

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.victoryelectric.net

## THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# electronews



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## FROM THE MANAGER Storm Season

The storm season is upon us and I just wanted to discuss recent storms and important safety information.

Early in the morning on June 12, a storm moved through our service territory causing damage and power outages. Thousands of Victory Electric's members were out of power, including all of Bucklin. The first power outages and damages were reported about 2:30 a.m. Our crews worked hard to repair the damage and power was restored by 9:30 p.m.

Victory lost 18 poles on the 34.5 kV line and 11 distribution poles. These damages were located on 112 Rd south of Dodge City, north of Bucklin, east of Dodge, and east of Cimarron.

I want to thank everyone for their patience while our crews restored power, and to remind members to report and power outages or downed power lines. Our regular office and emergency after hours phone numbers are the same, 620.227.2139 or 800.279.7915. If you are calling after hours, we have an answering service that will take your information and immediately contact us in the event of outages.

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Terry Janson

“Watch carefully for downed power lines and treat every downed line as if it were energized”



The winds in the storm on June 12 was strong enough to rip this power pole out of the ground.

## Go Online for Energy Savings

Ever wonder what you could save by changing your thermostat setting or adding storm windows? Now you can find out with just a few clicks of your computer mouse.

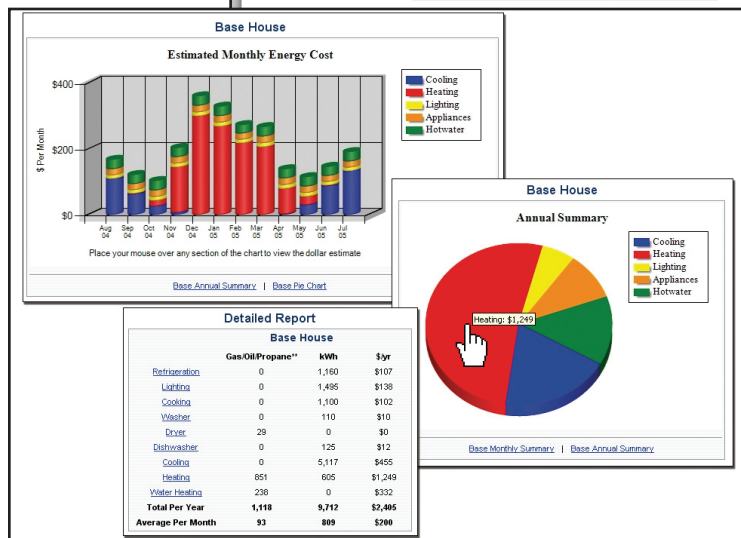
Give it a try at the new **HomeEnergyCalculator** now on our website [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net) and available to you 24/7 in the comfort of your home. The calculator's a quick, one-screen form that asks approximately a dozen questions about your home. Simply click to indicate your home's approximate square footage, age, number of occupants, fuel type and several other variables.

Then hit "Calculate" to get an estimate of the monthly and annual energy use and costs for your "base house."

Now the fun begins. What changes would you like to consider? One easy step might be to reduce the temperature

on your water heater. Try making that change on the calculator's drop-down menu and click "Calculate" again to see what you might save. Then try some others: adjusting heating settings down or cooling settings up; tightening up your home by reducing air leaks; adding insulation; installing storm windows; or changing out your heating system. Click "Calculate" after each change to see the difference in your monthly energy bill.

Then, go ahead and do what most calculator users do -- add or remove one of the home's occupants!



We're not sure why that's such a popular inquiry, but it usually ranks as the first or second most popular change selected.

Once you've gotten a feel for your home's energy costs and what various changes might save, it's time to take a big-picture look at overall home energy usage. Click the "Chart" button and you'll see a pie chart with the percentage breakdown of total annual energy use by appliance or system type. "With one more click you can display a colorful, stacked bar chart showing monthly energy use by system."

the Internet. It's available 24/7, and is just one more way we're working to help you manage your home energy costs.

In addition to the **HomeEnergyCalculator**, there is also a commercial energy calculator and several special purpose calculators including, irrigation, CFL, commercial lighting, space heaters, and TV's. Our goal is to feature a calculator every month.

For more information on the energy calculators, please contact Victory Electric at 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915.

## From the Manager: Storm Season

► Continued from page 16-A

Also, it is important to follow a few safety precautions during power outages. Watch carefully for downed power lines and treat every downed line as if it were energized, and educate children and family on the dangers of power lines. If you spot a downed power line, immediately call Victory Electric to report the damage so our crews can be dispatched to repair the lines.

*'Til Next Time, TJ*



Poles were snapped off from the high winds. It took Victory crews approximately 19 hours to get new poles up and restore power to everyone.

## Energy Savings Tips for Cooling Your Home

If your home is too hot in the summer, there are many ways you can help keep heat out of your house. Planting trees, for instance, is one of the best ways to diffuse the hot sun before it enters your home. But a surprising amount of heat comes from inside your home.

The biggest sources of internal heat gain are lights and appliances. Reducing their use will save electricity and keep your home cooler. In humid climates, moisture that is released by cooking, bathing, and other activities will also make it harder for air conditioners to cool your home. A drier home feels more comfortable.

Here are some easy ways to keep cool in the summer:

- Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. The electricity used by standard bulbs produces 10 percent light and 90 percent heat. Also, compact fluorescent lights are cheaper to operate.
- Schedule heat-producing chores like baking or doing the laundry after the hottest part of the day.
- Install an insulating jacket on

your water heater.

- Use kitchen and bathroom fans to remove heat and moisture during and after cooking and bathing.
- When replacing appliances, buy those with the Energy Star® label. These appliances conserve energy and release less unwanted heat.
- If you are home during the day, use a room fan to create a cooling breeze.
- If you live in an area where evenings are cool, don't forget about the cheapest cooling method of all. Open your doors and windows, or run window fans. This will move cool evening air through your home for almost no cost.

### Summer Vacation

For consumers going on vacation this summer, the nation's electric utilities advise them to make sure their home's energy use takes a vacation as well. Simple tips can save consumers money while they are away.

### Air Conditioning

Set the thermostat to 85 degrees. If it is a programmable thermostat, use the "hold" or the

"vacation" setting to keep it at that temperature.

### Electronics

Computers, CD/DVD players, TVs, and VCRs – these and other electronic appliances use electricity, even when they are not turned on. Unplug them before leaving.

### Water Heating

Turn the water heater's temperature down to the lowest setting. Many water heaters have a "vacation" setting for this purpose. Leave a reminder to turn it back up upon returning home.

- Pool owners should shorten the operating time for the pool filter and automatic cleaning sweep (if applicable). A pool cover can save energy too. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, up to 70 percent of pool heat loss is by evaporation.

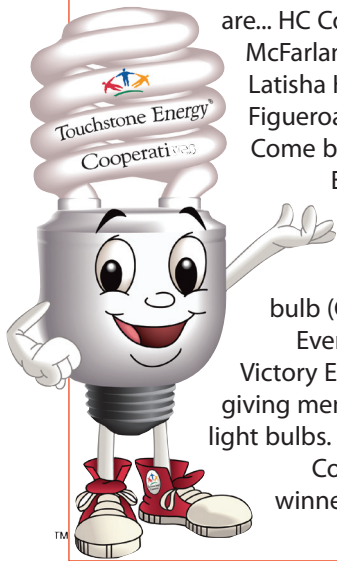
### Refrigerator

Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting. If going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off. Remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew.

If you have any questions, please call Victory Electric at 620-227-2139.



**CFL Charlie Says**  
**"Come Get Your Free CFL Bulb!"**



And the lucky winners are... HC Correll, Wiley McFarland, Tom Hertel, Latisha Holguin, Tito Figueroa, Angie Dow. Come by Victory Electric and get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!

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*Contact Us Today!*



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- Commercial
- Industrial
- Agricultural

Call us today and ask for Josh  
**800-279-7915**