

## Holiday Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 6, in observance of Labor Day.

As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on duty to answer your emergency calls.

Have a happy and safe holiday!

## Fiber Update as of 6/24/21

Miles of backbone - 1,052

Services Installed to the home - 963



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR GENERAL MANAGER

Brad Coppock | General Manager

## Affordable Electricity Powers Quality of Life

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted. According to the Energy Information Agency, the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before.

transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

Typically when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

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**Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%; medical care increased 2.8%; and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%.**

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The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and in commercial sectors such as

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%; medical care increased 2.8%; and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity — it's a necessity. That's why Powell Valley Electric Cooperative will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.

### CONTACT US

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#### Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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#### Tazewell Office

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#### Jonesville Office

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#### Sneedville Office

All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

#### General Manager

Brad Coppock

#### Tazewell Area Supervisor

Ronnie Williams

#### Jonesville Area Supervisor

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#### Sneedville Area Supervisor

Joey Southern

*Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is an  
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

# Your Cooperative Membership

Since our annual meeting is just a few weeks away, we wanted to remind you that in order for an individual to register at the annual meeting, that person must have a membership with the cooperative. For a married couple, if only one spouse's name is on the membership, only that individual would be permitted to register. If the couple would like to have both of their names listed on that membership so that either spouse could register, we can process a valid request to do so at no charge. Of course, that would mean that only one registration would be allowed between the couple, since it would still be one membership.

If a membership is in the name of a deceased individual, no surviving family member may register at the annual meeting. In the case of a surviving spouse, we will process a valid request to change a membership to the surviving spouse's name free of charge.

Any valid change that is made on a membership to permit an individual to register at our annual meeting would need to be made prior to the meeting date.

If you have questions about your membership, please give us a call.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption. Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.



## Safety Tips

Jason Stapleton  
Jonesville Area Supervisor

**F**ew things are more refreshing on a hot day than cool water — in the shower or pool, under a sprinkler or even from a garden hose.

Yet, few things are as dangerous around the home as water that comes into contact with electricity. So:

**1.** Keep electrically powered toys, appliances, outdoor TVs, electric grills — anything with a plug — far from the pool, bathtub, sprinkler system, sink and hoses. And keep them out of the rain, even if it's only sprinkling.

**2.** If an electric toy or appliance lands in water, don't touch it — and teach your children the same. Electricity travels quickly through water, so touching anything electrical that's wet can lead to a shock or worse — electrocution.

**3.** Have an electrician check the electrical connections to pools, hot tubs, fountains and other outdoor water sources. They should be grounded.

**4.** If you use extension cords to reach outlets for washers, dishwashers, air conditioners or other appliances in wet spaces, disconnect them. Those appliances should be plugged into grounded outlets, not flimsy extension cords.

**5.** Teach everyone in your household where the home's circuit breakers are located and how to switch them off during an emergency.

# Smart Home Can Make Telework Easier



**N**ow that offices and stores are beginning to fully open, lots of employees will be moving their offices from their homes back to their normal workplaces. But not every teleworker will get back to business as usual.

According to Brookings, a public policy research organization, now that businesses have invested in the technology and training necessary for their employees to work remotely, many of those telecommuters might choose to stay in their home offices.

If you're one of them, consider upgrading your home with a few "smart" gadgets that can make life easier and save money and energy.

Here are four of the most popular smart home features, according to Hanley Wood, the publisher of Builder magazine:

1

**Smart speakers.** So-called personal assistants like Alexa, Google Home and Apple's HomePod respond to voice commands by answering questions, turning the lights on and off, reading your schedule, playing your music requests, and reminding you to do the chores you have programmed it to track.

2

**Smart appliances.** A smart refrigerator can let you know when you're low on milk. Smart washers and dryers can remind you when it's time to do the laundry — and allow a repair tech to fix a problem remotely so you don't have to be home to let him in.

3

**Smart security.** Even if you're on vacation or stuck at work all day, you can see your porch if your doorbell is equipped with a camera. Some devices even let you speak to a person who is standing on your porch.

4

**Smart thermostats.** Connected to Wi-Fi, these easy-to-install thermostats "observe" your family's behavior and set the heat and air conditioning accordingly. Some manufacturers claim a household can save 10% on heating bills and 15% on air conditioning with a thermostat that adjusts itself to raise or lower the temperature when nobody's home.

# What's Yours, What's Ours

Making sure electricity is flowing safely into your home to provide the power you need is a shared responsibility. With your overhead electrical service, it's important that you know which parts you are responsible for maintaining and which ones your co-op maintains.

## CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITY:

1

Weatherhead – this is the vertical pipe-like structure attached to the top of the meter box

2

Meter base – includes the box, meter socket and wiring inside the box

3

Pipe clamps that secure the masthead and/or box to your home

4

Attachment point (eyebolt, etc.) that secures the electric service drop

If these areas are damaged, you will need to call a licensed electrician to make the repairs.

## PVEC RESPONSIBILITY:

1

Service drop – the cable from the utility pole to your home

2

Meter

3

Engineering evaluation to determine location of meter base

4

Electric lines within the right-of-way

5

Utility poles and transformers



## PVEC Provides Educational Programs

As students and teachers return to schools this month, we wanted to share some of the various educational and informative programs PVEC provides to the communities it serves.

### ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR | HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

The annual Electric Cooperative Creative Writing and Scholarship Competition gives high school juniors the opportunity to compete for scholarships and other awards, including a trip to our nation's capital to learn about history, public policy and electric cooperatives.

### YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT | HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Each spring, electric co-ops from across Tennessee bring students to Nashville for three days of leadership training. Students meet elected officials and learn about state government.

### 4-H ELECTRIC CAMP | SIXTH AND SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS

Students in sixth or seventh grade can participate in 4-H Electric Camp, a weeklong experience that focuses on science, technology, engineering and math. Participants learn about energy, robotics and other technology through hands-on activities.

### SCHOOL ELECTRICAL SAFETY PRESENTATION | ALL AGES

Cooperative representatives discuss electrical safety with students to help them understand how to make smart choices when electricity is involved.