

the Powerline

Sevier County Electric System's Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2011



SEVIER COUNTY
ELECTRIC SYSTEM
The power behind our community

Summer has arrived. Find information about seasonal summer rates, ways to manage your cooling costs, and other relevant SCES news in this issue of The Powerline.

Seasonal Rates

As reported in the Spring edition of The Powerline, TVA completely changed the way it bills SCES and all its other power distributors. The result is a new Seasonal Rate Structure for end-use customers. Here is a brief recap of the new rate structure:

- TVA changed the way it bills all 155 power distributors in an effort to manage demand and avoid the major costs of building new power plants.
- The plan is designed to be revenue-neutral and will not produce any additional revenue for SCES.
- Customer will see little to no impact on total yearly energy costs.
- Summer, winter and transition months are billed at different rates.

Summer (June-Sept)
Winter (Dec-March)
Transition (Apr-May, Oct-Nov)

Reminder: Summer rates are higher under this structure, as TVA production costs are higher during these months.

Free!

Learn, Improve, Analyze and Save with our Home e-valuation



SCES customers are eligible for a **FREE** online energy audit. Complete the audit and receive a personalized report detailing your home's energy use and cost along with economical ways to reduce your electric bill. You will also receive this energy conservation kit.

The kit includes:

- two compact fluorescent light bulbs
- outlet and light switch gaskets
- filter whistle
- two faucet aerators
- hot water temperature gauge
- home thermometer
- "How to Save" brochure

Visit www.energyright.com to complete your audit or call (865)453-2887 to receive one by mail

Limit one kit per household and allow 4-6 weeks to receive your kit.



CFLs: A Bright Way to Reduce Energy Costs

Looking for an easy way to save on your energy bill and help the environment? Switch from incandescent bulbs to CFLs. Each CFL bulb can save \$40 or more in electricity costs over its lifetime. The average household has approximately 30 light fixtures! But you can start small by changing just the most frequently used fixtures. CFLs provide the most savings in the fixtures that are used 2 hours or more daily.

Quick facts about CFLs:

- Use 75% less energy for the same amount of light
- Last up to 10 times longer
- Produce 75% less heat
- Come in a variety of shades, including warmer colors
- 2 free CFLs available in our energy conservation kit!

Visit energyright.com or energystar.gov for more information about CFL lighting and the energy conservation kit

Predictable Electric Bills

SCES offers a way to guard against large fluctuations in your monthly electric bill. *Levelized Billing* makes your electric bill predictable. Your monthly electric bill is a rolling average of your electric usage for the past 12 months, plus 1/12 of any difference between leveled bills and actual bills.

Since *Levelized Billing* uses a rolling average, your monthly bill will vary slightly each month. And since changes in usage are averaged in over a 12-month period, there is never a really big bite in the very cold or hot months when usage may be high.

The only time you have to reconcile is when you decide to leave SCES or no longer want to participate.

Requirements:

- 12 month service history
- Acceptable pay history
- Automatic Bank Draft
- Residential services only

Call (865) 453-2887 to enroll

Visit us online at www.sevces.org for additional info on SCES products and services.

Arbor Day Foundation Names Sevier County Electric System A Tree Line USA Utility Provider

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. (March 1, 2011)— Sevier County Electric System achieved *Tree Line USA* status today as a utility provider dedicated to protecting its community's trees, the Arbor Day Foundations announced Tuesday.

Through its Tree Line USA program, the Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes public and private utility providers that demonstrate practices that protect and enhance America's urban forests. The goal of Tree Line USA is to promote safe, reliable electric service and abundant, healthy trees throughout a utility company's service areas.

Sevier County Electric System met the five requirements for a Tree Line USA utility. The requirements are: follows industry standards for quality tree care; annual worker training in best tree-care practices; participates in and sponsors a tree-planting and public education program; has a tree-based energy conservation program; and participates in an Arbor Day celebration.

"Trees are an important part of urban landscapes all across the United States from an environmental and economic standpoint," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees not only help clean the air and water sources, the shade they provide helps reduce peak energy usage and conserve energy. Utility providers like Sevier County Electric System are setting a good example about the importance of recognizing the taking care of a valuable community resource like trees."

Tree Line USA utility providers include both investor-owned and public companies. These providers demonstrate their commitment to taking care of trees in a number of ways, such as offering rebates to customers who plant trees as a way to curb energy consumption and teach children about the importance of planting the right tree in the right place.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a non-profit conservation and education organization dedicated to tree planting and environmental stewardship. More information about the Foundation and the Tree Line USA program can be found at www.arborday.org.

Recognizing
the best practices
in utility
Arboriculture.



Ask Vegetation Management

Q: Why does SCES trim trees in the first place?

A: SCES trims trees and other vegetation near high voltage power lines for 2 main reasons, *safety and reliability*.

Safety—High voltage power lines are extremely dangerous! When vegetation comes in contact with high voltage power lines, electrocution and fires can occur. SCES trims near these lines for the safety of people, pets and property. By maintaining a ten foot (10') minimum clearance buffer, trees and other vegetation are safe, and the right-of-way is better accessible for SCES personnel for maintenance and emergency power restoration needs.

Reliability—Contact with trees and other vegetation is the main cause of power interruptions and outages. SCES trims near high voltage power lines for reliable power service. Through proper vegetation management within and adjacent rights-of-way, interruptions and outages are minimized, ensuring longer hours of reliable electric service to our customers.

To submit a tree-related question to
The Powerline, email trees@sevces.org

For more info about
Trimming or Veg Mgmt,
call (865) 774-6274 or
visit www.sevces.org

Circuit Trim Update

SCES plans to trim approx. 500 miles of primary distribution line in 2011.

- 178.53 miles completed at printing of this issue.
- Contractors clearing rights-of-way are:
Asplundh Tree Expert Company
Nelson Tree Service, Inc.
Trees Unlimited
Wolf Tree

power
action line

865-774-6300

A Friendly Voice
When the Lights Go Out