

# the Powerline

Sevier County Electric System's Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2011



**SEVIER COUNTY**  
**ELECTRIC SYSTEM**  
*The power behind our community*

**Safety, conservation, and education** are the theme of the fall edition of The Powerline. Find articles on new safety laws, energy management, conservation, and programs all designed to bring you the most up-to-date information.

## Move Over Tennessee

**Nashville** - Legislation signed by Gov. Bill Haslam on April 5 expands Tennessee's Move Over law to include electric and other utility vehicles. Police, fire and highway construction vehicles were already covered before the law's expansion. However, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and its member cooperatives recognized the need to include electric and other utility vehicles.

Effective July 1, motorists approaching a utility vehicle with flashing lights are required to move over if safe to do so, creating an empty lane buffer. When changing lanes is not possible, motorists must reduce speed.

"Electric utility workers have a dangerous job," says Mike Knotts, director of government affairs for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, "and the expansion of the Move Over law makes their working environment safer."

Roadway crashes are the leading cause of occupational fatalities in the US. The Tennessee Department of Safety reports that more than 100 highway and street construction workers are killed each year as a result of vehicle crashes or equipment accidents on the job. Another 20,000 are injured.

"Employee safety is always our main priority," says Rick Harrell, Superintendent Sevier County Electric System. "Working near high-voltage lines is an extremely hazardous job. Passing vehicles can unnecessarily pose a greater risk to our employees. This legislation will bring new awareness to our employees and allow them to complete their important duties with an added level of protection."

The Tennessee law is the first-of-its-kind in the country. North Carolina's Move Over law included utility workers but only during emergency situations such as storm restoration. Tennessee's law applies anytime utility vehicles are working with flashing lights.

Visit [www.moveovertennessee.org](http://www.moveovertennessee.org) for more information.

**MOVE OVER**  
for utility workers in Tennessee. It's the law.

## Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo



Wondering what all those poles were doing on the Walters State Community College Campus this summer? SCES hosted the 14th Annual Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo at WSCC on June 17-18.

The TVLR is a two-day competitive event started in 1998 by and for the employees of Tennessee Valley Authority power distributors. The purpose of the Rodeo is to recognize and reward excellence in safety, skill, and knowledge while providing linemen the opportunity to showcase their talents in front of family and friends.

With 30 different utilities participating and an excellent venue, this year's event set an all-time high for participation. To make the events even more realistic, the activities were punctuated by some afternoon thunderstorms. All in a day's work for a lineman.

SCES thanks each of our sponsors and volunteers for your efforts in creating the most successful Rodeo to date.



# Managing energy costs

SCES recognizes that our area has suffered difficult times lately. Devastating weather events, continued high unemployment rates, and rising fuel and energy costs have left many of our customers in uncertain situations. While we can't change these situations, we do strive to provide our customers with the most up-to-date information on how to manage energy costs.

SCES *strongly* encourages our customers to take advantage of our energy tips, energy programs, and billing services. All of these are designed to help you conserve, manage, and plan for your energy bills. We want to help you take control of your energy consumption.

## How will your HVAC system perform this winter?



*This fall*, have a maintenance and diagnostic exam performed on your heating and cooling system. Annual maintenance helps to improve efficiency, cost savings, and increase the life of your system. We can provide a list of QCN contractors to assist you.

## Small Fall Projects Big Winter Savings

- Caulk / weather strip around windows and doors
- Add insulation to attic / crawlspace
- Seal gaps in floors and walls around pipes and wiring
- Install foam gaskets behind outlets and switch plate covers
- Perform your own home energy audit at [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com)



## 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](http://energyright.com) or [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) for more information about CFL lighting and the energy conservation kit.

## Want Predictable Electric Bills?

**Prepare for winter bills now.** SCES recommends *Levelized Billing* as the preferred strategy for making your electric bill predictable even in unpredictable times.

Your levelized 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 only slightly each month. And since changes in usage are averaged in over a 12-month period, you never have that shocking summer or winter billing swing.

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 [www.sevces.org](http://www.sevces.org) to learn more about SCES products and services.

## Residential Energy Programs

### Worried about wasted energy dollars?



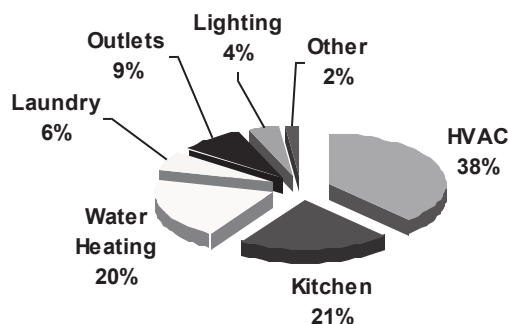
SCES and TVA take the guesswork out of spotting energy thieves in your home through two free Residential energy evaluation programs:

- Home e-evaluation
- In-Home Energy Evaluation Program (IHEE)

Take control of your energy consumption today!

Want to see noticeable changes in your energy consumption? First, you need to know where the majority of your energy dollars go, then make changes to your usage patterns through conservation or home-improvements in the areas that you can change.

### So where do those energy dollars go?



Free!



Sevier County Electric System and TVA make it easy to become energy efficient and save money in the process. With the new In-Home Energy Evaluation Program (IHEE), you can reduce your power usage *and* receive a cash incentive for installing home energy improvements. The recommended energy-related home improvements you make are eligible for reimbursement of 50% of the installation cost up to \$500.00.

Get going in a few simple steps:

- Call SCES to schedule your appointment.
- Receive a report outlining potential modifications and available cash incentive.
- Have desired modifications performed by a member of the TVA Quality Contractor Network (QCN) within 90 days.
- Have work inspected by SCES evaluator.
- Submit eligible receipts and receive your cash incentives.

For more info on the IHEE or other energy related programs, call Lucas Harkleroad (865)774-6264

### Learn, Improve, Analyze and Save with our Home e-evaluation



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](http://www.energyright.com) to complete your audit

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

Visit [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com) to learn more about Residential Energy Programs and savings tips.



## Why you will love your Marathon:

**Lifetime Warranty:** It's the *last* water heater you will have to purchase for your home.

**High Efficiency:** Lower energy bills. Envirofoam® Insulation allows only 5°F heat loss in 24 hours!

**No Smelly Water:** Doesn't use an anode rod. Eliminates that rotten-egg smell which can result from the interaction of an anode rod with many types of hard water.

**High-Tech Construction:**

- Seamless Molded Non-metallic inner tank can't rust or corrode.
- Filament-wound Fiberglass tank has unmatched strength.
- High-tech heating elements. Fused upper element, stainless alloy bottom element.
- True bowl shaped tank bottom provides self-cleaning action.
- "Car bumper tough" polyethylene exterior.

**World Class Customer Support:** Backed by service professionals at the Eagan, Minnesota Marathon plant.

**Last but not least: **\$120 credit** on your next electric bill.**

**And we'll even finance it for you.** *(residential only)*

*Call Lucas Harkleroad (865)774-6264 for more information about the Marathon Water Heater, rebates, or financing.*

### News from Vegetation Management

#### **Circuit Trim Update**

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

- 368.44 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

#### **Ask Vegetation Management**



**Q:** *Can I get a load of wood chips to mulch around my landscaping?*

**A:** Yes, SCES provides chips **free** of charge to our customers throughout the calendar year. A typical load consists of approximately 14 cubic yards. Chips are provided on a "first-come-first-serve" basis. Just give us a call at (865) 774-6274.

*To submit a tree-related question to The Powerline, email [trees@sevces.org](mailto:trees@sevces.org)*

**power**  
action line

**865-774-6300**

**A Friendly Voice When the Lights Go Out**

**In the dark? Call 865-774-6300** if you experience a power outage. Using our automated system is the most efficient way to have your power restored.