

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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THE VICTORY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



### The Victory Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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### FROM THE MANAGER

## Changes in Your Electric Bill

Many of our legacy system members (those of you who were members before the Aquila acquisition) have recently questioned why there is an increase in the energy cost adjustment (ECA) charge on their electric bill. I want to take a little time to explain to you, our member, why these changes occurred.

A new component in your ECA bill is a demand charge adjustment (DCA) charge. Historically, members saw an ECA charge only. The DCA charge is new and is a factor in the ECA charge. So, if you notice an increase in your ECA charge, it is because of the new added DCA.

Why a DCA charge, you may ask? An ECA charge is based on kWh energy sales and a DCA is based on the peak demand of our system. Our generation and transmission cooperative (G&T) charges Victory based on the peak demand and when we purchase the necessary power from our G&T's, we incur those DCA charges. The ECA and DCA on your electric bill will fluctuate month to month depending on the time of year and the system peak.

I assure you that your electric cooperative works hard to keep your rates as low as possible and we will always look out for you.

Also, for those members who were former Aquila customers, there have been questions about the rate case and the increased cost on their electric bill. There was an eight percent rate increase implemented in late January, contrary to rumors about rates doubling.

I hope this clears up some questions about rates, but if you should have more questions, please feel free to call our office at 620-227.2139.



Terry Janson

“We work hard to keep your rates as low as possible.”



Happy St. Patrick's Day !!

Time changes on Sunday,  
March 14 at 2 a.m.



## Victory Donates Truck to DCCC Program



Pictured left to right: Ryan Miller, Supervisor of Operations for Victory, Tom Lowery, Director of Operations for Victory, Danny Gillum, Associate Dean of Technical Education for DCCC, and Terry Janson, General Manager of Victory Electric.

Victory Electric donated two bucket trucks to the Dodge City Community College Electrical and Power Transmission program.

"Victory Electric has supported this program from day one," said Terry Janson, General Manager. "We are happy to help support DCCC and the Electrical and Power Transmission program by donating trucks for student training purposes."

The DCCC program is designed to prepare students for a career as a line worker in the construction, maintenance, and repair of electric utility overhead and underground systems.

"We're glad students, who will be future employees in our industry, will be able to use the trucks to get proper training," said Janson. "We felt it was the right this to do."

## Ochs Honored for 30 Years of Service with Sunflower Electric

Loren Ochs, Victory Electric Trustee, received an award for his 30 years of service on the Sunflower Electric Power Corporation's Board of Trustees. Ochs has served 40 years on the Victory Electric Board of Trustees and has represented Victory on the Sunflower board for 30 years.

"Loren's wise counsel over these many years has been invaluable, not only to me and my predecessors, but also to his fellow board members," said Earl Watkins, Sunflower's president and chief executive officer. "His courage over the years to make difficult decisions to support the development of generation and transmission assets for today and tomorrow's service to central and western Kansas is the norm, not the exception. He has always represented everything good about the cooperative form of business and the ideals we treasure as people living in rural Kansas."

All of us at Victory wish to thank Ochs for his service and congratulate him on this achievement.



Loren Ochs has represented Victory Electric on the Sunflower board for 30 years.

## Victory Electric Hosts 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar

Victory Electric's 12th Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar had a great turnout on February 5, 2010.

This year's event sported a large number of attendees and speakers. Victory arranged for nine speakers to discuss a variety of topics from herbicides to irrigation water quality to cap and trade.

We would like to thank the guest speakers and vendors who helped with this event. Victory would like

to also thank all of the employees of the cooperative who helped organize and run the event.

We encourage all area irrigators to look for their invite next year and attend the 13th Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar.



Members attend the 12th Annual Irrigation Seminar.



## Saving Energy...Appliance by Appliance

Want to know what it costs you to operate your side-by-side refrigerator? How about your power tools...even your hair dryer? Now you can find out, thanks to the Home Appliance Calculator on our Web site at <http://victoryelectric.apogee.net/homesuite/calcs/appcalc/>.

An easy-to-use “checklist” takes you through more than 50 household appliances, from kitchen to bath to utility room. Once you’re “inside” an area, just indicate the number of appliances you have and the length of time they operate. Then, click on the calculate button and your costs appear in seconds.

The calculator is extremely easy—even fun—to use. It allows you to compare the cost to operate any particular appliance—say a 40-inch plasma television—with that of a 50-inch plasma, or an LCD TV, for instance.

In the kitchen section you can learn the cost to operate your 19-cubic-foot frost-free refrigerator built before 1993. What would happen if you replaced it with an Energy Star-rated appliance that is more energy efficient? The calculator will give you the savings.

*Hint: It's more than \$40 a year—just from one appliance.*

The calculator also shows “phantom” appliance costs. For example, a computer that is never turned on still uses electricity—so does a DVD/VCR.

The calculator is part of the HomeEnergyCalculator suite on Victory Electric's Web site. The online tool is available 24/7 at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net). We hope members use the calculator to help make informed choices when selecting or replacing appliances.

Here's a rundown of the appliances the calculator covers:

- ▶ **Kitchen**—refrigerators, microwaves, ranges, dishwashers, crock pots.

**HomeEnergySuite™**

INTERACTIVE HOUSE | CALCULATORS | LIBRARY | VENDOR | FUN

HOME ENERGY CALCULATOR | APPLIANCE CALCULATOR | TV CALCULATOR | SPACE HEATER CALCULATOR | CFL CALCULATOR

Calculate | Print Results | Reset

Electric Rate: \$0.085 per kWh

Room	Annual kWh	Annual Cost	Monthly Avg
Television	234	\$19.86	\$1.65
Kitchen	775	\$65.89	\$5.49
Refrigerator	364	\$30.96	\$2.58
Utility Room	36	\$3.02	\$0.25
Living Room	95	\$8.07	\$0.67
Bathroom	69	\$5.84	\$0.49
Bedroom	511	\$43.44	\$3.62
Office	1327	\$112.81	\$9.40
Heating/Cooling	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Garage	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Outdoors	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3410</b>	<b>\$289.88</b>	<b>\$24.16</b>

Calculate | Print Results | Reset

**Note:**  
 \*Appliances such as Microwaves, VCR's, and Televisions continue to use energy when they are turned off. These "phantom" loads are included in this calculator.  
 \*\*These appliances are seasonal, therefore annual hours and costs are less than 12 months.

Visit Victory's Electric's Web site to use our interactive calculator and determine how much energy your appliances are consuming and compare the energy savings if you upgrade to a newer, more energy efficient units.

- ▶ **Bath**—hairdryer, curling iron, whirlpool tub.
- ▶ **Utility room**—clothes dryer and washer, sump pump, vacuum cleaner, dehumidifier, iron, electric water heater.
- ▶ **Living room**—stereo, DVD/VCR.
- ▶ **Bedroom**: electric blanket, alarm clock, medical equipment.
- ▶ **Office**—personal computer.
- ▶ **Heating/Cooling**—portable heater, ceiling fan, window fan, house fan.
- ▶ **Garage**—engine block heater, power tools.
- ▶ **Outdoors**—water pump, septic pump.

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

## Report of the Nominating Committee

On February 4, 2010, the Committee of Nominations, who were appointed by The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., Board of Trustees, submitted the following candidates for Trustees of the cooperative to be elected to a three-year term at the Annual Meeting of Members to be held on April 6, 2010.

The following candidates were nominated:

- District 5:** Max Jantz
- District 7:** Loren Ochs
- District 9:** Richard Lightner
- District 10:** Patrick Morse

All members in these districts will be eligible to vote for the candidates at the April 6, 2010, meeting.

## Mark Your Calendars

April						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

The 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Victory Electric will be held April 6 at the Dodge City Civic Center.

Registration will start at 5:30 p.m., the meal at 6 p.m. and the business meeting starts at 7 p.m.

Meals will be served to the first 1,200 attending. Also, come for a chance to win some great door prizes.

## Is Wind an Option for You?

*Use this tool to analyze small wind turbine investments*

Victory Electric and other Kansas electric cooperatives have seen an increase in the number of requests for information about owning renewable energy systems, particularly wind. In response, staff at Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC), Sunflower, and Midwest Energy have developed the "Small Wind Cash Flow model"—a spreadsheet tool—that can help you analyze the economics of investing in a small wind generator.

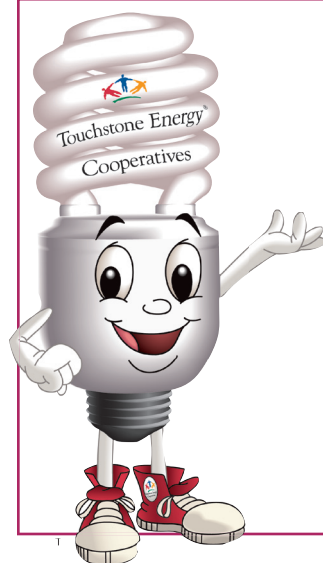
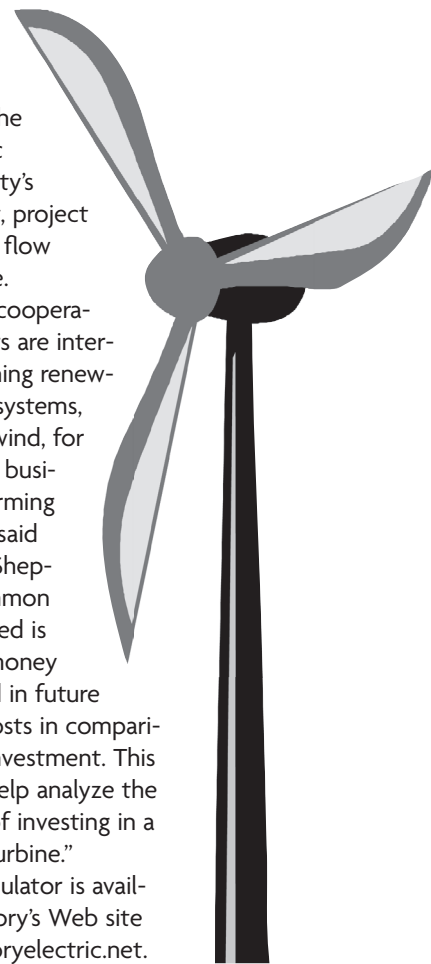
The model allows you to input several variables that have an impact on the economic viability of a small windmill. Once the variables are entered, the tool calculates annual cash flows and the net present value of the project.

These variables include project costs and grants, cost of debt financing, O&M costs, amount of

electricity generated and consumed, the retail electric rate, the utility's avoided cost, project life and cash flow discount rate.

"Many cooperative members are interested in owning renewable energy systems, particularly wind, for their homes, businesses, or farming operations," said KEC's Doug Shepherd. "A common question asked is how much money can be saved in future electricity costs in comparison to the investment. This model can help analyze the economics of investing in a small wind turbine."

The calculator is available on Victory's Web site at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net).



### CFL Charlie Says

## "Come Get Your Free CFL Bulb!"

And this month's lucky winners are... Donald Williams, Bruce Smith, Dennis Kleysteuber, Pedro De La Torre, Rira Govea, Giles Issinghoff, Mario Hernandez, Lorenzo, Figueroa. Come by Victory Electric Cooperative and get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL).

Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs.

**Congratulations winners!**