

When to Pull the Plug On Your Appliances

Saying goodbye to an old friend can be daunting. But pulling the plug on an outdated refrigerator or dishwasher might save you money; new appliances are often considerably more energy-efficient.

A new refrigerator consumes 75 percent less energy than a 1970s model. Replace a vintage clothes washer and save \$60 on utility bills and nearly 5,000 gallons of water a year, according to the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. Not every new appliance is a good bet; always look for the ENERGY STAR label. It signals energy-efficient models.

Ready to save? Walk through your home to find opportunities to pull the plug!

Cleaning Kitchen, Laundry Costs

In the laundry room, a full-sized ENERGY STAR-certified clothes washer uses 15 gallons of water per load, compared to the 23 gallons used by a standard machine. During the machine's lifetime, this saves 27,000 gallons of water.

Appliance Fact Sheet

Refrigerator

- ▶ Typical wattage—725
- ▶ New vs. old: Save more than \$100 a year
- ▶ Way to save: Adjust the temperature settings

Clothes washer

- ▶ Typical wattage—350-500
- ▶ New vs. old: Save more than \$100 a year
- ▶ Way to save: Use cold water when possible

Dishwasher

- ▶ Typical wattage—1,200-2,400
- ▶ New vs. old: Save \$40 a year
- ▶ Way to save: Set water heater temperature to 120°

Find out how little changes add up to big savings at www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Replace your kitchen's classic refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR-certified model to save between \$200 and \$1,100 in lifetime energy costs. Today's average refrigerator uses less energy than a continually lit 60-watt light bulb. Resist the urge to move the old refrigerator to the basement or the garage. Instead, say goodbye and recycle the energy-guzzler.

Was your dishwasher built before 1994? If so, you're paying an extra \$40 a year on your utility bills compared to neighbors with an ENERGY STAR-qualified model.

Screen Savings

Televisions might be a little more baffling. As screen sizes increase, energy consumption may also rise. You can still be a savvy shopper. ENERGY STAR-certified TVs are about 25 percent more efficient than conventional models. LED screens use 20 percent less energy than LCD TVs.

Once you purchase a TV, calibrate it by adjusting the contrast and brightness to a moderate level. By default, new televisions are set to dynamic, high-contrast settings. This consumes more power than standard, lower-contrast settings.

Smart Settings

Attached to old appliances? You can still save with smart settings. For example, heating water creates the greatest expense when washing dishes or clothes. Set your water heater at 120 degrees and be sure your clothes washer or dishwasher is full whenever used.

Here are a few other ways to save without buying new appliances:

- ▶ **Not too cool food:** In the kitchen, don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37 to 40 degrees for the fresh food compartment and 5 degrees for the freezer section.
- ▶ **Toast, don't roast:** Use toaster ovens or microwave ovens for small meals rather than your large stovetop or oven.
- ▶ **Air dry dishes:** Use the dishwasher's "eco" option or use a no-heat air dry feature. Scrape food pieces off the plates, rather than rinsing them.
- ▶ **Cold clothes:** In the laundry room, wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible. Adjust load settings for smaller loads.
- ▶ **Lose lint:** Clean the lint screen in the dryer after every use to improve the dryer's efficiency.

For other tips on how to save energy, call the energy experts at Victory Electric. Find out how little changes add up to big savings at www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Sources: Energy Star, Consumer Electronics Association, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, U.S. Department of Energy, Natural Resources Defense Council

Al Tirar el Enchufe de Sus Aparatos

Decir adiós a un viejo amigo puede ser intimidante. Pero al tirar el enchufe a un refrigerador anticuado o lavaplatos puede ahorrarle dinero; electrodomésticos nuevos a menudo son considerablemente más eficientes.

Un refrigerador nuevo consume 75% menos de energía que un modelo de los años setenta. Reemplazar una lavadora de ropa vintage y ahorre \$60 en facturas de servicios públicos y casi 5,000 galones de agua al año, según la Asociación de Home Appliance fabricantes. No cada electrodoméstico nuevo es una buena apuesta; siempre busque la etiqueta ENERGY STAR. Señales de modelos eficientes.

Listo para ahorrar? Caminar a través de su hogar para encontrar oportunidades para tirar el enchufe!

Limpieza de cocina, lavandería cuesta

En el lavadero, un tamaño completo de certificación ENERGY STAR lavadora utiliza 15 galones de agua por carga, en comparación con los 23 galones usados por una máquina estándar. Durante la vida útil de la

máquina, esto ahorra 27.000 galones de agua.

Reemplace su refrigerador clásico de su cocina con un modelo de certificado por ENERGY STAR para ahorrar entre \$200 y \$1.100 en costos de energía de toda la vida. Refrigerador promedio de hoy utiliza menos energía que una bombilla de 60 vatios continuamente iluminada. Resista la tentación de mover el refrigerador viejo para el sótano o en el garaje. En cambio, decir adiós y reciclar la energía.

¿Si su lavavajillas fue construido antes de 1994? Si es así, estás pagando un extra de \$40 al año en sus facturas de servicios públicos en comparación con los vecinos con un modelo de calificación ENERGY STAR.

Ahorro de pantalla

Televisores podrían ser un poco más desconcertantes. Como aumentan los tamaños de pantalla, también puede aumentar el consumo de energía. Todavía puede ser un comprador inteligente. ENERGÍA STAR certificado televisores son cerca de 25 por ciento más eficiente que los modelos convencionales. Pantallas LED utilizan 20% menos de energía que los televisores LCD.

Una vez que usted compra un TV, calibrelo ajustando el contraste y el brillo a un nivel moderado. De forma predefinida, se establecen nuevas televisores en configuración dinámica, alto contraste. Esto consume más energía de

la configuración estándar, menor contraste.

Ajustes Inteligente


Conectado a aparatos viejos? Aún puedes salvar con ajustes inteligentes. Por ejemplo, calentar agua crea el mayor gasto al lavar platos o ropa. Establecer su calentador de agua a 120 grados y asegúrese de que su ropa en la lavadora o el lavavajillas están lleno cuando usa.

Aquí están algunas otras maneras de ahorrar sin necesidad de comprar nuevos aparatos:

- ▶ **No demasiados alimentos frescos:** en la cocina, no mantenga su refrigerador o congelador demasiado frío. Las temperaturas recomendadas son 37 a 40 grados para el compartimiento de alimentos frescos y 5 grados para la sección del congelador.
- ▶ **Pan no tostado:** utilizar hornos o microondas para comidas pequeñas en lugar de su gran estufa u horno.
- ▶ **Secar platos:** la opción de "eco" de la lavadora de platos o no utilizar un calor seco característica de aire. Raspe los pedazos de comida de los platos, en lugar de aclararlos.
- ▶ **Ropa frío:** en el cuarto de lavado, lavar su ropa en agua fría con detergentes de agua frías cuando sea posible. Configure los ajustes de carga para cargas más pequeñas.
- ▶ **Pelusa suelta:** limpiar el filtro de pelusa en la secadora después de cada uso para mejorar la eficiencia de la secadora.

Para otras sugerencias sobre cómo ahorrar energía, llame a los expertos en energía en Victory Electric. Averigua qué poco cambios se suman a grandes ahorros en www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Fuentes: Energy Star, Consumer Electronics Association, Asociación de electrodomésticos fabricantes, Departamento de energía de Estados Unidos, Natural Resources Defense Council.

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FROM THE CEO

Why You Should Attend Our Annual Meeting on April 14

It's that time of year again annual meeting time! On behalf of Victory Electric, I'd like to personally invite you to join us on April 14 at the Western State Bank Expo in Dodge City. We look forward to gathering with you to catch up, hear what you have to say, and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

This event is not only a chance to visit with members of our co-op community it's also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by Victory Electric and get to know your co-op staff. Our annual meeting makes it possible for us to gather feedback from you by providing a forum where you can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

This is an occasion to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting our local communities. It's also an opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of an electric co-op, by voting

for the upcoming year's board of trustees.

Victory Electric is not owned by far away investors, and it is not run by an appointed board of trustees. We are run by a democratically elected board of trustees a board who is given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

Our trustees are members of your community. They are con-

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April 2015						
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Don't forget to spring forward

Turn your clocks forward one hour on March 8, when Daylight Savings Time begins.



CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"

This month's lucky winners are...

Daniel Zink, Brian Konrade, Idalia Estrada, Kirstie Collins, Agnes Beckerdite, Ryan Asbridge, Rosa M Leyva Saavedra, and Martin Medina. Come by Victory Electric Cooperative to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month, Victory Electric gives members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!

Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook



Visite nuestro sitio web www.victoryelectric.net. En nuestro sitio Web, usted encontrará un calendario de eventos, con frecuencia pregunta, pago de factura y energía calculadora sólo por nombrar algunas herramientas!

También puede ser una fan de Victory Electric en Facebook buscando Victory Electric Cooperative Assn, Inc. Consulte nuestra página en Facebook para actualizaciones, información de interrupción y consejos de eficiencia de energía. Facebook es una excelente forma de mantenerse en contacto con nuestros miembros.

Why You Should Attend Annual Meeting

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cerned with the issues you face every day because they face them too.

A democratic and open election is one of the many elements that make our electric cooperative stand out from other utilities. Having a voice in who makes the major decisions that directly affect your life and your family is a right we all share as Americans. We all vote for our state and federal Congressional representatives, but not every American has the right to vote for

Minutes of the Nominating Committee Meeting

The meeting of the nominating committee of The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, beginning at 1 p.m., at the offices of the cooperative on N 14th Avenue in Dodge City.

The following members of the nominating committee were present: Alan Schneweis, Levi Benjamin, Rex Aistrup, Bruce Giessel, Robert Bailey, Lisa Mazza, Dave Harris, and Ron Reinert (by phone).

Dave Snapp, attorney for Victory Electric, Pat Morse, board secretary, and Rae Jean Amy, who recorded the minutes, were also present.

Snapp called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Thereupon, Snapp went over qualifications and eligibility requirements for election as a trustee, as set forth in the bylaws of the cooperative, to determine if each potential nominee was eligible

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Pay your bill online at www.victoryelectric.net, at our office, by mail or at any of our pay stations. Victory Electric has several convenient options for you, the member, to pay your bill.

In addition to paying in our office or by mail, options include online bill pay at www.victoryelectric.net, drop boxes at Victory Electric and City of Dodge City.

those who will represent community interests within their electric utility. You have that right, so why not exercise it?

Rest assured, we remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service, but we encourage you to take part in helping us improve how we deliver that service. So make it a point to join us on April 14 at our annual meeting. We promise we will make it worth your while!

Thanks, Shane

for election based upon the information available and the bylaws of the cooperative.

Thereupon, motions duly made, voted on and carried, Lisa Mazza was elected as chairman of the nominating committee and Inspector of Elections. Chairman Mazza then took over the meeting and asked for nominations from districts 1, 3, 8 and 10.

Thereupon, motions duly made, seconded and adopted, the following persons were nominated to stand election as candidates for trustee of the cooperative for a three-year term: district 1, Daryl Tieben; district 3, Ken Schulte; district 8, Cedric Drewes and Ted Setzkorn; and district 10, Terri Larson.

There being no further business to come before the meeting of the nominating committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.



ROW Clears the Way For Reliability

There are many ways that Victory Electric provides you with safe, reliable electric service. One of the most common—and crucial—ways is referred to as right-of-way clearing (or vegetation management).

A right of way (ROW) refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric cooperative has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear. Trees must grow at a distance far enough from conductors where they will not cause harm to individuals or disruption to electrical service.

Specifications can vary, but a general guideline of maintaining a safe ROW is 15 feet of clearance on either side of the primary conductors and 20 feet of overhead clearance above the highest wire on the pole.

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping our members' lights on. An average of 15 percent of power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines.

If a tree encroaches on this safe distance, our vegetation management team will trim back branches and brush using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers and mowers. Chemical control methods can also be used as a way to support the growth of low growing plant species that will out compete

the tall trees growing beneath power lines.

ROW clearing also keeps your family safe by ensuring that tree branches do not become energized due to close contact with a downed power line. Power lines can carry up to 34,500 volts, and an energized tree branch is incredibly dangerous—even deadly. Be mindful when around trees close to power lines, and make sure your children know that climbing trees near power lines

is extremely dangerous.

ROW clearing is also critical to ensuring that we provide members with affordable electricity. Staying ahead of the game keeps us from having to come out after a storm to restore power due to fallen trees.

Remember to contact Victory Electric if you decide to trim or remove trees near any power service or line. And never trim a tree in the right-of-way zone on your own.

ROW clearing just makes sense.



Visit our Website & Join Victory Electric on Facebook

Visit our website at www.victoryelectric.net. On our website, you will find online bill pay, and energy calculators—just to name a few tools!

You can also become a fan of Victory on Facebook at facebook.com/VictoryElectric or by searching for Victory Electric. Check our page for safety tip Tuesday, weather Wednesday, throwback Thursday, foto Friday and other co-op news. Facebook is a great way to stay in touch and stay apprised of co-op events and news.



Durrant Retires After 32 Years

KARLA DURRANT, chief financial officer for Victory Electric will retire in March 2015. Durrant started at Victory Electric in May 1983 as a cashier, and a year later she moved to billing supervisor and held that position for 15 years before advancing to her current position of CFO in 1999.

"Karla has been so wonderful to work with. She has had too many brilliant and creative ideas and too many suggestions to count," said Monica Lampe, accounting clerk. "She will be sorely missed. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with her."

Area Third Graders Receive Dictionaries



Mrs. Baltner's third graders presenting their new dictionaries.

The Cimarron Rotary Club, along with Victory Electric, came together to purchase and donate dictionaries to third grade students across Gray County.

The goal of the dictionary project is to assist all students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary. The dictionaries are a gift to each student to use at school and at home for years to come.

Since The Dictionary Project's implementation in 1995, over 18 million children have received diction-



Karla Durrant

Durrant will be in the office until March helping with the transition to the new CFO, Angela Unruh.

"I'm looking forward to spending a lot of time with my grandkids and going all the places my husband and I want to go," Durrant said.

"Karla's service to Victory was greatly appreciated and I personally appreciate how seamless Karla made my own transition to Victory," said Shane Laws, CEO.

All of us at Victory Electric thank Karla for her many years of service to Victory Electric and the local community. We wish her a happy and relaxing retirement.

Unruh Named Victory's CFO

Victory Electric is pleased to announce the selection of **ANGELA UNRUH** as the new CFO, effective January 14, 2015.



Angela Unruh

"I am excited to be here at Victory," Unruh said. "It is fun to learn new things and I am excited to start in a whole new industry. The people at Victory have been friendly and welcoming and I look forward to working with everyone."

Unruh comes from Fairpoint Communications where she was the director of accounting for 17 years. She was responsible for companies in 18 states and more than 55 entities. She holds an associate's degree from Dodge City Community College and a bachelor's in accounting from Fort Hays State University.

"Angela has an extensive background in accounting," said Shane Laws, Victory CEO. "She will be a great addition to the management team and I have no doubt she will be a huge asset to both the accounting department and the cooperative."

Unruh and her husband, Shane, were born and raised in Dodge City. They have four children, Bryce, a junior, and Cara, a sophomore, both at Dodge City High School. Kisa is in sixth grade and Becca in fourth grade at Sacred Heart.