest usage. That will likely be around April or September when little HVAC is required. So the lowest month of the year represents the cost to power **only the conveniences** in your home.

Now, find the usage on the highest energy bill and subtract the usage on the lowest energy bill. The remaining amount represents what you pay for heating or cooling costs. In other words, the **cost of comfort**.

Now that you have divided your electric consumption into two categories, you and members of your family can adopt strategies to reduce the cost of convenience and the cost of comfort.

Visit www.mycvec.com and download an **Appliance Usage Chart** from the **Save Energy** section. This chart will allow you to identify the biggest energy hogs in your home and give you a chance to manage those appliances. It will tell you how much energy they use in a month and estimate the costs to operate. In the same section, you will find a link to TogetherWeSave.com, an energy efficiency website provide by Touchstone Energy. Start there for great energy savings tips!



Seeking Local Businesses

Co-op Connections Card: Help us spread the word!

CVEC recently issued all members a **Co-op Connections Card**, a discount purchasing card from **Touchstone Energy (TSE)**. TSE is a nationwide marketing and energy efficiency cooperative serving CVEC and 700+ other electric co-ops. They provide CVEC with energy efficiency resources and other tools.

The **Co-op Connections Card** offers negotiated discounts to CVEC members that include:

- » Health care products and services including medical, pharmacy, chiropractic, dental and vision
- » Travel, entertainment, automotive, hospitality and dining discounts from national chains and from local businesses that enroll on the Co-op Connections website
- » Rebates from nationwide and local businesses
- » Coupons on well known products



Members can learn more by visiting www.mycvec.com. Click on the image of the Connections Card and create a logon account so offers can be tailored to your zip code.

Local businesses may offer discounts and incentives to CVEC's 35,000 member account holders and the members of adjoining cooperatives, i.e. **Free cup of coffee with a fill-up!** Help us spread the word by introducing the program to the businesses where you regularly shop. They can go to www.connections.coop and **Submit An Offer** (at the bottom of the webpage) whether they are a CVEC member or not.

NOTE: These benefits are available to CVEC and other Touchstone cooperatives, without an additional cost to CVEC members.

Energy Conservation Tip:

Keeping warm

Many of us use space heaters during the cold weather months. Keep in mind that most of these consume 1500 watts, which equals 1.5 kilowatts at a cost of 17¢ per hour. If a heater operates 10 hours per day, that heater could cost you \$1.70 per day or \$51.00 per month. Limit the use of space heaters by shutting them off when they are not needed.



NOTE: Electric resistance space heaters all have similar efficiencies and cannot exceed 100%, despite what you might see on television or read in magazines, and regardless of who makes the wooden cabinet. Check the label carefully because the only practical way to increase the heat output from an electric resistance heater is to increase the wattage, which will also increase the monthly cost.

For additional tips on energy efficiency and conservation, visit www.mycvec.com and click on the TogetherWeSave.com link.

Help Us Stay in Touch:

It's easy!

We use your home and cell phone numbers to help identify your account during outages. Visit www.mycvec.com to update your contact information including your e-mail and cell phone number. We will use this information during outages and to share energy efficiency tips.

Thank you in advance for visiting www.mycvec.com and selecting **The Latest** tab to update your contact information.



2012 CVEC Records Update Form

1. Central Virginia Electric Cooperative is in the process of updating our records to include the Physical address following to help us update our records.

CVEC also wants to help our members save money and will send you energy efficiency information from time to time. If you share your cell phone number the Co-op will use that number to contact you with information during outages. As always, CVEC will not sell your personal information and the Co-op will not share your information unless you give us your permission.

#1. Account Number

#2. Name on Account

#3. Physical Address (service location address)

#4. City (service location address)

#5. State