

## Electricity rate increase to be included in January bill

As was explained in the December Illinois Country Living, as well as at the Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) Annual Meeting in June, SEC must adjust rates beginning in January 2012. The last residential rate adjustment occurred in January of 2009 and prior to that increase, it had been 16 years since any adjustment had been made for the energy charged. The latest adjustments were driven primarily by increases in the cost of power purchased by the cooperative to distribute to its members. Sixty

to seventy cents of every dollar the cooperative spends goes to purchase wholesale power. The remaining expenses arise from the utility plant, equipment and service personnel used to deliver power and service to our members.

Beginning with your January bill, SEC residential members will note a few changes:

**First**, you will note the itemized line under “Current Bill Information” labeled “Wholesale PCA”, which is the wholesale power cost adjustment, will go from a

charge of \$.00482/kWh to \$.00/kWh. This is a charge that was applied to every kilowatt hour you consumed.

**Next**, within the “Energy Charge” section of the bill, you will note that only one line reflects your total kWh consumed billed at your rate per kilowatt hour for the service period. This is a change from the declining block structure previously used. Elimination of the second block is the result of the next kilowatt hour no longer being “less expensive” to provide to the member. Therefore, a

*Continued on 16c ▶*

### Here is an example of how this new rate adjustment will affect your bill. This example will utilize 1,065 kWh of consumed electricity by the homeowner.

*This information can be found on the current bill information box on your electric bill.*

| Rates Effective Through December 31, 2011 (table does not include state taxes) |   |
|--|---|
| Usage  | 1065 Kilowatt-hours – Based on tiered KWH Pricing   |
| ENERGY CHARGE:   | 1000 KWH @ .107000 = 107.70                         |
|  | 65 KWH @ .1059 = 6.88                               |
| WHOLESAL PCA:  | 1065 KWH @ .00482 = 5.13                            |
| FACILITY CHARGE:   | 29.00   |
|  | Net Due 148.71                                      |
| Rates Effective January 1, 2012 (table does not include state taxes)           |   |
| Usage  | 1065 Kilowatt-hours – Based on new flat KWH Pricing |
| ENERGY CHARGE:   | 1065 KWH @ .1260 = 134.19                           |
| WHOLESAL PCA:  | 1065.0 KWH @ .00 = 0.00                             |
| FACILITY CHARGE:   | 35.00   |
|  | Net Due 169.19                                      |

This particular member would see an increase of \$20.48 under the new rate adjustments.

**NOTE:** The effect of the rate increase, both on a percentage and dollar basis, is dependent upon the member’s energy usage.

# Three \$1,000 academic scholarships now available

Every year Shelby Electric Cooperative awards three academic scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. Scholarships are awarded to a son or daughter of a current Shelby Electric Cooperative member who is receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted. In 2011, the winners were David Kirkbride of Pana, Ryan Gant of Moweaqua and Zechariah Schwerman of Shelbyville.



*Shown here are last year's scholarship recipients, (left to right) David Kirkbride, Ryan Gant, Chairman of the Board Darrell Shumard and Zechariah Schwerman.*

"We are pleased to be able to provide students with an opportunity to be awarded a scholarship as a way to give back to the communities we serve," said Marla Eversole who coordinates this program for the cooperative.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the United States are eligible to participate in the program. Scholarships may be used for educational costs at any two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including

vocational/technical schools. Candidates are judged based on grade point average, college entrance tests scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, a biographical statement and a short essay that demonstrates knowledge of the organization and services of Shelby Electric Cooperative. **March 15th is the deadline for receipt of completed applications for 2012.** Scholarship winners will be notified in June.


Applications can be obtained by visiting the Shelby Electric Cooperative website [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and clicking on the "Our Community" menu tab or by calling Marla Eversole, Member Services Representative. The telephone numbers for the cooperative are 1-217-774-3986 and toll-free, 1-800-677-2612. Applications may also be obtained from high school guidance counselors.



**P.O. BOX 560**  
**Shelbyville, IL 62565**  
**Phone: 217-774-3986**  
**Fax: 217-774-3330**  
**[www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop)**  
**[twitter.com/YourCoop](https://twitter.com/YourCoop)**  
**[facebook.com/YourCoop](https://facebook.com/YourCoop)**

**Office Hours:**  
**7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



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## OUTAGE REPORT

### LINE OUTAGES

| DATE       | HOURS | SUBSTATION  | CAUSE            | MEMBERS AFFECTED |
|------------|-------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| 11/3/2011  | 3.00  | Neoga       | Broken insulator | 62               |
| 11/18/2011 | 1.00  | Taylorville | Broken conductor | 106              |
| 11/29/2011 | 3.45  | Neoga       | Broken conductor | 113              |

### SUBSTATION OUTAGES

| DATE      | HOURS | SUBSTATION  | CAUSE        | MEMBERS AFFECTED |
|-----------|-------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| 11/2/2011 | 4.10  | Taylorville | Planned work | 567              |
| 11/2/2011 | 1.20  | Grove City  | Planned work | 102              |

**“Rate increase” continued from 16a**

flat, or non-tiered rate structure will replace the declining block structure.

**Lastly**, the increases taking effect in January will be found in two components of your bill – the facility charge and the energy charge.

The *facility charge* will increase by \$6.00 per month. The facility charge is used to help the cooperative recover its fixed costs of bringing electricity to your home.

The *energy charge* will increase 12-13% depending on the amount of electricity you use. This portion of your bill reflects your actual energy consumption in kilowatt hours.

In total, SEC’s average residential member uses approximately 1,065

kilowatt hours per month, based on the last full year of usage. When considering this average usage level, applying the rate increase results in an additional charge of \$20.48 per month.

To assist you with managing the impact of the increase, the cooperative does have resources available to you. Your co-op employs a full-time member services representative. She will gladly assist you with any questions about your energy consumption and can provide energy efficiency ideas you may not have considered. Additionally, Shelby Electric offers budget billing to help evenly spread the cost of your electricity over the year instead of

being subjected to large bills during high usage months. Shelby Electric is also embarking on the launch of a prepaid billing arrangement which will allow the member to use only what he or she has paid for in advance, allowing for better budgeting of dollars throughout the month. This option should be available by the end of January. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call us at 1-800-677-2612 or visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).



## Check it out! Literally.

Shelby Electric Cooperative has resources available for our members to borrow.

**Kill A Watt monitor** - Determine how much electricity the electronics and appliances are using in your home.

### Books:

- Energy Efficient Homes for Dummies by Rik DeGunther
- Consumer Reports, Complete Guide to Reducing Energy Costs
- Home Energy Magazine, No~Regrets Remodeling
- The Homeowner’s Handbook to Energy Efficiency by Krigger and Dorsi
- Insulate and Weatherize by Bruce Harley
- Cut Your Energy Bills Now by Bruce Harley

Watch for notice of more resources becoming available for our members.

Please contact Marla Eversole at 800-677-2612 to make sure the resource you are interested in is available.

### Shelby Energy

1-217-774-2311

24-hours-a-day

### PWR-net & WildBlue Internet

1-877-994-2323

weekdays

(closed from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

### Shelby Electric Cooperative

1-800-677-2612

1-217-774-3986

24-hours-a-day

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

## Getting real with Marla

**H**ave you ever received a credit card bill in the mail, glanced at the amount due and exclaimed, “There is no way I spent that much last month?!” Upon closer inspection of the bill, it becomes apparent that the charges are indeed your responsibility. It is not uncommon for home owners and tenants to have the same reaction upon opening their electric bill. Unfortunately, it is not quite as easy to discern how the electricity dollars were spent throughout the month. This is often when I receive a phone call or visit from members.

Sometimes I wish the statements could itemize what each kWh was “spent” energizing. However, no one would want to receive a bill that lengthy. Instead, we have to work at solving the mystery somewhat like a detective. Often, I can isolate high-use periods to the day(s) and even the hour(s). It then becomes up to the member (and family) to decode what their family was doing during those times.

January’s electricity bills are often higher than the previous three months’ bills. One obvious

reason is that December weather often blows in with a gust of cold temperatures, making our furnaces fire up. Even propane and natural gas furnaces use electricity to operate their fans and motors. Other common culprits include:

- **Space heaters** – Regardless of the brand, energy efficiency promises or the celebrity that advertises them, electric space heaters will increase your kWh consumption.
- **Hot water use** – Showers and baths tend to be longer and hotter in the winter compared to the summer.
- **Clothes dryers** – Hanging laundry outside on the line costs me nothing. Drying laundry for an hour with the electric clothes dryer costs about \$0.52 per hour.
- **Tank heaters** – Like many people with livestock, I appreciate the convenience of using electric tank heaters to keep our animals’ water from freezing solid. However, I have to be prepared to pay for this convenience. There is a lot of variance in the number of watts used by different models and styles of plug-in

heaters. The more watts the unit uses, the more money it costs to operate.

- **Indoor entertainment use** – Occupants of the house are often inside for longer periods of time in the winter months. We use our televisions, game systems, computers, lights, etc. for more hours a day during this period of cold temperatures and reduced daylight.

Electricity is different in the fact that we pay for it *after* we use it. Gasoline, on the other hand, I have to pay for before I get to use it. If I need to use more gasoline, I budget for it or cut back somewhere else. If you prefer to pay ahead on your electric bill, you may always make payments online at [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop), by phoning in (1-800-677-2612) or stopping by our office.

~ Marla Eversole  
Member Services Representative

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