

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO



Cooperatives see the future

By Anne Prince

Dramatic changes are transforming all aspects of the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high, and ultimately consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The prevalence of smart-phone apps and “smart” technology for the home is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles. There’s no denying it: electric utilities will have to make changes to the way they provide energy to accommodate these trends. Luckily, Spoon River Electric is uniquely positioned to meet these changing energy needs because we are a cooperative.

Co-ops are community-led.

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their consumer-members.

Bill Dodds, president/CEO of Spoon River Electric, explains that, “Electric

cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people that we serve.”

Co-ops are a catalyst for good.

Electric co-ops, like Spoon River Electric, are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their consumer-members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 75 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible. Today, it means participating in Spoon River’s Operation Round-Up which has donated \$15,750 to date to different organizations in our territory, partnering with Eagle Point Solar to

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The office is closed
November 22-23 for
Thanksgiving

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340,
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8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
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Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,272
Number of members served: 5,022
Number of power poles in territory: 29,361

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bring solar to our communities, and several scholarship opportunities for the local youth.

Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their consumer-members.

Electric cooperatives often partner with local groups to bring economic opportunity to their local community. It is this facilitation role that is often the most valuable

strength of the co-op. Right here in our five-county service territory.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members' best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve—now and in the future.

TIPS FOR PURCHASING NEW APPLIANCES

When shopping for new appliances, there are two price tags you should consider:



1. Purchase price of the appliance (think of this as a down payment)

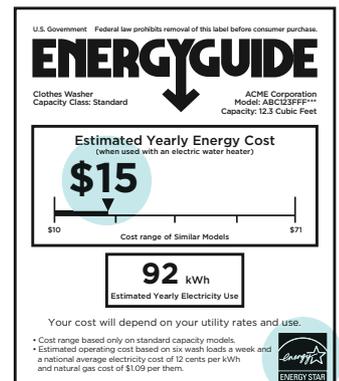


2. Cost to operate the appliance over its lifetime (how much energy the appliance uses)



That second price is important because you'll be paying for the appliance's energy use for the next 10 to 20 years.

- **Look for the ENERGY STAR® label.** ENERGY STAR-qualified products exceed the federal minimum standards for efficiency and quality.
- **Carefully review the EnergyGuide label on the appliance.** The label provides information about how much energy an appliance uses compared to similar models.
- **Once you choose your make and model, compare prices.** Keep in mind, many retailers will match a lower price offered by competitors.
- **Recycle or sell your old appliance.** Ask the retailer if they'll pick up your old appliance, or you can sell it yourself. Either option is better than the landfill!



Source: Department of Energy



The dreaded vampire loads

By Tom Tate

Perhaps you are familiar with an undesirable aspect of the electronic and IOT (Internet of Things) revolution: vampire loads. Vampire loads come from devices that use electricity even when they appear to be off. The primary culprits are chargers, set-top television boxes, instant-on televisions and gaming systems. There are others, but these four represent the major offenders.

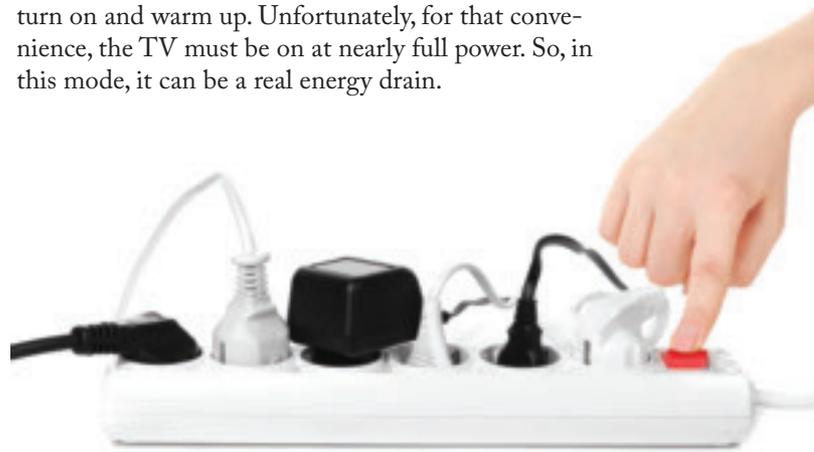
Let's look at how these vampire loads occur and why they are approaching 10 percent of average household electric use according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Chargers take the 120 VAC (volts alternating current) power at the outlet and reduce it down to the voltage required by the connected device, usually 5 to 12 VDC (volts direct current). Obviously, when your device is charging, the charger is using electricity, but you might be surprised to learn that chargers are still using small amounts of energy even when they're not connected to a device.

Television set-top boxes also consume energy when they appear to be inactive. Anytime the set-top box's lights are on, it is using power. Like chargers, they use more when the television is on, but they are always working – even when the TV is off. This is especially true for those devices with a DVR function that records your favorite TV shows.

The instant-on television is another culprit. The intention of the “instant-on” feature is instant gratification for the viewer, meaning no waiting for the TV to

turn on and warm up. Unfortunately, for that convenience, the TV must be on at nearly full power. So, in this mode, it can be a real energy drain.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Got holiday leftovers? When possible, use the microwave to reheat food. Microwaves use as much as 80 percent less energy than a standard oven.

Source: energy.gov



\$2,000 Scholarships



11 College Scholarships

available through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program.

Scholarships are available for children of electric cooperative members or employees attending four-year colleges and universities or two-year community colleges.

Deadline: December 31, 2018



1 Line School Scholarship

available through the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship for Lincoln Land Community College.

Available for children of co-op members, co-op employees or directors, those presently enrolled in the lineworker school, or who have served/are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard.

Deadline: April 30, 2019

Visit www.srecoop.org for more details or call at the office at 309-647-2700.

ZONE IN ON SAFETY

Distracted driving and electrical safety are connected.

Utility crews often work in an office with a 55-mile-per-hour speed limit and heavy traffic. Hit a utility truck and the lineman in the bucket could be pushed into a high voltage line. Kill or injure a lineman and you could pay a large fine and go to prison.

If you run off the road, you could hit a power pole. Bring down a live power line and it's another layer of electrical danger – to YOU and anyone in the area.

See the video at

 Safe
Electricity.org