

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14th Ave.
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-2139
www.victoryelectric.net

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE MANAGER

How Does the Lesser Prairie Chicken Affect my Electric Bill?

Last spring, the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) announced its decision to list the Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), a decision that is expected to cost Kansans millions as local governments and businesses comply with regulations associated with the listing.

Recently, the U.S. House has approved an amendment to the defense authorization bill (HR 1735) that would delay ESA enforcement of the Lesser Prairie Chicken listing. We are actively encouraging our U.S. Senators to approve the provision for the LPC listing.

On a local level, the LPC issue is already affecting Victory Electric. Just last month, Victory Electric was approached by a business that wanted a one mile line extension. Because it was located in a prime LPC habitat area, LPC regulations require the line to be buried, which almost tripled the cost, taking the price for the one mile of line from \$38,061 to \$95,040. The customer decided not to continue with their project.

LPC regulations prohibit any work from 3 to 9 a.m. during the mating time of the LPC. In the summer, Victory Electric's line personnel typically work 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to avoid working in dangerously hot conditions. Because of the LPC regulations, our line crews are burdened with working physically-demanding jobs during the heat of the day, risking increased chances of heat-related illnesses.

If the LPC provision in the defense authorization bill to delay the ESA enforcement of the LPC



Shane Laws



Continued on page 16-B ▶

Victory Presented Top Award



Jerri Imgarten with the award for her design.

JERRI IMGARTEN, manager of marketing and communications at Victory Electric, recently accepted a Spotlight on Excellence award.

Imgarten received the award for the design of the 2014 Dodge City Days T-shirt.

The Spotlight on Excellence awards program was created in 1987 to recognize the top-rated communication and marketing efforts by electric co-ops and related organizations. Electric co-op communicators submitted more than 788 entries in the Spotlight on Excellence program, now in its 28th year.

Lesser Prairie Chicken and Your Bill

Continued from page 16-A ▶

listing is not successful, Victory will be subject to hefty fines if a LPC is disturbed or harmed as defined in the ESA. What is certain is costs will increase to complete transmission and distribution line projects, thereby increasing the cost of electricity

Any new lines built in habitat areas will be subject to mitigation fees and may be required to be buried underground, thus increasing the cost by two to three times. Any new overhead line built requires an environmental survey to be conducted between March 15 and May 7 by a trained biologist at a cost of approximately \$3,000 per square mile. This only scratches the surface of the fees and reporting requirements.

Also, Victory Electric is investigating at purchasing thousands of dollars of underground burial equipment and hiring an additional crew to comply with the regulations. We would also have to hire an extra employee simply to keep up with the paperwork and reporting requirements related to the LPC. These expenses would be carried through to our members in the form of higher rates.

Our mission is to provide, safe reliable power at an affordable rate to our members, and while we want to protect the LPC, the expensive mitigation costs will hinder our ability to provide affordable power.

Thanks, Shane

Overhead and Underground Wire: What's the Difference?

Overhead vs. Underground Electric Lines

Electric cooperatives own and maintain 2.5 million miles of distribution* lines across America. Approximately 84 percent are overhead lines while 16 percent are underground. Why the disparity?

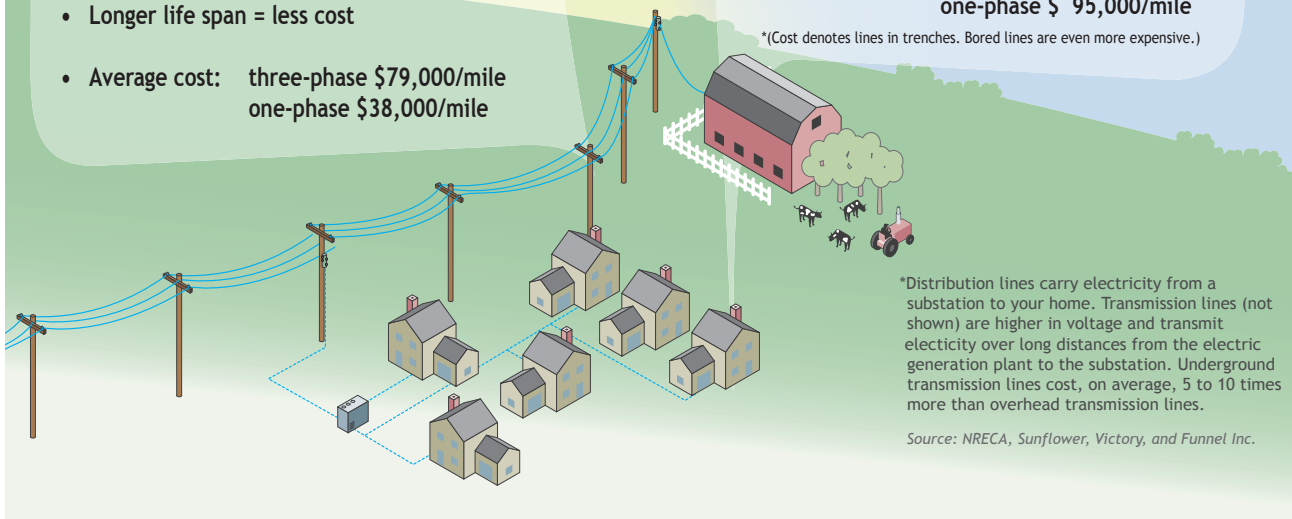
Overhead

- More susceptible to storm damage, but easier to repair = shorter, cheaper outages
- Longer life span = less cost
- Average cost: three-phase \$79,000/mile
one-phase \$38,000/mile

Underground

- Less susceptible to storm damage, but harder to repair = longer, costly outages
- Visually appealing, but trenches make them more intrusive to the land
- Carry electricity less efficiently; limited for branching circuits
- Average cost*: three-phase \$158,000/mile
one-phase \$ 95,000/mile

*(Cost denotes lines in trenches. Bored lines are even more expensive.)



*Distribution lines carry electricity from a substation to your home. Transmission lines (not shown) are higher in voltage and transmit electricity over long distances from the electric generation plant to the substation. Underground transmission lines cost, on average, 5 to 10 times more than overhead transmission lines.

Source: NRECA, Sunflower, Victory, and Funnel Inc.

Beat the Heat with Cool and Efficient Products

When temperatures soar in the summer, utility bills can do the same. There are several small ways to manage your energy use this summer and Victory Electric is happy to help you. There are simple, no- or low-cost ways to save but for those who are considering remodeling or making larger purchases, here are a few ideas that may help keep your energy use in check and keep your wallet cool.


not require adding pipes or ductwork to a home's existing system, making it a more affordable upgrade. Ductless systems tend to be more efficient, meaning homeowners will use less energy and save on their electric bills.

the market, and they typically cost between \$200 and \$400.

Purchasing new appliances?

If you are considering purchasing new appliances that will use less energy, but may not have the budget for a complete appliance overhaul, your clothes dryer is a great place to start as dryers are big consumers of electricity. For example, dryers typically

6% The percentage of the average household's energy use that goes to space cooling.



2/3 of all U.S. homes have air conditioners

20% ↓ 50%

You can reduce air conditioning energy use by 20-50% by switching to high-efficiency air conditioners and taking other actions to lower your home cooling costs.

Remodeling?

If you are making esthetic changes to your home, consider products that will also make it work more efficiently. The biggest energy users in our homes are heating and cooling systems, so if you are making upgrades to your floors and cabinets, consider making some energy efficient upgrades to your HVAC system, too.

If you're making additions to your home or converting attics or basements into living spaces, a ductless heating and cooling system is a great option. A ductless system does

Contact your local HVAC expert for more information.

If making changes to your heating and cooling system doesn't seem like the right upgrade for now, consider installing a smart thermostat. These devices learn your behavior and adjust heating and air conditioning settings with a goal to save energy. Smart thermostats also have the capability to connect to the Internet, allowing homeowners to manage energy use via a smart phone app. There are several smart thermostat options available on

use around 900 kWh each year as compared to a refrigerator, which uses around 455 kWh each year.

Using heat pump technology, these dryers offer 40 percent in energy savings if operated on their most efficient settings and can save more than \$400 over the life of the dryer. If you are interested in purchasing other appliances or products, remember to visit energystar.gov and check out their "Most Efficient 2015" list to help you determine which products are the most efficient for your home.

Two Summer Linemen Interns Gain Experience at Victory Electric

Recent graduates of Dodge City Community College's lineman program, **CHANDLER GECHTER** and **MARLON HERNANDEZ**, are this summer's interns. They will gain experience on the lines at Victory Electric.

Gechter is from Salina. He credits Victory Electric's work environment as the best part about the summer this far.

"I like the people and the work I do," he said. "It's a great place to be."

Hernandez is a Dodge City native and said, "The guys are the best part. They're respectful, kind and well-educated."

Victory Electric wishes these two the best of luck this summer!



Chandler Gechter



Marlon Hernandez

Visit our Website & Join us on Facebook



Visit our website at www.victoryelectric.net. On our website, you will find a calendar of events, frequently asked questions, bill pay, and energy calculators—just

to name a few tools!

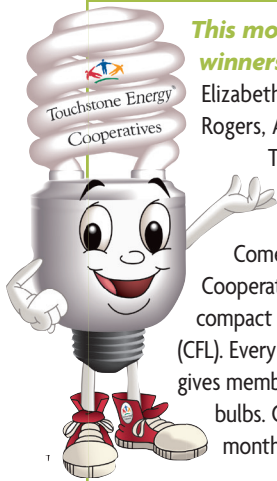
You can also become a fan of Victory Electric on Facebook at [facebook.com/VictoryElectric](https://www.facebook.com/VictoryElectric) or by searching for The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. Check our page for updates, outage information, and energy efficiency tips. Facebook is a great way to stay in touch.

Happy Fourth of July



Happy Fourth of July from all of us at Victory Electric. Our office will be closed, Friday, July 3. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday.

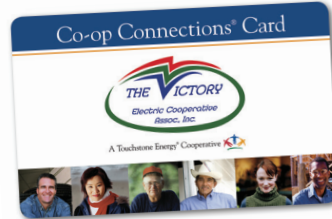
CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"



This month's lucky winners are... Felix Johnson, Elizabeth Rodrigues, Lacey Rogers, Abera Tesfaye, Gustavo Terrazas, Ray Theis, John Wagner and Troy Weiss. 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 to this month's winners!

Co-op Connections Saves Money

The Co-op Connections Card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs. The card also gives you access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers like Barnes&Noble.com, Hertz



Rental Cars, Best Western hotels and ProFlowers.com. You can check out these great national discounts at www.connections.coop.

One of the most valuable features of the card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of 10 to 60 percent on prescription drugs.

The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional, and local pharmacies.

You can use your card anywhere that Co-op Connections cards are taken. More than 350 electric cooperatives all across the United States participate in this program, with thousands of businesses offering discounts. More businesses are being added every day. The benefits of your card are local, but also national—so the cards can be used while visiting other states or other parts of Kansas. Look for window and/or register stickers to identify local participating businesses, listed below.

- ▶ **4 ANGELS BOUTIQUE**—10% off jewelry
- ▶ **ACKERMAN COMPUTERS**—10% off labor
- ▶ **AL'S HUMBLE FLOWERS**—Free delivery in Dodge City
- ▶ **B CARPET CLEANING**—10% off
- ▶ **THE BAD HABIT SPORTS BAR AND GRILL**—5% off (excludes alcohol)
- ▶ **BAILEYS BODY SHOP**—5% off parts and labor
- ▶ **BELLA ITALIA**—10% off
- ▶ **BOOT HILL BED AND BREAKFAST**—15% off
- ▶ **CARLOS BOOTS**—10% off
- ▶ **DEPOT THEATER COMPANY**—\$3 off dinner theater ticket
- ▶ **DODGE CITY YMCA**—Corporate rates with proof of being a Co-op Connections card holder
- ▶ **DULCE LANDIA**—5% off piñatas and bouce houses
- ▶ **FLATLAND GRAPHICS**—Free digitizing on pocket-sized embroidery
- ▶ **FLOWERS BY IRENE**—20% off (excluding wire orders)
- ▶ **GREAT PLAINS VISION**—20% off sunglasses
- ▶ **HARDROCK SAND & GRAVEL, LLC**—10% off materials, excluding delivery
- ▶ **JIM'S AUTO SALES & SALVAGE**—5% off towing services
- ▶ **JOHN'S BODY SHOP**—5% discount on deductible up to \$50
- ▶ **K. MARTIN JEWELER**—10% off regular priced merchandise (this does not include items already on layaway)
- ▶ **LA QUINTA INN AND SUITES**—10% off BAR rate. No discounts for 3i Show/Roundup Rodeo events
- ▶ **LANG DIESEL, INC.**—10% off parts
- ▶ **MY-D HAN-D., INC.**—10% off grain, hay and cattle equipment
- ▶ **PREMIER MOTORS**—\$500 off regular price
- ▶ **REGIS SALON**—10% off
- ▶ **RIDDLES JEWELRY**—10% off
- ▶ **SCOTT'S AUTO SHOP**—10% off oil, filter and lube. 10% discount on Traxxas radio controlled vehicles and Traxxas parts.
- ▶ **SOPHIA'S**—10% off
- ▶ **STARR COMPUTER SOLUTIONS**—Three months free for new alarm monitoring contracts (standard service)
- ▶ **SUNFLOWER CREATIONS**—7.45% off any new BERNINA sewing machine or 10% off regular fabric, books, notions, patterns, and embroidery supplies
- ▶ **THE MATTRESS HUB**—20% off bed sets \$399 and up. Not valid with any other rebates, discounts or special offers. (Offer excludes Tempur-Pedics) Dodge City and Garden City locations only
- ▶ **TROPICAL ISLAND TAN AND FITNESS**—No enrollment fees on fitness
- ▶ **WATERS TRUE VALUE**—\$5 off a \$30 purchase

CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD SPOTLIGHT

Flatland Graphics Serves Victory Electric Members

FLATLAND GRAPHICS is one of several local businesses offering discounts to Victory Electric members through the Co-op Connections Card program.

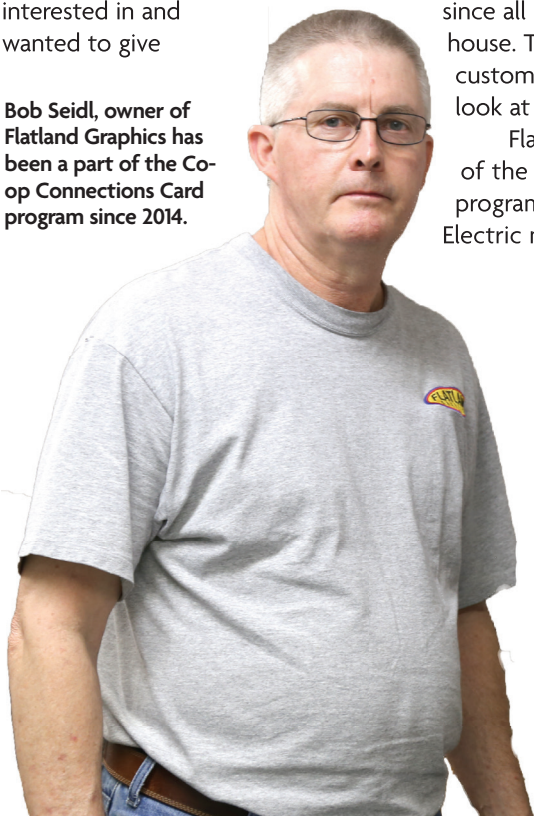
One of 32 local businesses offering savings, Flatland Graphics is proud to provide free digitizing on pocket sized embroidery, a \$35 value. "I want to provide my customers with savings," Bob Seidl, owner of Flatland Graphics, said.

Many customers come in and don't want a big piece done, giving them free digitizing allows for smaller pieces to be done in greater quantities. It really is a savings, Seidl said. Not a lot of community members are going to need big pieces, these savings will help.

Seidl started his screen printing and embroidery service business in Dodge City more than 25 years ago.

"It's something I was interested in and wanted to give

Bob Seidl, owner of Flatland Graphics has been a part of the Co-op Connections Card program since 2014.



it a shot. I started with screen printing then began offering custom embroidery," Seidl said.

Flatland Graphics has corporate accounts across the U.S. and prides itself on its business to business model.

"We do a lot of businesses, but we have the ability to provide excellent service to everyone in our community, too," Seidl said.

Nearly anything can be embroidered—Flatland Graphics even does work for the local rodeo prizes, like horse blankets and rope carriers. Not only can anything be sewn on, but Seidl and Flatland Graphics also does promotional items too such as cups and pens. Whatever your embroidery or screen printing needs may be, Flatland Graphics can help.

They also pride themselves on customer satisfaction and quick turn around times from order to finish since all of the work is done in-house. Their speciality is outfitting customer's needs with a professional look at competitive prices.

Flatland Graphics has been part of the Co-op Connections Card program, which is free to Victory Electric members, since 2014.

"I want to provide my customers with savings. Not everyone will need big pieces, these savings will help. We do a lot of businesses, but we have the ability to provide excellent service to everyone in our community too."

Victory Electric encourages our members to take advantage of the Co-op Connections Card with Flatland Graphics and the other local businesses. Members can also visit connections.coop for a complete list of local, state and national discounts.



Insurance Coverage is Members' Responsibility

We are often asked by members who have had damage or loss during a power outage if their loss is somehow covered by Victory Electric's insurance, but unfortunately we have no way of insuring our members from the effects of outages, which are beyond our control.

Although we try to provide the most reliable service possible and have an excellent record of reliability, some outages must be expected. Weather, vehicle accidents, birds, animals, falling trees, and a variety of other causes will continue to create outages and inconveniences.

These outages are not only expensive and inconvenient for you, but they are also extremely expensive for your cooperative to repair. This leaves you with the burden of insuring yourself for these occurrences that are caused by nature or otherwise. You should consider having adequate insurance to cover such incidents.

There are many things you can do to help eliminate potential problems. It is absolutely essential to have proper protection on electric motors, an alarm system to notify you of an outage, and possibly a standby generator.

We will keep doing our best to prevent service interruptions, but we urge you to consider having proper insurance protection for those occasions when the unexpected happens.

Safety at Local School

Victory Electric employees gave a safety presentation to Sacred Heart Elementary School before students ended the year.



Justin Straight, David Gechter and Josh Schmidt, present safety at Sacred Heart Elementary School.

Working on the LINE

Line crews in South Dodge near the river replace a large structure in preparation for the new Dodge City Regional Water Park.



Kade Henry (left), Justin Straight and Kirk Konrade work together to stabilize the three poles.



Justin Straight makes sure the arm is in the correct position before installing.



Kade Henry and Mikey Goddard use teamwork to complete the job.



Mikey Goddard works from the bucket truck to place the cross bars in the structure.

Victory Electric Joins Forces with Fort Dodge

Nearly 200 veterans call Fort Dodge their home. Fort Dodge was built in 1865 and was used as a fort for 17 years until January 1890 when the fort became the Kansas State Soldiers Home. Since then, Fort Dodge has been helping our veterans from various branches of the military, and Victory Electric plans to stock the new food pantry.

As of last month, several volunteers noticed a need and started a small food pantry in the clothing store at Nimitz Hall.

The food pantry has small items aimed primarily at helping the veterans living in the cottages.

Victory Electric is joining forces to help stock the food pantry by launching the "Vittles for Vets" food drive. For every three items a member brings to Victory Electric's office, you will be entered to win a \$100 bill credit. Three drawings will be held between July and December. Each drawing date, two individual \$100 bill credits will be drawn.

Food items such as pudding cups, Jell-O cups, instant oatmeal, dry cereal, canned soup and items that are sugar free, low sodium and low fat is much needed. Other needed items include dish soap, liquid body wash, three-blade disposable razors, sweatpants, and curtains for cottages. A full list can be found on victoryelectric.net.

Army veteran Esther Sorden said "The pantry helps me out with groceries a lot. There are times I can't make it to the store and being able to walk up here and grab what's needed has been a blessing." Sorden worked at

the Marshall's office in Texas while serving in the Army and now resides at Fort Dodge with her dog Laffy Taffy.

Sorden and other veterans like her, representing each military branch and each war from World War II, Korean, Vietnam, and Desert Storm, live in the cottages on the property and have the capability to go to Nimitz Hall to retrieve anything they need from household goods to clothing and now small food and snack items.

Andrea Foley, Fort Dodge administrator, explained the halls and kitchens make three meals a day for the residents but

if they're living in the cottages they can prepare their own meals.

"The food pantry is just another way for the veterans to

keep their sense of independence," Foley said.

While the ultimate goal of the food pantry is to keep groceries on hand for the veterans and widowers of the veterans, it means so much more to the veterans. Lewis Jameson, a Vietnam veteran appreciates the service, too.

"I've been here almost two years and sometimes you just need something quick. Now I can come here and get it," Jameson said. Veterans like Jameson appreciate the help the community provides.

"We're in the business to help," Foley said, and Victory Electric couldn't agree more. One of the seven cooperative principles is the concern for community. The "Vittles for Vets" food drive is a great way to be engaged in our community and help those who fought for our freedom.



Esther Sorden an Army veteran uses the pantry monthly.



Victory Electric wants to fill the food pantry at Fort Dodge.



Lewis Jameson a Vietnam veteran gets his groceries.

Gáñele al calor con productos frescos



Cuando las temperaturas se disparan en el verano, facturas de servicios públicos pueden hacer lo mismo. Hay varias pequeñas maneras de administrar su uso de energía este verano—y Victory

Electric está siempre dispuesta a ayudarte con esas formas sencillas, no o bajo costo para ahorrar—pero para aquellos que están considerando remodelar o hacer compras grandes, aquí hay algunas ideas que pueden ayudar a mantener su electricidad bajo control y fresca su cartera.

Remodelación?

Si está realizando cambios estéticos a su casa, considere la posibilidad de productos que también lo hará trabajar más eficientemente. Los mayores usuarios de electricidad en nuestros hogares son sistemas calefacción y refrigeración, así que si estás haciendo mejoras a sus pisos y gabinetes, consideren hacer algunas mejoras eficientes de electricidad a su sistema de climatización, también.

Si estás haciendo adiciones a su hogar o conversión de áticos o sótanos en los espacios habitables, un conducto de calefacción y sistema de enfriamiento es una gran opción. Un sistema de ductos no requiere la adición de tubos o conductos al sistema existente de una casa, por lo que es una actualización más asequible para muchos. Sistemas de ductos tienden a ser más eficientes, los propietarios utilizará menos electricidad

y ahorrara en sus facturas de electricidad. Para más información contactar a su experto local en HVAC.

Si hacer cambios a su calefacción y sistema de enfriamiento no parece la correcta actualización por ahora, considere la instalación de un termostato inteligente. Estos dispositivos “cool” aprenden su conducta y ajustan de calefacción y aire acondicionado con el objetivo de ahorrar energía. Termostatos inteligentes también tienen la capacidad de conectarse a Internet, permitiendo a los propietarios gestionar el uso de la energía mediante una aplicación para teléfonos inteligentes. Hay varias opciones de termostato inteligente disponible en el mercado, y que normalmente cuestan entre \$200 y \$400.

Compra de nuevos aparatos?

Si usted está considerando comprar nuevos aparatos que utilizarán menos energía, pero pueden no tener el presupuesto para una revisión completa del aparato, su secadora de ropa es un gran lugar para comenzar como secadores son grandes consumidores de electricidad. Por ejemplo, las secadoras utilizan típicamente alrededor de 900 kWh cada año en comparación con un refrigerador, que utiliza unos 455 kWh cada año.

Ha habido grandes avances con secadores en los últimos años, y Energy Star el premio dos destacan —la secadora LG EcoHybrid bomba de calor y la secadora Whirlpool HybridCare™ bomba de calor —2014 Emerging Technology.

Usando la tecnología de bomba de calor, estos secadores ofrecen un 40 por ciento en ahorro de energía Si opera en su configuración más eficiente y pueden ahorrar más de \$400 sobre la vida de la secadora. Si usted está interesado en la compra de otros productos o aparatos, recuerda visitar energystar.gov y revisa su lista de “Más eficiente 2015” para ayudar a que determinar qué productos—de ventanas y sistemas de climatización para televisores y lavadoras—son los más eficientes para su hogar.

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 Cooperativa 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.

