

Victory Electric Using New Metering Technology to Increase Efficiency and Empower Members

For the past several years, Victory Electric has been progressively moving forward installing new, more efficient digital meters throughout our service territory.

The new meters will allow Victory Electric to bring a new technology to our members' homes through a new Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) system. The digital meters are automated and report use information back to our office by radio frequency on a regular basis.

Victory chose to begin installing digital meters for several reasons. Lower operating costs, efficiency, improved reliability and improved accuracy are all advantages to the AMI system. With this technology, Victory Electric will receive instantaneous meter reads and will know within seconds when a power outage occurs. The system can tell Victory the location, the extent of a power outage, and many other details that save the line crews time. This will result in quicker

power restoration.

Some other advantages of the new AMI system are reduced meter reading expenses, load management options, alerts of tampering or theft, and remote reconnects and disconnects. The two-way communication system allows the meter to send readings to Victory's office, and it also gives the office the ability to remotely shut off or turn on the meter in the event of non-pay, disconnect or reconnect.

"As of the end of February, we have 87 percent of the meters installed in our service area," said Harold Flax, Victory Electric systems analyst. "We have approximately 2,570 meters left to install, most of which are commercial and three-phase meters, and we hope our AMI system is fully deployed by the end of 2013."

The introduction of the AMI system brings many advantages for members. The additional data allows for members to pinpoint problems and get an accurate look

at use history. They can catch things like a forgotten space heater or a failing compressor on a freezer.

"We have been working diligently to make this information readily accessible to members," said Flax. "Victory Electric recently launched an application called SmartHub. With SmartHub, members are able to take full advantage of all the information provided by the meters. For example, an electric bill is unusually high that month and he doesn't know why, he takes a look at the use charts on SmartHub and sees on the 14th of the month was when use started increasing. Doing some investigating, he remembers he bought a space heater around that time. SmartHub gives members the information they need to have more control over their energy use."

SmartHub is available in both mobile applications and a web version to give members secure access to maintain account information, view bills, see payment history, make payments on one or more accounts, set-up recurring payments, and report outages. Both versions use graphics, charts and use markers that allow members to monitor and manage use. Members can access their SmartHub account by downloading the app from the Apple or Android Play store or going to victoryelectric.smarthub.coop.

"We want our members to have the ability to know the best ways to save money and be more energy efficient," said Terry Janson, Victory Electric CEO. "By installing these new digital meters and providing the information and data directly through the SmartHub website and phone application, members will have the knowledge and power to control their energy consumption."



Service representative Dave Masden installing a new meter.

Selle su hogar (y cartera)

Cómoda estancia en el hogar a menudo significa subir el calentón o el aire acondicionado. Pero la comodidad puede ser costosa si su casa no está sellada correctamente de los elementos.

Aproximadamente la mitad de la energía consumida por un hogar de calefacción y refrigeración. En una casa mal sellada, el aire acondicionado se escapa.

A veces las fugas de aire son evidentes. Si pasa por una puerta o ventana y sentir un cambio de temperatura, algo está mal. Algunas personas piensan que significa que necesitan nuevas ventanas, y que podría ser el caso. Pero para la mayoría, gastar unos pocos dólares y pasar unos minutos suma a grandes ahorros.

Aire frío entra en una vivienda a través de pequeñas aberturas. Para encontrar áreas problemáticas, utilizar un palo de incienso encendida o un partido recientemente extinguido y moverse alrededor del borde de puertas y ventanas cerradas. Aquí hay algunos remedios para solucionar el problema:

- ▶ Añadir burletes a los bordes de las ventanas y puertas. Desmontaje típicamente utiliza cinta adhesiva para adherirse al lado de las ventanas y llenar vacíos.
- ▶ Si su hogar utiliza ventanas de cristal simple, considere agregar contraventana exterior como sellamiento adicional.
- ▶ Reemplazar el viejo sellador. Asegúrese de que usted use masilla para la aplicación son diferentes tipos de sellador para exteriores, interiores y aplicaciones de baño; No utilice sellador de baño en el exterior de su hogar. También, asegúrese de que el sellador se puede pintar si desea que convine con el resto de su hogar.
- ▶ Use cortinas para evitar la pérdida de calor.

▶ Quitar ventanas y unidades de aire acondicionado cuando termina el verano.

Un paseo por la parte exterior de su hogar revela otros principales candidatos para la reparación rápida y fácil. Cada vez que se perfora un agujero en un hogar, crea posibilidad de pérdida de energía. Echale un vistazo y penetraciones de tuberías y cables, deben sellarse en paredes exteriores e interiores. Esto no sólo ayuda a prevenir la pérdida de energía, sino que también evita que animales que se instalen.

Los conductos de aire forzado, unidad central de aire acondicionado o bomba de calor son otra fuente de pérdida de energía. Según ENERGY STAR, sellar e insular los conductos mejoran la eficiencia de sistema al 20 por ciento.

Por supuesto, esto requiere tiempo y esfuerzo. En primer lugar, se centran en conductos recorren incondicionados sótanos, garajes y áticos. Sellar conductos usando una cinta selladora o metal de conducto especial que puede encontrar en la mayoría de tiendas de mejoras para el hogar. A pesar del nombre, no utilice cinta adhesiva para conductos, no dura tanto como cinta selladora o metal.

Una vez que los conductos están sellados, revise las conexiones en registros de curvas y aire para asegurarse de que todo esté apretado. Una vez terminado, envuelva los conductos con aislamiento. Puesto que esto puede ser un trabajo sucio y consume mucho tiempo, muchos propietarios pedir una empresa HVAC para realizar este trabajo.

Otro trabajo sucio implica

agregar aislamiento en el ático y pisos exponen a sótanos o áreas sin calefacción. La cantidad de aislamiento necesitado varía dependiendo de la ubicación de su casa.

R-valores reflejan la capacidad de aislamiento para resistir a la transferencia de calor. R-los valores más altos indican aislamiento más eficaz. El hogar típico tendrá en cualquier lugar de R-38 R-49 en un ático y R-25 en pisos. Puede obtener asesoramiento en cuánto aislamiento que usted necesita en su ferretería local. En un mundo ideal, también debe aumentar el aislamiento de la pared, pero esto generalmente no es práctico.

Recuerde, ninguna cantidad de aislamiento ayudará si puertas o ventanas se dejan abiertas. Una oleada de frío fuera de aire puede causar su calefactor al fuego, especialmente si la puerta no está cerrada inmediatamente. Crear un frasco y carga repetir los delincuentes \$1 cada vez que se deja una puerta abierta cuando alguien sale o entra en la página de inicio. Usar ese dinero para comprar para calafatear y burletes para sellar ventanas y otras grietas.

Sellado su casa puede incluso convertirse en una divertida actividad. Cada miembro de la familia explore la casa e identificar las áreas problemáticas. Quien encuentra la mayoría de las áreas para fijar llega a ser el capataz, mientras que el resto de la familia soluciona los problemas. Es una manera divertida y sencilla para toda la familia contratan como ustedes trabajan juntos para sellar su hogar y su bolsillo!

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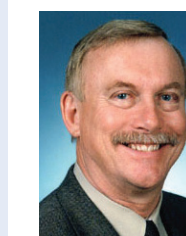
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FROM THE MANAGER

68th Annual Meeting a Success

A great turnout to this year's event



Terry Janson

Every year, we at Victory Electric look forward to hosting the annual meeting for our members, and this year was no exception. This annual meeting is our time to get to know you, the member, your concerns and also to offer you information on the activities of your cooperative.

Victory's annual meeting was April 9 at the Western State Bank Expo. Approximately 471 members were present, and 838 people were served a steak dinner.

In addition to the business meeting, we heard presentations from Board President Kenny Wehkamp, and the youth tour winners

from 2012 before the 2013 Youth Tour winners were introduced. Dozens of great prizes were given throughout the meeting.

The results of the election for four districts on the board of trustees were announced. **GARY GILLESPIE**, Copeland, district 5; **JAMES (JIM) OCHS**, Jetmore, district 7; **RICHARD LIGHTNER**, Garden City, district 9; and **PAT MORSE**, Dodge City, district 10 were elected or re-elected in their respective districts. I congratulate them all and look forward to working with them on cooperative issues.

The board and I thank all of you who attended the annual meeting, and we look forward to seeing you next year at the 69th Annual Meeting.

"Til Next Time, TJ



Congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected trustees. From left, Gary Gillespie, James Ochs, Richard Lightner, and Pat Morse.

This meeting is our time to get to know you

68th Annual Meeting a Success



Top Left: Employees Martha Ruiz and Rubi Carbajal present the grand prize to the winner. Top right: Linemen Joel Daniels and Tanner Gemaehlich serve members steak and green beans. Below left: Josh Schmidt thanks the 2012 youth your winners Lindy Bilberry (left), Jaden Butcher (middle), and Josie Hayes (right) for speaking at the meeting. Bottom: Approximately 838 members of Victory Electric were served a steak dinner at the 68th annual meeting in the Western State Bank Expo.



Above left: Lineman Paul Schmidt explains electrical safety. Above middle and right: Ross Ackerman and Miguel Barriga were instrumental in keeping things running in the kitchen. Below: Rob Henry and several other Victory employees spent hours grilling steaks and cooking potatoes for the meeting. Below right: Employees Martha Ruiz and Dennis Brauer along with Richard Lightner, trustee, registered members and handed out gifts.



Seal Your Home (and Wallet)

Staying comfortable at home often means turning up the heat or air conditioning. But comfortable can be costly if your home is not properly sealed from the elements.

Roughly half of the energy used by a home powers heating and cooling. In a poorly insulated home, conditioned air slips outside.

Sometimes air leaks are obvious. If you pass by a window or door and feel a change in temperature, something is wrong. Some folks think it means they need new windows, and that could be the case. But for most, spending a few minutes and a few dollars to seal a home adds up to big savings.

Cold air enters a home through small openings. To find problem areas, use a lit incense stick or a recently extinguished match and move it around the edge of closed windows and doors. Here are a few remedies to fix the problem:

- ▶ Add weather stripping to the edges of windows and doors. Stripping typically uses sticky tape to adhere to the side of the window and fill gaps.
- ▶ If your home uses single pane windows, consider adding storm windows to the exterior as added insulation.
- ▶ Replace old cracked caulking. Make sure you use caulking designed for the application. There are different types of caulk for exterior, interior, and bathroom applications; don't use bathroom caulk on the outside of your home. Also, make sure the caulk can be painted if you want it to blend in with the rest of your home.
- ▶ Use insulated curtains to prevent further heat loss.
- ▶ Remove window air conditioning units when summer ends.

A quick walk around the outside of your home reveals other prime candidates for quick and easy repairs. Anytime a hole is drilled into a home, it creates potential for energy loss. Check pipe and wire penetrations—they should be sealed on both exterior and interior walls. This not only helps prevent energy loss, but also keeps critters from taking up residence.

The ductwork of a forced air furnace, central AC unit, or heat pump is another source of energy loss. According to ENERGY STAR, sealing and insulating ducts improves system efficiency by as much as 20 percent.

Of course, this requires effort and time. First, focus on ducts running through unconditioned crawl spaces, garages, and attics. Seal ducts using a special duct sealant or metal tape that can be found at most home improvement stores. Despite the name, don't use duct tape—it doesn't last as long as sealant or metal tape.

Once ducts are sealed, check connections at bends and air registers to make sure everything is tight. Once finished, wrap ducts with insulation. Since this may be a dirty and time consuming job, many homeowners ask a HVAC company to perform this work.

Another dirty job involves adding insulation to the attic and floors exposed to crawl spaces or unheated areas. The amount of insulation needed varies depending on your home's location.

R-values reflect the ability of insulation to resist the transfer of heat. Higher R-values indicate more effective insulation. The typical home will need anywhere from R-38 to R-49 in an attic and R-25 in floors. You can get advice on how much insulation you need at your local hardware store. In an ideal world, wall insulation should also be increased, but this generally is not practical.

Remember, no amount of insulation will help if doors or windows are left open. A rush of cold outside air can cause your heating unit to fire up, especially if the door isn't closed right away. Create a jar and charge repeat offenders \$1 each time a door is left open when someone leaves or enters the home. Use that money to buy caulking and weather stripping to seal up windows and other cracks.

Sealing your home can even turn into a fun activity. Have each member of the family explore the house and identify problem areas. Whoever finds the most areas to fix gets to be the foreman while the rest of the family fixes the problems. It's a fun and simple way to get the family engaged as you work together to seal your home and your wallet!

Happy Mother's Day!

Don't forget your mother this Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, 2013.

Victory Closing for Memorial Day

Victory Electric will be closed Monday, May 27, 2013, for Memorial Day. We will reopen the office Tuesday, May 28.

