

Honoring our cooperative first responders



On a national level, we all can remember the devastation left in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina in 2005 and Sandy in 2012. To bring it closer to home, there were major tornados that wreaked havoc to the small towns of Washington and Gifford, Illinois on Nov. 17, 2013. For Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC), the winter storm in February created daylong power outages for around 3,900 members. Maybe you remember the great ice storm of 1978 or the ice and snow storm of 2006 that caused multiple day outages for a large number of SEC members.

As we move into the spring/summer storm season, we need to pay tribute to the hard working men and women who work in all conditions to keep our power on, and restore power when it has been knocked out.

April 11, 2016, is National Lineman Appreciation Day, so it is appropriate that we take a moment to recognize the people that often

work in brutal weather conditions to ensure we all have safe and reliable power. In fact, linemen are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety officers. Whether it is restoring power after a storm or natural disaster, maintaining the lines or building new service, linemen out in the field work with thousands of volts of electricity 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep electricity flowing and maintaining the energy infrastructure. Their hard work and dedication behind the scenes is what allows us to power up our lives with just a flip of a switch.

Your cooperative, together with 900 other electric cooperatives, provide safe, reliable and technologically-advanced service to 40 million Americans while maintaining a unique member-owned focused approach to business. Join us on April 11, 2016 as we salute our cooperative first responders.

These are Shelby Electric Cooperative first responders, pictured left to right - Linemen Nick Sloan, Roger Jones, Foreman Steve Darnell, Linemen Cary Bryson, Andy McDonald, Jerry Johnston, Tbad France, Foreman Brian Chevalier, Lineman Jamie Sharp, Foreman Brad Wright, Forestry Apprentice Luke Morse, Forestry Line Foreman Kevin Carlen, Apprentice Lineman Nick Ray, Linemen Adam Schrock, Nick Dunaway, Blake Knearem, Foreman Matt Clark, Metering Foreman Dave White and Lineman Jake Kull. Not pictured are Lineman Blake Summers & Manager of Operations Terry Oldham.

Bunton receives certification



Diane Bunton, PHR, Human Resources/Regulatory Compliance for Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC), recently added

Professional in Human Resources (PHR) to her achievements. The PHR certification is achieved by successfully completing testing in the

following areas: business management and strategy, work force planning and employment, human resource development, compensation and benefits, employee and labor relations and risk management.

Additionally, Bunton has joined the Decatur Area SHRM #0555 for networking and continuing education opportunities. To retain certification, a

PHR must complete 60 hours of continuing education every three years.

This knowledge will aid Bunton in her career responsibilities at SEC which, in turn, benefits her co-workers, current and retired. Bunton has been employed with the cooperative for over 16 years.

Congratulations Diane on this accomplishment!


Take control of your power with the SmartHub app


Did you know you can have your cooperative send an email or text message when you are part of an outage and when your power has been restored? All you need to do is sign up through SmartHub Web, which can be found on the cooperative's website shelbyelectric.coop. Just sign in, click on **notifications** and select **manage contacts**. After determining whether to receive notifications via email, text or both, go to **manage notifications** and choose to receive outage alerts, as well as other messages. If you haven't set up an account yet, you can do this at the same SmartHub Web link. You

can find SmartHub how-to-videos on the cooperative's website and Facebook page.


Download the SmartHub app for your smart devices from your

favorite app store. You can report an outage, check your use, communicate with your cooperative and much more. Download it today.





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REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla ~ LED light bulb lingo

Have you ever walked up to a vast light bulb display in a store and felt like banging your head on the shelf while muttering, “I just want a light bulb?” The options can seem daunting.

Let’s shed a little light on this subject.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 required that common household light bulbs become 25 percent more efficient. It did not ban the use or purchase of incandescent bulbs. Many bulbs, such as three-way, appliance and chandelier, are exempt from the law’s requirements. Therefore, most stores now offer a wide variety of light bulbs to choose from, including incandescent, halogen, compact fluorescent (CFL) and light-emitting diode (LED).

When comparing energy efficiency, LEDs have risen to the top. For example, to provide comparable lumens (the amount of light), an incandescent bulb may use 60 watts of energy while an equivalent LED needs only 12 watts. This reduction in energy needed makes LEDs less expensive to operate. Replacing one 60-watt incandescent bulb, used eight hours a day for 30 days, with an LED is an energy savings of about \$1.47 a month. Don’t forget to multiply that savings by the

number of bulbs switched!

However, you may suffer from sticker-shock as the LEDs are generally more expensive to purchase. The bright spot is that they have longevity. LEDs tend to be quite durable; plus, their lifespan is the longest in the light bulb family. They can last from 35,000-50,000 hours. If you were to use an LED bulb for eight hours a day, every day of the year, it could potentially last 12-17 years. Can you imagine only changing a burned-out bulb every 15 years or so?

Now, you are ready to shop. Start by looking for the Energy Star label to help ensure quality. Look for bulbs that meet the type of fixture in which it will be





used. Not all LEDs are approved or recommended for dimmable, recessed and enclosed fixtures.

Next, know your colors. If I am going to have a light bulb in my lamp for 12-17 years, I want to like the light it produces. LEDs come in a wide array of hues. Bulbs described as casting “warm” or “soft” colors tend to produce light similar to an incandescent bulb. “Cool” light generally means a bluish tint is produced. “Bright white” will be most similar to daylight or the lighting in stores.

Hopefully, this information will help you feel more confident in choosing the right bulb for your needs.

~ Marla Eversole,
Member Services

LED Lifetime Characteristics
Compare and contrast the lifespan and power consumption for the available light bulb options.
*Source: energy.gov

	 Incandescent	 LED	 CFL	 Halogen
Lifespan (hours)	750-2,000	35,000-50,000	8,000-10,000	3,000-4,000
Power Consumption	100 W 75 W 60 W 40 W	16-20 W 9-13 W 12 W 8-9 W	23-26 W 18-20 W 13-15 W 10-11 W	70-72 W 53 W 43 W 28-29 W

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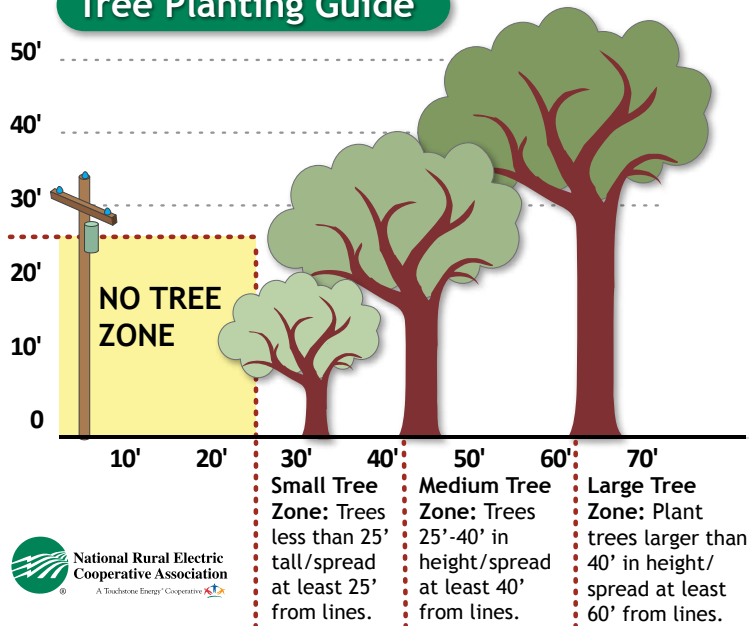
Energy Efficiency



Earth Day is April 22. Give back to the environment by planting a deciduous tree near your home. Deciduous trees lose their leaves during the fall, allowing sunlight to warm your home. The extra shade during summer months will keep your home cooler and give your AC a much needed break.

Tip of the Month

Tree Planting Guide



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