How hot weather affects summers bills

Mild weather over the past couple of months provided some NWEC members with much needed relief from high winter bills. Now that summer has officially arrived, temperatures are beginning to heat up. And along with the increase in temperatures, members may once again experience higher energy bills.

It’s important to know, when it comes to your electric bill, weather matters. It only takes a few hot days to have a significant impact on your bill—especially if those days fall in the same billing cycle.

Your air conditioning system plays a huge part in your summer energy use. Even if you never adjust your thermostat, the weather is always changing. The greater the difference between your thermostat setting and the outside temperature, the harder your AC system will work to reach and maintain that setting. So, if it’s 100 degrees outside—and your thermostat is set to 72—that’s a 28-degree difference for your system to overcome.

The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer. For every degree the thermostat is raised during the summer, you can save 2-3 percent on your electric bill. Using ceiling or floor fans can also help reduce your energy use. Having a fan on can make you feel up to two degrees cooler. Just keep in mind that fans cool people, not rooms, and should be turned off when you leave the room.

Another energy hog that could add to your bill is a pool pump. Pools are a great way to cool off and have fun in the summer, but the pool pump can use a lot of energy. On average, your pump could add about $80-$90 to your monthly electric bill if you keep it running 24 hours a day.

Habits can also increase bills. As the weather gets hotter, people tend to stay home more often where it’s cool. This means running the AC even more.

Additionally, students are home from school and college. They not only turn down the AC, but also leave the lights on, spend more time on electronic devices, constantly open and close the refrigerator door, do more laundry and continually run in and out of the house. All this activity, coupled with nonstop AC use, has a pronounced effect on the average summer electric bill.

The bottom line is the higher the temperature the more energy it takes to keep you comfortable. You can’t control the weather but you can take a few simple steps to help control your energy use. For more energy saving tips, visit energy.gov or give us a call at 580.256.7425.
Halderman hangs up hard hat for good

After almost 45 years with NWEC, Dwayne Halderman decided to hang his hard hat up for good.

Dwayne began his career with NWEC on June 10, 1974, as a grunt. Over the years, he worked his way up to journeyman lineman and then took on the additional role of right-of-way coordinator.

He saw a lot of changes over the years. The main change he notes has been the complete turnover of employees since he started in ’74. And as far as interesting things he witnessed during his career, Dwayne says there are too many to list because something interesting happened every day.

Dwayne is going to miss his job and fellow employees. “I liked the good money and having a steady job,” he said. “I enjoyed being a part of NWEC and I will miss you all.”

His main plan for the future is to watch his grandsons grow up.

Hidden account number contest

Last month’s numbers went unclaimed. They belonged to David Hunter and Rodger Case.

We have hidden two account numbers somewhere in the articles in this newsletter. The numbers will always be enclosed in parentheses.

If you recognize your account number, give us a call on or before the 8th of the current month and we’ll give you a credit on your bill for the amount stated.

This month’s numbers are worth $50 each. Happy hunting!
50th Annual Special Olympics Summer Games

More than 100 volunteers from 19 rural electric cooperatives gathered together in Stillwater on May 15-17 to help make the 50th Annual Special Olympics Oklahoma Summer Games one to remember. NWEC employees Kaylie Cole, Clint LeForce, Lee Overton and Wendy Zapata volunteered to help with this year’s games.

Pictured at the right, Consumer Accounts Rep II Kaylie Cole and Journeyman Lineman/Meter Tech Apprentice Lee Overton congratulate participants as they cross the finish line. (19943001)

More than 5,500 athletes from across Oklahoma competed in the three-day event. With the help of over 3,000 volunteers and almost 2,000 coaches, the athletes participated in track and field, bocce, bowling, golf, horseshoes, powerlifting, basketball and softball.

Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives are proud of all those involved for demonstrating one of the cooperative principles, “Concern for Community.” To learn more about the event, visit www.sook.org.

Fireworks Safety Tips

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand-in-hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! About two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries occur between June 16 and July 16, so keep these safety tips in mind:

★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.

★ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.

★ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks including sparklers which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.

★ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.

★ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.
Students have powerful good time at camp
NWEC sends four teens to annual event

What happens when you bring 89 excited eighth-graders together at a camp designed to teach them about electric cooperatives? You get a powerful good time at Youth Power Energy Camp.

The students come from all across the state and are chosen by their electric cooperatives to participate in the four-day fun-filled adventure at Canyon Camp just east of Hinton. The students representing NWEC at the 2019 camp were Rebekah Lichtenwalter, Kaytlie Simpson, Jessica Barton and Kylee Whitley.

The four students submitted their winning essays about what they would miss the most without electricity and why back in March. After waiting two long months, they met early in the morning on the Tuesday after Memorial Day at NWEC’s office in Woodward. Once they loaded their belongings in the Expedition, they were off to have some summer fun.

After they arrived, the campers got settled in their cabins and then gathered together to meet their new friends and hear a few rules and expectations about camp.

The campers divided into small group communities with a direct tie to the electric co-op headquarters in that community. They learned the history and details of the community and when rural electric co-ops first provided power in their areas.

During reflections on the first night, the group went through a timeline and each co-op lit up their community (glowsticks in the dark) on the year the co-op was established. By the end of the reflections, all of Oklahoma was illuminated to show how power spread across the state through rural electric co-ops. (19258001)

Wednesday was just as jammed packed as the first day. During small group rotations, the campers met a co-op manager, learned how electricity is generated and watched a powerline safety demonstration.

On Thursday morning, the students learned about the life of a lineworker by trying their hand at pole climbing and taking rides in a bucket truck. That afternoon, they participated in a reality fair where they selected a career profile with a salary and benefits and went to various booths for cars, groceries, utilities, housing and other living expenses. It didn’t take long for them to realize a month’s income can disappear quickly.

On the last morning, the campers wrote thank you notes and said goodbye to their new friends. After exchanging cell phone numbers, giving lots of hugs, and shedding a few tears, they each went their separate ways.

Rebekah knew from the very start she would have a lot of fun. Her favorite parts of camp were the bucket truck ride, pole climbing and meeting really nice and wonderful people. Kaytlie thought Energy Camp was awesome because she met new people and learned a lot about electricity. Jessica said the camp gave her the opportunity to meet amazing people and learn new cool things like how to climb pole. Kylee had a blast at camp. She made a lot of new friends and said the activities were a lot of fun.