

VE "C" Watt's New

Vernon Electric Cooperative

August 2007

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Rebates Offered by VEC

- Electric Water Heaters \$100-200
- Air Conditioners and Air Source Heat Pumps \$40-60 per ton
- Ground Source Heat Pumps \$140 per ton
- Electric Plenum Heaters..... \$5 per KW
- Electric Storage Heat & Boilers \$50 per KW
- Metal Halide or High Pressure Sodium Lighting\$10 per fixture
- Electronic Fluorescent Lighting..... \$6.50 per ballast

VEC also offers rate incentives for off-peak heating and a load management program that helps postpone the need for new, expensive power plants. The rebates listed may require the member and/or appliance to meet certain conditions. You can contact our office or visit our website at www.vernonelectric.org for more information.



Member Appreciation Picnic

For the members of Vernon Electric and Vernon Telephone Cooperatives

Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2007
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Retreat Community Sportsman's Club

Between Viroqua and De Soto, Take Hwy. 82, follow Cty. N south to Retreat. Watch for signs.

Complimentary pork sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, beans, pop, milk, coffee and ice cream.

Door Prizes! (sorry, no carry-outs available)

Prize Winners

The following people won door prizes at the Member Appreciation Picnic in Timber Coulee, near Westby. Thanks to all who came. We served over 1,300!

- Randy Anderson, Westby CD clock/radio
- Laura Knitt, Westby Pyrex portables
- Vicky Inman, Viroqua Welcome bear statue
- Katelyn Sherpe, Westby Folding chair
- Deane Felch, Westby Luggage

Get \$5.00 back...

...on your next electric bill. Just sign up for the Automatic Payment Plan.

If you have an account with a credit union or bank, you can now pay your Vernon Electric bill each month without lifting a finger.

Here's how it works:

Each month you'll receive your electric bill as usual. Then on the 20th, your financial institution will automatically deduct your payment from your checking or savings account. This gives you plenty of time to call if you have any questions.

The Automatic Payment Plan saves time, postage and your bill is always paid by the due date. You never have to worry about a penalty charge. To take advantage of Vernon Electric's Automatic Payment Plan, please fill out and send in the form below with your next payment.

Advantages:

- ◆ Save time. You won't have to write a check or send in a payment anymore.
- ◆ Save a stamp and save money.
- ◆ No bills lost in the mail.
- ◆ No worries about late payments. The bill is always paid on time.
- ◆ Earn more interest on your money because your payment isn't withdrawn from your financial institution until the 20th of the month.
- ◆ Your co-op benefits by having less mail processing to do.
- ◆ You still receive a regular billing statement each month to keep you up to date on your account.



AUTHORIZATION FORM **I want to participate in the Automatic Payment**

Name(s) shown on VEC bill _____

VEC account number _____

Billing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work phone _____ Home phone _____

Your financial institution _____

Financial institution address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your financial institution account number _____

Checking – include a voided blank check.
 Savings – enclose a deposit slip that includes your account number.

VEC has the right to cancel my use of the Automatic Payment Plan. I will write to VEC if I decide to cancel my use of the Automatic Payment Plan. If I do not participate in the Automatic Payment Plan for 12 months, the \$5 credit will be charged back to me. ALSO, in the event there are insufficient funds in my account within the 12 month period of time, the \$5 credit will be charged back to me.

Account Holder(s) Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Note: If the account is in two names, both account holders must sign here. Mail this form with your current payment or mail it separately to Vernon Electric Cooperative.

Kid's Corner



Last month's Kid's Corner winner was Alexis Smith, age 3, daughter of Terry & Julie Smith of rural La Crosse.

Hidden Words: atom, distribution, electricity, electron, energy, generating plant, heat, home, light, neutron, power pole, proton, transformer, transmission, school, substation, voltage

Win a chance for a gift certificate from a local restaurant by completing the following activity and mailing it back to our office by September 7th. You must be 12 or under to enter.



Find the Power Words

Circle the words and phrases related to electrical power and the electrical distribution system hidden in the puzzle below. They may be written horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

Z	N	L	I	G	H	T	E	O	R	C	S	F	L
V	U	B	A	I	U	R	G	I	M	E	J	T	G
P	S	U	B	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	L	O	E
O	E	D	C	A	Z	N	E	U	T	R	O	N	N
W	R	Q	I	E	M	S	P	R	E	J	P	I	E
E	L	I	N	S	E	F	H	O	M	E	R	X	R
R	H	C	O	A	T	O	M	E	J	E	O	B	A
P	T	E	W	V	I	R	U	N	A	L	T	J	T
O	T	R	A	N	S	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	I
L	C	L	H	T	D	E	R	B	I	C	N	R	N
E	T	E	R	X	W	R	Y	S	U	P	L	S	G
F	I	N	U	O	J	O	E	F	D	T	E	C	P
E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	I	T	Y	I	H	L
R	A	R	Y	V	O	L	T	A	G	E	M	O	A
V	I	G	H	M	U	E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N
A	J	Y	I	N	B	E	I	Z	R	E	O	L	T

Name _____ Age _____
 Parent(s) or Guardian _____ Account # _____



What's going on with compact fluorescent light bulbs and mercury?

By: Dave Maxwell

Sitting in my home surfing the Internet one rainy afternoon, I came across an article about mercury in compact fluorescent light bulbs. Since several of my lamps and light fixtures have CFLs, I wanted to know, "What's going on with them and mercury?"

CFLs save money, use less electricity and help promote energy efficiency. But, what if a bulb breaks or burns out? I can easily picture my manic feline, Otis the cat, turning a lamp over and breaking the CFL. Is the amount of mercury in the bulb harmful? How would I clean it up safely? After a quick switch to the Environmental Protection Agency's Web site, I learned there were no serious concerns.

How do you clean up a broken CFL?

According to the EPA, the greatest risk if a bulb breaks is getting cut from the glass shards. Research indicates that there is no immediate health risk to people should a bulb break if it is cleaned up properly:

- ▶ Sweep up, do not vacuum, the glass fragments and particles.
- ▶ Place the broken pieces in a sealed plastic bag and wipe the area with a damp paper towel to pick up any remaining stray shards or particles. Put the paper towel in the sealed plastic bag when you are finished.
- ▶ If weather permits, open the windows and ventilate the room.

What should you do with a CFL when it burns out?

Like paint, batteries, thermostats and other hazardous items, CFLs should be disposed of properly. The EPA is working with CFL manufacturers and U.S. retailers to expand disposal options. You can search for disposal options online by using your zip code at www.earth911.com, calling (877) EARTH-911 or visiting www.lamprecycle.org

Also, check with your local waste management agency. If a disposal site is not available in your area, the EPA suggests placing the burned-out or broken bulb in a plastic bag, which should be sealed before being placed in the trash. Never send a CFL or other mercury-containing product to an incinerator.

The benefits of CFLs greatly outweigh the risks. "There is only a very small amount of mercury in CFLs, hardly enough to worry about," said Jim Stine, Senior Principal, Environmental Policy Department for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. "On average, the bulbs contain five milligrams of mercury. Compare that to 3,000 milligrams of mercury in older thermostats and 500 milligrams of mercury in a mercury thermometer." Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is an effective, accessible change every American can make to save energy and help the environment.

Local Calendar of Events

- Aug. 11 **Valley Community Rummage Room**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Located on Cty. P in Vernon County.
- Aug. 16-19 **Wild West Days**. Affordable family fun for all ages. Wisconsin's largest all horse parade Fri. night; Hog wrestle Sat. at noon; Rodeo Sat. evening and Sun. at 2 p.m. Calvary and Cowboy reenactment; Indian Village with dancers; and much more. www.wildwestdays.info.
- Aug. 17-18 Kickapoo Valley Acoustic Music Assoc. **10th Annual Larryfest**, La Farge, WI. Featuring local, national & international bluegrass, old-time, & folk musicians. For more info: www.kvama.org. \$35 (Advance) - \$45 (Day of Show).
- Sep. 1 **Peck's Corner 100th Anniversary Celebration**. Horse pull, live music, door prizes, Harley drawing, BBQ Chicken, pork sandwiches, fireworks at dusk. 608-654-7687.
- Sep. 5-9 **145th Richland County Fair** in Richland Center. Catch-A-Pig Contest, demo derby, tractor pulls, exhibits, carnival, beer garden, harness racing, karaoke, and more! 608-647-6859.
- Sep. 8 Catfish Fry featuring Beck's famous catfish from 4-8 p.m. at the Genoa American Legion Post 246 Clubroom in Genoa. 608-689-2444.

If you know of a local event taking place in September, we would be happy to advertise it for you, for free, in this newsletter, at our discretion. Please provide us with information before August 7th.

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The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by David Maxwell, Marketing and Communications. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:
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