

Finding the Value of Electricity Continued

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 a 24-hour-a-day commodity. Of course, we're working hard to reduce even those brief interruptions, increase our service reliability, and control costs through innovative technology.

Those cell phones I mentioned earlier? Nearly a third of all U.S. households have four electronic devices, such as cell phones, plugged in and charging, according to the Residential Energy Consumption Survey by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In the past 30 years, the amount of residential electricity used by appliances and electronics has increased from 17 percent to 31 percent. More homes than ever use major appliances and central air conditioning. Digital video recorders (DVRs), computers, and multiple televisions are common in every household.

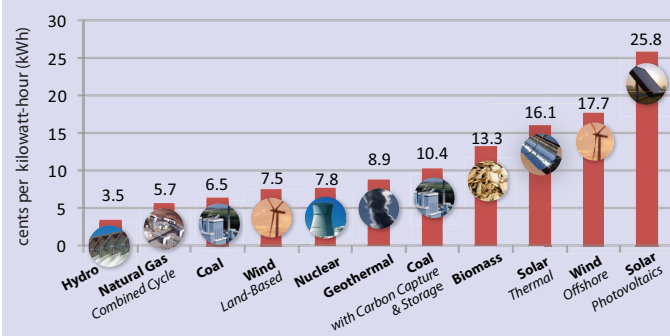
With the increased use of electricity due to various devices, comes an increase in total demand for electricity. To meet this ever increasing demand, coops are looking to the most cost effective new generation to build. Included with this article is a chart that shows the cents per kWh each type of generation takes to produce.

Clearly, our appetite for electricity shows no signs of slowing down. So the next time you flip a switch, use your toaster, or run

your washing machine, remember the value electricity holds. And know that we at Victory Electric are looking out for you by working together to keep electric bills affordable, controlling costs through innovation, and putting you, our members, first. 'Til Next Time, TJ

The Cost of New Generation

The cost to build new power plants can vary widely. Each type of generation carries a ballpark price tag. The costs shown below, based on each kilowatt-hour produced, take into account plant construction, fuel, operating and maintenance costs, operating performance assumptions, expected operating life, and general tax and financing assumptions. Wind and solar generation are not directly comparable to other technologies because their power production varies based on weather conditions.



Estimates by National Rural Electric Cooperative Association using U.S. Energy Information Administration data from April 2011



Dodge City Community College, IBEW Local 304, and the regional electric co-ops present

Lineman Boot Camp

We challenge YOU to see if you have what it takes to be a power lineman!

All equipment & tools provided
 Learn basic skills • Safety procedures • Team work • Respect • Basic knots • Pole climbing skills

WHEN: July 30 & 31, 2011 • 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Lunch provided)
 WHERE: Dodge City Community College Tech Center
 2501 N. 14th Ave • Dodge City KS 67801

TO REGISTER CALL: (800) 367-3222 or (620)227-9222
 First come first paid basis • Maximum: 22 students
 COST: \$50.00 for both days

Cimarron Hosts Agriculture Safety Day

Victory Electric employees present electrical safety tips to kids



Left: Lineman Mikey Goddard takes the bucket in the air and Josh Schmidt (lower left) tells the kids about being a lineman. Middle: Cimarron elementary kids check out the bucket. Right: Schmidt and Goddard give a safety demonstration.

Victory Electric employees traveled to Cimarron on Thursday, May 5, to give electrical safety presentations at the Farm and Agricultural Safety Day held at the high school.

Lineman Mikey Goddard and Josh Schmidt, manager of member services at Victory Electric, taught more than 200 Pre-K through sixth grade students about the danger of

electricity and how they can stay safe around power lines and equipment. They also taught the kids how to recognize when power lines are downed and to immediately tell an adult of the danger.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in a safety presentation for a kids or adult group, please contact Josh Schmidt at 227-2139.

DON'T MESS WITH YOUR SAFETY!

CALL VICTORY ELECTRIC'S ELECTRICIAN SERVICE TODAY!



If you are worried about your safety or have an electrical problem, Victory Electric's Electrician Service is here to meet your needs. Our qualified electricians do residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural work. Call Jim Mies today for more information.

620-227-2139 OR 800-279-7915

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
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 620-227-2139
 www.victoryelectric.net

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FROM THE MANAGER

Finding the Value of Electricity

Nowadays, cell phones and personal digital devices are a part of our culture. Everyone, it seems, is connected on the go—whether they're just making phone calls, text messaging, or checking e-mail. Such communication freedom is a luxury we pay for, generally without grumbling.

So why is it that when it comes to electricity—a necessity in our modern world—many of us grumble and complain when the electric bill comes every month? We expect electricity to be there at the flip of the switch, and when it's not, we get angry or frustrated.

Hey, I'm no different—I expect the lights to come on every time, too. And as the general manager of Victory Electric, I have a special responsibility to make sure your electric service is safe, reliable, and affordable. But I also believe that when compared to other commodities, electricity remains a great value.

For example, over the past 10 years, gasoline has shot up 10.9 percent on average every single year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. A loaf of white bread has increased 4.2 percent annually, and a dozen eggs 6.5 percent per year.

In comparison, electricity has increased just 5.32 percent a year locally for the past decade. When you consider how reliable electricity is, the value goes up even more. Victory Electric members experience few outages per year (mostly in storm situations)—something we're proud of, considering electricity is

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Terry Janson

With the increased use of electricity due to various devices comes the increase in total demand.



Happy Father's Day

Victory Electric sincerely wishes all the father's a Happy Father's Day on June 19.

Be Ready for Summer Storm Season

Tips for being prepared for summer storms...and even a disaster

With summer and storm season approaching, Victory Electric encourages you to practice caution and safety during summer storms, which at times can be severe. Beware of flooded areas cause by heavy rains - water and electricity do not mix! Below is safety advice to use following a summer storm:

Flooded areas—Be careful when attempting to walk in flooded areas and remember that submerged outlets or electrical cords could energize the water.

Wet electrical equipment—Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances, such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines, and dryers. Electrical parts can pose a shock hazard or overheat and cause a fire.

A qualified service repair person should recondition electrical equipment that has been wet. Certain equipment will require complete replacement, while a trained professional can recondition other devices.

Portable generators—Take special care with portable electric generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including line workers making repairs. A qualified, licensed electrician should install your generator to ensure that it meets local electrical codes. Other tips include:

- ▶ Make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- ▶ Keep the generator dry.
- ▶ Make sure extension cords used with generators are rated for the load, and are free of cuts, worn insulation, and have three-pronged plugs.
- ▶ Do not overload the generator.
- ▶ Do not operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide very quickly, which can be deadly.
- ▶ Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from

\$12 to \$30.

In the event of a disaster

If disaster strikes, you might not have access to food, water, or electricity for some time. By taking time now to prepare emergency kits, you can provide for your entire family.

Even though it is unlikely that an emergency would cut off your food supplies for two weeks, consider maintaining a stockpile that will last that long. In fact, you can use the canned goods, dry mixes, and other staples on your cupboard shelves. Protein bars and breakfast bars are also good to have on hand.

But an ample supply of clean water remains a top priority. A

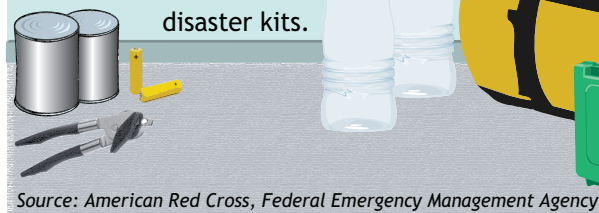
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Be Prepared Before the Storm

Here are some basic items you should store in your home in case of emergency:

- ▶ **Water:** Three day supply, one gallon per person per day
- ▶ **Food:** Three day supply, non-perishable, high-energy
- ▶ **Clothing, bedding, and sanitation supplies**
- ▶ **Tools:** Can opener, plates, utensils, flashlight, batteries, cash, bleach, hand sanitizer
- ▶ **First aid supplies, medicine**
- ▶ **Important documents**

Visit redcross.org/domore to learn more about disaster kits.



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Estar Listo para la Temporada de Tormenta de Verano

Consejos para estar preparado para tormentas de verano... e incluso un desastre

Con la temporada de verano y tormentas acercando, Victory Electric recomienda precaución y práctica de seguridad durante las tormentas de verano, que a veces pueden ser graves. Cuidado con las áreas de inundación por las fuertes lluvias, agua con electricidad no se mezclan. A continuación un consejo de seguridad para utilizar tras una tormenta de verano:

Áreas inundadas: Tenga cuidado al intentar caminar en áreas inundadas y recordar que tomas sumergidas o cables eléctricos podrían energizar el agua.

Equipo eléctrico húmedo—no utilizar aparatos eléctricos que han sido mojados. Agua puede dañar los motores en electrodomésticos, tales como hornos, congeladores, refrigeradores, lavadoras y secadoras. Piezas eléctricas pueden plantear un riesgo de choque o sobrecalentamiento y provocar un incendio.

Un cualificado distribuidor de reparación debe recondicionar equipos eléctricos que se han mojado. Ciertos equipos requieren un reemplazo completo, mientras que un profesional capacitado puede recondicionar otros dispositivos.

Generadores portátiles— Tener cuidado especial con generadores eléctricos portátiles que pueden proporcionar una buena fuente de energía, pero si mal instalado u operado, pueden llegar a ser mortal. No conecte generadores directamente al alambrado de la casa. El generador tiene poder para alimentar a lo largo de las líneas eléctricas y puede electrocutar a cualquier persona que entren en contacto con ellos, incluidos los trabajadores de la línea haciendo reparaciones. Un electricista cualificado, con licencia debe instalar el generador para asegurarse de que cumple con los códigos eléctricos



locales. Otros consejos incluyen:

- ▶ Asegúrese que el generador apropiadamente este en su base.
- ▶ Mantener el generador seco.
- ▶ Asegúrese los cables que usa con el generador están calificados para la carga y están libres de cortes, insolación desgastada y enchufes triples.
- ▶ No sobre cargue el generador.
- ▶ No utilice el generador en espacios cerrados o parcialmente cerrados. Generadores pueden producir altos niveles de monóxido de carbono muy rápidamente, que pueden ser mortal.
- ▶ Utilizar un interruptor de circuito de fallas de tierra (GFC) para ayudar prevenir la proliferación y las lesiones de descargas eléctricas. GFCs portátiles no requieren herramientas para instalar y están disponibles a precios que van desde \$12 a \$30.

En caso de un desastre

Si ocurre un desastre, puede que no tenga acceso a alimentos, agua o electricidad durante algún tiempo. Tomando tiempo ahora para preparar botiquines de emergencia, puede proporcionar para toda la familia.

Aunque es poco probable que una emergencia pueda cortar el suministro de alimentos para dos semanas, considere la posibilidad de mantener un arsenal que va a durar mucho. De hecho puede utilizar los productos enlatados, mezclas y otros productos básicos en sus estantes de armario. Barras de proteína y desayuno también son buenas tener a mano.

Un amplio suministro de agua potable sigue siendo una prioridad. Una persona normalmente activa bebe al menos 2 cuartos de galón (un medio galón) de agua cada día. También necesita agua para la preparación de alimentos e higiene. Contar con al menos medio galón adicional por persona, por día.

Almacenar al menos tres días de reserva, considere la posibilidad de almacenar dos semanas de suministro de agua por cada miembro de familia. Si no puede almacenar tanto así. Almacene todo lo que pueda. Puede reducir la cantidad de agua que el cuerpo necesita al reducir la actividad y mantenerse fresco. No se olvide de tomar en cuenta, las necesidades de agua de sus mascotas también!

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Victory Contrato un Nuevo Representante de Servicios a Miembros

Micaela Morales a trabajar en relaciones a los miembros



Micaela Morales

Victory Electric recientemente contrato un nuevo empleado en servicios a los miembros. Micaela Morales estará principalmente en relaciones hispanas también con los muchos programas y eventos en Victory Electric.

“Este es un momento emocionante para mi y para los miembros de Victory, dijo Morales. “Mi objetivo es llegar a la comunidad y enriquecer su asociación con Victory Electric.”

Morales llega a Victory Electric con muchos años de experiencia en relaciones de la comunidad.

“Estamos muy emocionados de tener Micaela como parte de nuestro equipo,” dijo Jerry King, director de mercadotecnia y comunicación. “Las posibilidades son infinitas y estamos muy entusiasmados acerca de los proyectos que podemos ampliar y nuevos proyectos que podemos comenzar con Micaela en nuestro equipo.”

Si tiene pregunta sobre Victory Electric, quien somos, o tiene una pregunta, no dude en dar una llamada a Morales al 620.371.7744.

“Es un gran placer de atenderle y estar disponible para responder preguntas o preocupaciones,” dijo Morales. Espero asociarme con todos ustedes.”

Continuacion Tormentade Temporada

Según la Cruz Roja Americana, un equipo de emergencia debe incluir también herramientas para ayudarle a esperar la tormenta. Recuerde almacenar, un radio de baterías, abre latas, linternas, baterías adicionales, desinfectante de mano y un botiquín de primeros auxilios. Incluir siete días de medicamentos para usted o para otros miembros de familia. Por último almacenar copias de documentos importantes, pólizas de seguro, certificados de nacimientos y pasaportes.

Los conceptos básicos, se

pueden personalizar en su botiquín incluyendo fotos de familia, dulces, frutas secas u otros alimentos, bocaditos, incluso una baraja de cartas para ayudar a pasar el tiempo. Pensar en el futuro linternas recargables enchufadas alrededor de las áreas claves de su hogar proporcionar luz instantánea si la energía se va.

Para prender más en cómo obtener más información en cómo prepararnos para las tormentas y otras situaciones de emergencia, visite www.redcross.org/domore o contacte a Victory Electric.

Storm Season

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normally active person needs to drink at least 2 quarts (a half gallon) of water each day. You also

need water for food preparation and hygiene. Count on at least an additional half-gallon per person, per day.

Store at least a three-day supply and consider storing a two-week supply of water for each member of your family. If you are unable to handle this much, store as much as you can. You can reduce the amount of water your body needs by reducing activity and staying cool. Don't forget to take your pets' water needs into account, too!

According to the American Red Cross, an emergency kit should also include tools to help you weather the storm. Remember to store a battery or hand-crank operated radio, can opener, flashlights, extra batteries, hand sanitizer, and first aid supplies. Include a seven-day supply of medications for you or other family members. Finally, store copies of important documents—birth certificates, passports, and insurance policies.

While these are the basics, you can further customize your kit by including family photos, candy, nuts or other snack foods, and even a deck of cards to help pass the time. Think ahead—rechargeable flashlights plugged in around key areas of your home provide instant light if the power goes out.

To learn more about how to preparing for storms and other emergencies, visit www.redcross.org/domore.