

# the Powerline

Sevier County Electric System's Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2014



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

**Cold Weather is here.** Find energy-saving tips, products, and programs to keep safe and warm in this edition of *The Powerline*.

## Generator Safety Tips

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed, but they can also be hazardous. Every year, people die in incidents related to portable generator use. The primary hazards to avoid are *Carbon Monoxide poisoning, electric shock, fire, and burns*.

- Always use generators outside, away from doors, windows and vents. Never use inside, even with ventilation.
- Install Carbon Monoxide alarms in your home.
- Never connect your generator directly to your home's wiring or wall outlets. A generator that is directly connected to your home's wiring can "backfeed" into the power lines connected to your home. Utility transformers can then increase this lower electrical voltage to thousands of volts, causing an electrocution risk to utility linemen making outage repairs and others served by the same transformer.
- Connect appliances to the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords.
- If you wish to hard-wire a generator to your home, it should be installed by a licensed electrician with an approved transfer switch that will automatically disconnect the home from the power grid when the generator is being used.
- Always dry your hands before touching a generator.
- Keep generators dry and only operate on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- Before refueling a generator, turn it off and let it cool down. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts can ignite.

For questions regarding portable generators / installation, contact our  
Engineering dept (865)453-2887  
or visit [www.cpsc.gov/info/co/generators.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/info/co/generators.html)

**power**  
**action line**

A Friendly Voice When the Lights Go Out

**865-774-6300**

## Predictable Electric Bills

Guard against large fluctuations in your monthly electric bill with *Levelized Billing*. 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

## Project Round Up

***A little change makes a lot of difference***

Project Round Up is a convenient way to help your neighbors with electric bills during times of hardship. SCES customers can participate by voluntarily choosing to round each month's electric bill up to the next whole dollar. The donated funds are dedicated to help customers needing emergency energy assistance.

Individual contributions never amount to more than 99¢ each month, so the total never exceeds \$12 per year. By combining our small change, we can make a huge difference in our community. It also makes balancing your checkbook a breeze!

To enroll, call (865)453-2887  
or visit [www.sces.net](http://www.sces.net) → your account

# Managing energy costs

SCES *strongly* encourages 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. Following are a few quick money-saving tips.

- Set thermostat to 68 in the winter. Each degree above 68 will increase heating cost by 3%.
- Have a programmable thermostat installed.
- Change air filters monthly.
- Keep all vents and returns open for adequate air flow.
- Keep outside air unit clean and free of debris.
- Have your ductwork inspected and repair any leaks.
- Insulate your outlets.
- Make sure your dryer vent seals tightly when not in use.
- Turn off your water heater if you're going to be out of town for an extended period of time.
- Set water heater temperature to 120°
- Install glass doors on your fireplace and keep the damper closed when fireplace is not in use.
- Keep garage doors closed and consider installing insulated doors.
- Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs and save up to 75% over incandescent bulbs.
- Keep curtains open on the south side of the house and closed on the north side during the day to help keep warm.
- Use area rugs if you have hardwood or tile floors to keep your feet warm.

For more information on energy savings, visit [www.sces.net](http://www.sces.net) and click on *energy links*.

## **Free!** Take control of your energy consumption!

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-valuation
- In-Home Energy Evaluation Program (IHEE)

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

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



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, contact Lucas Harkleroad  
[lharkleroad@sces.net](mailto:lharkleroad@sces.net) or (865)774-6264

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

**Keep warm this winter**

## Comfort, Quality, & Energy Efficiency

Whether it's snowing outside or a hundred degrees in the shade, enjoying the benefits of an electric heat pump is now easier than ever thanks to the **Quality Contractor Network (QCN)**, established by Sevier County Electric System and TVA. Heat pumps are an economical way of heating or cooling your home, but to maximize their benefit, they need to be installed properly. The QCN ensures just that.

Sevier County Electric System will provide you a list of the contractors who will give you a **free estimate**. SCES also offers **low-rate financing for up to 10 years** and the payments are included on your monthly electric bill.

You will now cool for *less*. Heat for *less*. And now, take a deep breath, pay *less*.

For more information contact Lucas Harkleroad  
[lharkleroad@sces.net](mailto:lharkleroad@sces.net) or (865) 774-6264



### REQUIREMENTS

- QCN contractor only
- Customer must own the property
- Customer must be approved with credit check.



**Financing  
Available!**

## The **Warmth** of a Fireplace. The Ease of Electric.

### **Create a Warm Focal Point for you Home**

Cold weather is on the way. Stop by SCES and see our wide variety of Dimplex all-electric fireplaces. The patented 3D effect gives the fire its depth, dancing flames, and operates independently from the heater.

A Dimplex electric fireplace combines traditional fireside comfort and warmth with convenience and savings. SCES offers all-electric fireplaces that give you the beauty of the real thing without the mess, danger, or expense of wood-burning fireplaces. In addition, the electric fireplace is available in a variety of styles, plugs into any standard 120-volt wall outlet, and costs just pennies a day to operate.

Discover the warmth of a fireplace with the ease of electric. Visit our office to see the wide variety of styles we offer, or visit [www.dimplex.com](http://www.dimplex.com) to learn more about these quality heaters.



**Visit [www.sces.net](http://www.sces.net) to learn more about SCES products and services.**

**\$120 Credit!**



## 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

## Ask Vegetation Management



### Circuit Trim Update

- 485 miles of distribution power line rights of way to be cleared for 2014
- Contractors clearing rights-of-way are:
  - ABC Professional Tree
  - Nelson Tree Service
  - Townsend Tree Service
  - Wolf Tree

*Questions about trimming or  
Vegetation Management?*

*Call (865) 774-6274 or  
email [trees@sces.net](mailto:trees@sces.net)*

**Q:** Can I trim and take care of my own trees?

**A:** Property owners are encouraged to take care of their trees and other landscaping according to SCES specifications. However, when performing any tree work in close proximity to power lines, SCES strongly recommends that property owners hire arborists that are properly trained to work around high-voltage power lines.

If you have a question that you would like to see answered in *The Powerline*, email [trees@sces.net](mailto:trees@sces.net)



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

### Call before you dig. It's free and it's the law.

Don't let this season's home improvement turn into a disaster. If you're beginning a home improvement project that requires digging or adjusting the grade of your property, please call Tennessee One-Call at least 72 hours in advance. **Call 811 or 1-800-351-1111**