

current lines

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A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

In this issue:

Lighting Your Way To Energy Savings
page 1

Weathering the Storm
page 2

Scholarships; Photo Contest Winner
page 3

Pole Inspections, Recipe Box
page 4

Lighting Your Way to Energy Savings

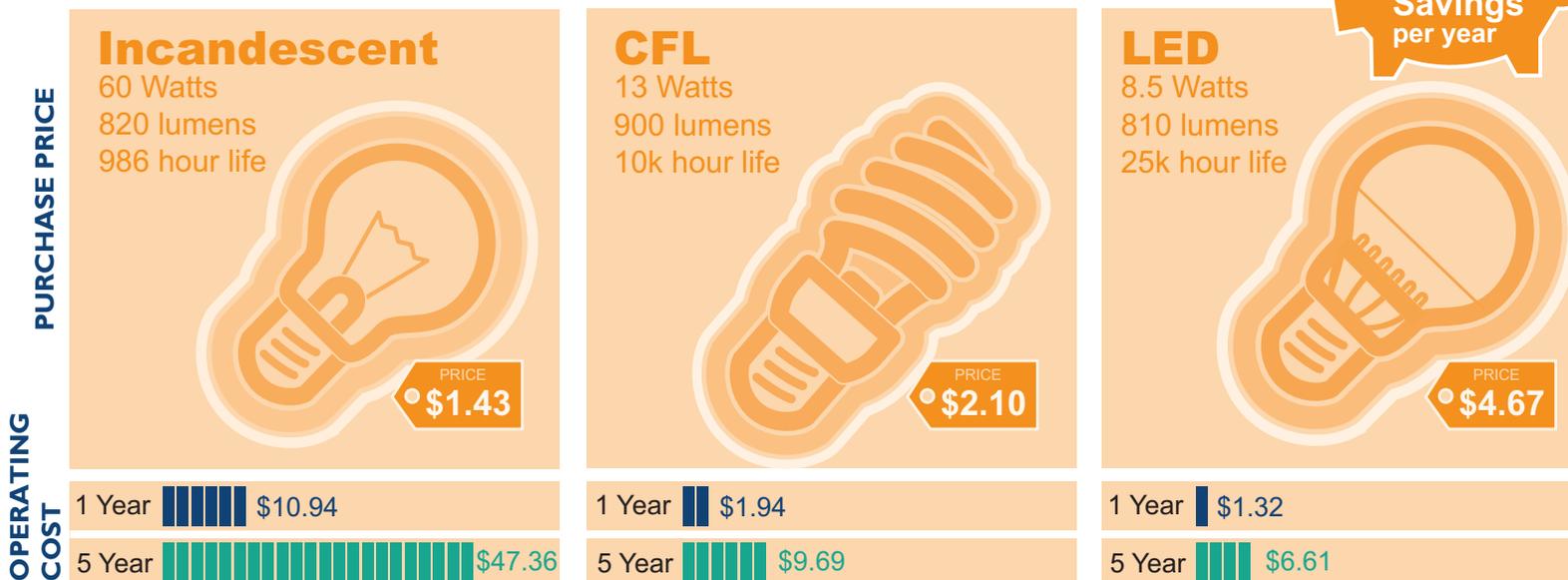
Switch to LED and Save

If you are like most people, you probably don't think much about lighting—at least not until a bulb goes out. And you probably look at LED lamps as expensive luxury items when incandescent bulbs have been readily available for less than \$1. But incandescent lamps are being phased out and a 60W equivalent LED can now be purchased for close to \$2.50 in multipacks and about \$4 for a single lamp. Maybe its time to reconsider the LED as a wise investment.

Incandescent bulbs use a wire filament that glows brightly when electricity passes through it. It gives off light, and unfortunately, heat. LED lamps, which stands for light emitting diode in case you are

curious, use those diodes to create an equivalent amount of light as incandescent lamps with about 75% less energy and a similar reduction in heat. Better yet, those diodes last about twenty-five times longer than the filament in an incandescent bulb. LEDs are a better option than compact fluorescent lamps, too. While the wattages and costs are similar, CFLs have a shorter life and also contain mercury, causing problems with disposal. And unlike CFLs, LEDs are now available in a variety of colors (cool white, warm, or daylight for example) and many different shapes and base sizes including reflectors, candelabra, and floods. And they can be used outdoors and in low temperatures.

Based on operating 3 hours per day every day, an 8.5 watt (60 watt or 810 lumen equivalent) LED lamp will use 56 kWh less than the 60 watt incandescent lamp. And unfortunately, that thin little filament will only last an average of 986 hours, meaning you will have to change it about eleven months into the year. By contrast, the LED is rated for 25,000 hours. So when you factor in life-cycle costs and energy savings, switching out one incandescent lamp to an 8.5 watt LED will save you \$9.42 per year, about a six month pay-back. And if that lamp is 20 feet above the floor at the top of a vaulted ceiling, not changing that lamp again for twenty years might just be priceless.



Note: Annual costs include the purchase cost of the bulb(s) and annual kWh usage for operating the bulb 3 hours per day. LED and CFL savings are compared to the incandescent bulb. Switching from incandescent to LED bulbs will save \$9.42 per bulb per year.

Weathering the Storm

Tri-County EMC plans for disasters and maintains power line right-of-way, but even with preparation, ice storms can deal a heavy blow to our system. Now is the time to prepare for Mother Nature's winter weather. (29790001)

before the storm

Flashlights

Have flashlights with extra batteries on hand. While candles can be helpful as light sources, flashlights are the safer option.



Heat

Gather heavy clothes and blankets. If you have a working fireplace, now is the time to stock up on firewood.



Food

Stock up on non-perishable food items that do not require cooking. Remember, your electric can opener will not work without electricity. Have a manual opener on hand.



Water

For those with well service, have a case of bottled water on hand. Fill any bathtubs and extra pitchers with water as well.



Information

Keep a battery-powered radio on a local station to get weather and outage updates. Be sure to charge all cell phones before the storm hits. Have a car phone charger in case you need to recharge your phone.



Medical

Have a first aid kit and several days of prescriptions handy. Those who depend on electricity for medical devices may need to move to another location until power is restored.



after the storm

Keep Away From Downed Power Lines

All downed power lines should be treated as if they are live. Do not touch them and be sure to keep children and animals a safe distance away.

Report an Outage

Report outages and downed power lines to Tri-County EMC by calling 1.866.254.8100, using your myT-CEMC mobile app, or visiting tri-countyemc.com/storm-center.cms on your mobile phone or tablet.

Watch for Updates

Listen to local radio stations to hear outage reports and visit the outage viewer on tri-countyemc.com to check outages in your area.

Be Safe

Do not burn charcoal or run gas-powered equipment in an enclosed space to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep candles away from furniture, draperies and flammable materials. Never leave a burning candle unattended.

Keep the Fridge Closed

Do not open freezers and refrigerators more than necessary. A refrigerator can hold its temperature for about 4 hours, and the freezer for about 48 hours, if the doors are left closed.

Have Patience

Our first priority when the power goes out is safely getting power restored to members and our linemen will work until the job is complete. We appreciate your patience as we work to get power back to you as quickly as possible.

Scholarships Available

As part of Tri-County EMC's commitment to our local community, each year we offer a number of leadership and scholarship opportunities to area youth. Applications for the following scholarships are due on April 15, 2016. For more information on the scholarships below, visit www.tri-countyemc.com or contact Kim Broun at 478.986.8126 or kimb@tri-countyemc.com.



Operation Roundup Scholarship



In addition to funding community grants, the Tri-County EMC Foundation offers scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students (with preference given to non-traditional students), to help pay their college costs.

Through Operation Roundup, a total of \$4,000

is awarded annually to students residing in the homes of Tri-County EMC members. The applicant must be enrolled in any U.S. accredited college or university and have maintained at least a 2.0 average.

Applications are available by mail upon request or may be downloaded at www.tri-countyemc.com/roundupscholarship.cms. Applications are due April 15 and October 15 of each year.

Cooperative Scholarship

Each spring, Tri-County EMC awards three \$2,000 Cooperative scholarships to students residing within the cooperative's service area. One scholarship is awarded in each of the three Tri-County board districts. Applications are judged by an outside panel of education professionals based equally on academics, financial need and community involvement. High school seniors and nontraditional undergraduate students are eligible to apply.

Applications are available by mail upon request or may be downloaded on the cooperative's website at www.tricountyemc.com/cooperativescholarship.cms.

Applications must be received by April 15.

Helping Hands Photo Contest

The Winner Is...

At the end of last year, Tri-County EMC members were invited to participate in the Helping Hands Photo Contest. The goal of the contest was to show how people were helping their community during the holiday season. Fans of Tri-County EMC on Facebook were invited to vote for their favorite photo of the six entries. (51361001)

The winner of the Helping Hands Photo Contest was Dusty Elliott. Dusty helped his community by feeding the homeless through his church. While delivering meals, he realized that this man would use his coat more than he could. He took the coat off of his back to help keep this man warm during the winter.

Thank you to all of our photo contest entries for serving your community during the holiday season. Follow us on Facebook for more contest opportunities.



Pole Maintenance

Osmose Utilities, a contractor for Tri-County EMC, will be conducting pole inspections in Putnam County. Pole maintenance can help save the cooperative money by reducing unnecessary replacement costs and can add many additional years to the life of the pole. Their vehicles will be clearly marked with the Tri-County logo. Inspections will be completed within the next three months. (7558001)



Did you find your account number?

Find your complete account number in this issue of *Current Lines* and win a \$50 bill credit. Call 478.986.8126 to claim your bill credit.

Recipe Box

Crockpot Honey Garlic Chicken

Thanks to Nikki Darley of Jones County for submitting this recipe! **Did you know that your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to kimb@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.**

Ingredients:

- 4-6 chicken breasts
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2/3 cup vinegar
- 1/4 cup lemon-lime soda
- 2-3 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 2 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 1 tsp. fresh ground pepper
- 2 Tbsp. corn starch
- 2 Tbsp. water



Directions:

Spray the slow cooker with non-stick cooking spray. Place the chicken inside the slow cooker. Mix together the brown sugar, vinegar, soda, garlic, soy sauce and pepper together. Pour over the chicken. Cook on low in a crockpot for 6-8 hours. Then, remove the chicken pieces from the slow cooker and pour the remaining sauce in a saucepan. Place the saucepan over high heat. Mix together the cornstarch and water and pour it in the saucepan. Mix well. Let the sauce come to a boil and boil for 2-3 minutes or until the sauce starts to thicken and turns into a glaze. Remove from the heat and let it sit for a minute or two to continue to thicken. Return the chicken to the glaze. Serving Suggestion: Serve over rice.



Tri-County
EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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