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We're Saving Money with VISA

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4 Three District Meetings in July



Electricity is Still a Good Buy

Lunch Costs More than a Day's Worth of Electricity

In 1996, a gallon of gasoline cost about \$1.20. Today, it's almost \$3 a gallon.

Ten years ago a loaf of white bread was about 79¢ and a postage stamp cost 32¢. Consumers paid about \$111 for 1,500 kiloWatt hours of electricity in 1996.

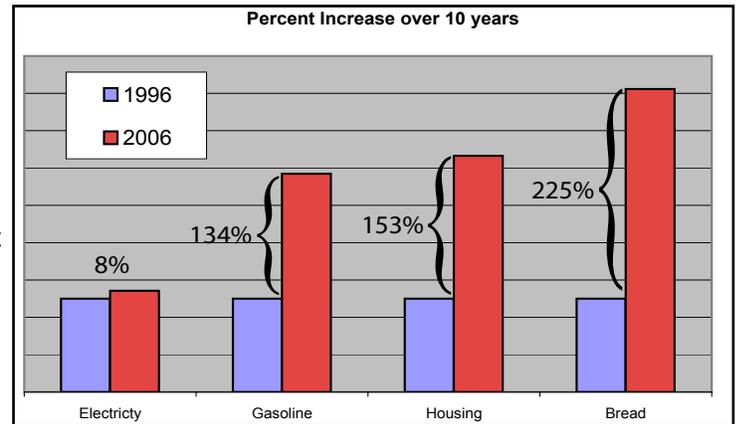
Today that same loaf of bread is over \$2, the stamp now costs 39¢ and 1,500 kiloWatt hours of electricity costs slightly more than \$124.

Since 1996, the price of gas has risen about 134 percent; housing costs have shot up 153 percent, and bread has skyrocketed a whopping 225 percent.

But the cost of electricity has risen only 8 percent.

Although the price of just about everything has increased in the past 10 years, a day's worth of electricity today costs less than lunch at a fast-food restaurant.

We may try to cut back on the usage of these other necessities to save money, but our dependence on electricity isn't changing. In fact, it's increasing.



home computer and are buying additional systems and laptops. Probably every member of your family has a cell phone, each of which requires its own charger.

As technology develops to make our lives more convenient, our demand for electricity climbs proportionally.

According to Associated Electric Cooperative, who supplies power to KAMO Power, energy sales set a record of 17.2 million megaWatt-hours in 2005. Member peak demand set a record on three occasions, topping at 3,999 megaWatts in July 2005.

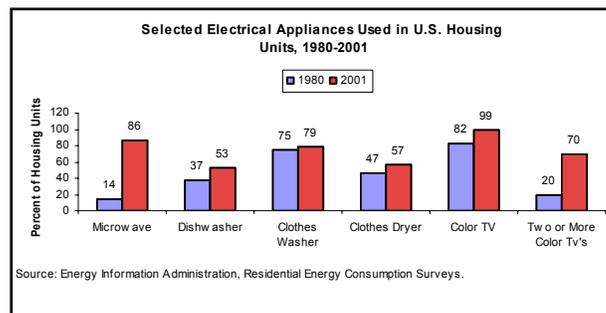
That increased need is one of the reasons more electric generation facilities are being built.

"Increased load on our system and that of our power suppliers is requiring them to build new generation plants and transmission systems," explains IEC General Manager Jack Clinkscale. "Plus, there are additional costs in the areas of coal, railroad delivery, natural gas and environmental compliance which

affect the price of electricity."

Although the costs have risen slightly, electricity remains a good buy.

"You're still getting your money's worth," says Clinkscale.



Source: Energy Information Administration, Residential Energy Consumption Surveys.

Today, a microwave oven can be found in just about every household. Today's average family has more than one television in the house, and those televisions are getting bigger. Most families have at least one

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Students Enjoy an Electrifying Week at
Energy Camp

Hominy 8th graders Nathaniel Cotton and Kobey Trower spent four days at Youth Power Energy Camp where they learned about electricity and electric co-ops. They also made new friends, toured a generation and transmission co-op, visited Celebration Station, and enjoyed numerous fun activities.

The pair was selected to represent IEC at Energy Camp after judges chose the essay they submitted in our annual competition as the winning entry.



IEC Trustee Mike Spradling (orange shirt) spoke to the Energy Campers about the responsibilities of being a co-op trustee.

THE LAMP

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Co-op Saves Thousands by Accepting Only VISA

No Other Credit Cards Accepted After July 1

As of July 1, IEC is accepting only VISA credit cards. This change will save the co-op thousands of dollars in credit card fees each month.

"In our continuing effort to reduce costs, we recently reviewed charges associated with the credit cards we currently accept," says David Wilson, IEC's manager of member services. "We discovered IEC can save thousands of dollars each month in usage fees charged by these credit card companies if we discontinue accepting most of them. Because of this substantial savings, we have elected to accept only VISA."

This change took effect July 1.

"Anyone with questions about this change or about paying their electric bill by credit card, can call me and I'll be glad to help them," says Wilson. He can be reached at 295-9557 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



With good maintenance, your air conditioner should last about 15 years. You can keep your system running efficiently with these easy tips:

Check all hose connections for leaks, and make sure the condensate tube is draining freely.

Change or clean the furnace filter once a month. This is especially important during the summer when dust and allergens circulate.

Clean the outside compressor by spraying it with a hose.

Keep plantings at least one foot away for adequate airflow around the entire unit.

Vacuum registers and air vents regularly.

An Affair of the Heart

More than 125 volunteers from electric cooperatives around the state gave hugs, 'high fives' and shouts of encouragement at the Special Olympics state games on the OSU campus in Stillwater.

Summer employee Josh Brown (right) was one of the 42 volunteers from IEC. As a first time Special Olympics volunteer, Brown was a hugger – one of the volunteers who hugs the athletes as they cross the finish line in the racing events.

"It was an awesome experience," he says, adding he plans to volunteer again next year.



RECIPE



Browned New Potatoes

- 1 lb. tiny new potatoes, whole, peeled
- 2 Tbsp. bacon drippings
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 Tbsp. molasses
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley (optional)

Cook potatoes in boiling water to cover until almost tender, about 10 minutes; drain. Heat bacon drippings in a heavy ovenproof skillet over medium heat; add potatoes and cook 10 minutes or until lightly browned, turning frequently. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 minutes or until browned, turning once. Stir in molasses and sprinkle with parsley, if desired. Serve immediately.

Details on Your **Yellow** Postcard

District Meetings Scheduled for July

Members in districts 2, 5 and 8 will meet in July to nominate their representatives to the co-op's governing board. Due to recent changes in trustee districts, some members will be meeting with their new trustee for the first time.

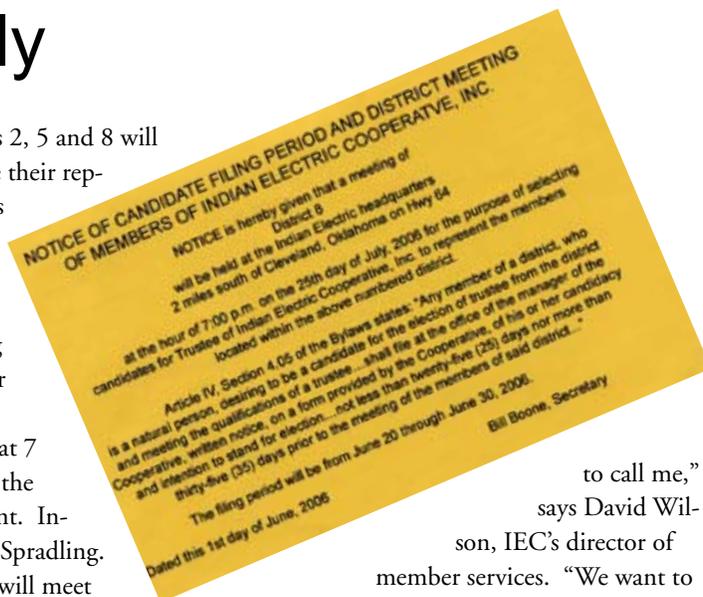
District 2 will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, July 31 at the Keystone Fire Department. Incumbent trustee is Mike Spradling.

District 5 members will meet Monday, July 24 at the Silver City Freewill Baptist Church at 7 p.m. Wanda Foster currently represents district 5.

Members in district 8 will meet Tuesday, July 25 at 7 p.m. at IEC headquarters. Greg Fielding is the incumbent trustee.

Prior to the meetings, members residing in these districts will receive yellow postcards with all the necessary details.

"If someone has questions about what district they are now in, I encourage them



to call me," says David Wilson, IEC's director of member services. "We want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to attend the appropriate meeting."

Tax credits make home improvements worth it

A year ago, President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which, among its many provisions, offers tax credits to consumers and businesses who improve the energy efficiency of homes and workplaces.

For homeowners, this means you cannot only save money on your energy bill by making energy-efficient home improvements this year, you can also receive a tax credit for it.

An overall cap of \$500 is set for eligible improvements. Follow this guide to savings and tax credits.

Homeowners are eligible for tax credits:

- Up to \$500 for 10 percent of the cost of energy-efficient exterior doors, insulation, duct sealing or Energy Star-certified pigmented metal roofs.
- Up to \$200 for 10 percent of the cost of Energy Star-certified windows or skylights.
- Up to \$300 for air conditioners meeting certain SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) ratings.
- Up to \$300 for a highly energy-efficient heat pump, water heater or furnace.

In addition, the act offers tax credits for increasing solar power. A credit of up to 30 percent of the cost of solar water heaters (not for swimming pools or hot tubs) or photovoltaic units is offered, not to exceed \$2,000. A separate credit is available for each, for a possible credit of \$4,000.

Improvements must be made this year or next to qualify. Visit www.energy.gov/tax-breaks for more information.

Don't Let a Tick Bite Ruin Your Summer

Enjoying summer outside can make you a prime target for ticks. Some of those pesky parasites carry Lyme disease, so be sure to remove one as soon as you find it. See your doctor if you start experiencing chills, fever, headache or muscle or joint pain, fatigue, swollen lymph nodes or develop a circular rash.