

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE MANAGER

New Technology Coming to Your Home

Victory Electric Installing New "Smart" AMI Meters

Victory Electric is bringing a new technology to your home through a new "smart" Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) system.

A great advantage of this "smart" technology is the ability for you, the member, to have an in-home display that tells you your usage, carbon footprint, and amount of your monthly bill. This will help you monitor your usage and hopefully conserve energy during peak usage times. In addition to the in-home display, you will have access to a web portal that shows your energy usage. You can compare your home's use by month, day or even by the hour. This information can help you identify inefficient appliances or ways to change your habits to conserve both energy and money.

AMI has four main components, a collector, routers, meters, and the Command Center software. It is considered a two-way, self-healing, mesh communication system, which means the meter "talks" to us and we can "talk" back. The meters all have the capability to "talk" to each other, finding the easiest path to a router. If its path is interrupted, the self-healing feature allows the device to find a path through another meter. The router sends information (i.e. meter reads, errors, meter tampering, etc.) to the collector, which sends the information back to our office into Command Center.

With this technology, we now receive instantaneous meter reads and we know within seconds when a power outage occurs. The system can tell us the location and the extent of an outage and many other details that save our line crews time, which will result in quicker restoration of power for you.

Some other advantages to our new system are



Terry Janson

“Our ultimate goal is to have our whole system automated.”

Continued page 16-B ►

Non-Domestic Bills Mailed in November

Victory Electric will read the meters in October for the fence chargers and small watering loads (among other small rural electric loads), which we classify as non-domestic services.

These bills are mailed annually and consist of the kilowatt-hours consumed in the previous year from November 2008 to October 2009.

If you have any questions or problems with any of these billings, come by or call us at 800-279-7915.

Bill Pay Options

Victory Electric has several convenient options for you, the member, to pay you 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, and two pay stations. These pay stations are Mail n More at 1811 W Wyatt Earp, and Mr. Payroll at 400 E Wyatt Earp.



Victory Electric wishes you a
Safe and Happy Halloween!



Manager's Message Continued

► *Continued from page 16-A*

reduced meter reading expenses, load management options, alerts of tampering or theft, remote reconnects and disconnects, and in-home displays. The two-way communications system allows the meter to send readings to the office and it allows the office to the ability to shut-off or turn on the meter in the event of non-pay, disconnect or reconnect.

Victory Electric will first install meters in Dodge City, and then move to the smaller towns in our

territory. The collector and router have already been installed. We will install 500 meters for testing purposes before installing the remaining 11,000 meters in Dodge City. We plan to complete Dodge City within 13 to 20 months before moving on to the small towns.

While AMI technology is currently available for those living in town, we also researching ways to bring the AMI technology to our members who live in the rural areas. Our ultimate goal is to have our whole system automated.

'Til next time, TJ

Health Fair to be Held Oct. 10



Last year's Health Fair was held in the spring, this year it will be October 10 at Victory Electric from 8 a.m. to noon.

The second annual Victory Electric Health Fair is just around the corner.

The Health Fair event will be held on Saturday, October 10 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Victory Electric headquarters at 3230 N 14th in Dodge City.

We have joined together with ESL Migrant Program/Dodge City Public Schools, Western Plains Medical Complex, Dodge City Medical Center, Cargill, Dodge City Globe, Dodge City Community College, Phillips Chiropractic, Ambucs and the Dodge City Public Library, among others, for the fair.

This year's health fair will feature many doctors and health care professionals performing a wide variety of services including, \$10 flu shots, \$10 complete blood screens, dental screenings, eye exams, blood pressure readings, bone density screenings, hearing tests, breast exams, diabetes testing, and more.

In conjunction with the health fair, we will be having a canned food drive. We ask those who are able, to bring a single or few canned food items to support local food banks for the upcoming holiday season. We look forward to seeing you there!

Discover Energy Savings—at the Speed of Light

Victory Electric Introduces Timely Interactive Tools

If you're over 35 and spend time with anyone a decade younger, you've probably seen the amazing technological mastery these young people possess. It's no wonder, since they've been immersed in technology since birth. To do research, they don't go to the library and use a card catalog. Today, they just "Google it"—and pages and pages of results instantly appear.

How Far We've Come

Back in 1947, when Victory Electric brought electricity to rural Kansas, the farmers and cowboys who were our first members no doubt felt the same kind of amazement. Simply flip a switch and have light, at the speed of, well...light!

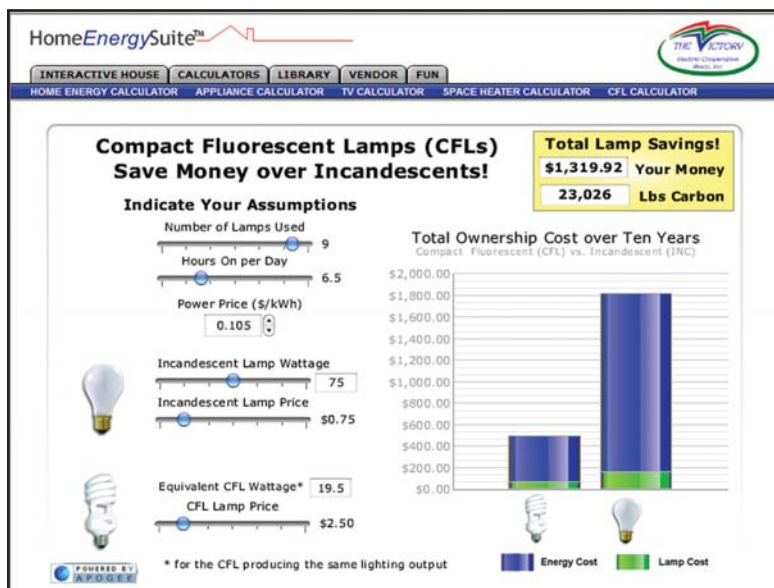
That early history is not lost on us today, as Victory Electric unveils our new online Compact Fluorescent Lighting (CFL) Calculator from APO-GEE Interactive. What would those early Kansas settlers say to this amazing new technology, where members calculate their own lighting costs with a click of a mouse?

Although lighting represents just around 5 percent of the typical electric bill, it still offers an opportunity for fast, easy energy dollar savings. Consider this: If you use 10 100-watt incandescent light bulbs for only five hours each day, switching to CFL's saves about \$140 a year!

What's The Cost

Thanks to Victory Electric's new CFL Calculator, in only a few easy steps you can discover how much you'll save when you make the switch to today's compact fluorescent bulbs. Try it to see how much you can save. Simply visit www.victoryelectric.net and select Home Energy Suite. Then select the CFL Calculator tab on the right.

- Enter the number of incandescent bulbs you use now and their wattage
- Enter the number of bulbs you could switch to



The calculator allows you to input data from your home lighting use and it compares what you are paying now with incandescent bulbs to the saving with CFL's.

- compact fluorescent
- Hit Calculate. Instant potential savings are shown!

Continuing improvements

Through the years, Victory has expanded both our distribution lines and our member base. We continue to expand our technological abilities, as well, to remain competitive and maximize service. Our goal is to keep our technology as amazing today as it was in 1947—when that first switch was flipped.

In addition to the CFL Calculator, we also offer an Appliance Calculator and Home Energy Calculator that can identify other ways to save, too.

For more information on the energy calculators, visit www.victoryelectric.net or call us at 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915.



CFL Charlie Says

"Come Get Your Free CFL Bulb!"

And the lucky winners are... Dale Zortman, Rean Stegman, Lon Pishny, Etelvina Flores, Miguel Estevane, and Harold Wetzell. Come by Victory Electric and get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL).

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

Cold Weather Rule: Nov. 1 to March 31

Cooperative members who are unable to pay their electric bills during the cold weather period may qualify for this program, provided they fulfill certain good faith requirements when attempting to pay.

The requirements members must meet to qualify for the program are summarized below.

- ▶ Members must notify the cooperative and state their inability to pay their service bill in full.
- ▶ Members must apply to federal, state, local or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills.
- ▶ Members and the cooperative will reach a mutually agreeable payment arrangement.

Please note that failure to follow the requirements, illegally diverting utility service, receiving service by tampering, or defaulting on a payment agreement, will disqualify you from receiving the benefits under the Cold Weather Rule.

In no event will the cooperative disconnect a service if the temperature is forecast to fall below 35° Fahrenheit, or be in the mid 30s or colder within 24-hours following the time of disconnection.

The Cold Weather Rule is to ensure human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

When the power goes out the little things can become surprisingly big!



Small comforts you rarely think about are the things you may miss the most during a power outage. That's why Kohler generators build the fastest-responding generators in the industry. Learn more at KohlerSmartPower.com. Victory Electric is now selling Kohler generators. Please contact Josh at 620.227.2139 for more information.



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3rd Annual Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival *Sponsored by Victory Electric and DCCC*

The third Annual Pumpkin Carving Festival will take place on October 24, 2009, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Victory Electric, 3230 N. 14th Avenue. The event will be sponsored by Victory Electric and Dodge City Community College. Pumpkins and kits will be provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations required.

Ages 5 to 8 will paint
Ages 9 to 13 will paint or carve

Please call 620-227-9399 today to reserve your space.

