

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members.

January 2022

MONEY BACK ON YOUR BILL

Power Cost Adjustment Credit for 2022

Lake Region Electric Cooperative power cost adjustment or PCA is set every January for the year. The PCA is a separate line item on each Lake Region bill statement, reflecting the increases/decreases in the co-op's cost of power purchased wholesale from Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. The fluctuation in the PCA is largely caused by changes in the price of fuel for generating power.

Breakdown of Current Charges

Service Availability	32.50
Energy Charge 1,126 kWh @ 0.07974	89.79
PCA 1,126 kWh @ -0.007945	-8.94
Security Light x 1 @ \$9.80	9.80
Operation Round-Up	0.85
Total New Charges	\$124.00

The co-op's cost of wholesale power is more than 65 percent of LREC's total expenses, so the co-op must make sure that it recovers all of its wholesale power costs in its electric rates. The cost is collected from the co-op's members through the energy charge and adjusted as needed with the Power Cost Adjustment.

Understanding: Power Cost Adjustment

LREC's purchased power cost fluctuates from year to year. PCA or Power Cost Adjustment is the increase or decrease in what it costs your cooperative to buy wholesale power from our generation power plant and pay for the transmission services to all our substations in our local communities.

The PCA was set in December 2021. Members will see a PCA of negative (credit) -.007945 for every kWh of

electricity consumed on their billing statement. The average residential members' consumption is 1,126 kWh for a month. This will result in an \$8.94 PCA credit (reduction) on the bill.

Our co-op policy, as a non-profit, is to charge what it costs the co-op. Any increase or decrease in the cost of purchasing power from our power supplier and transmission co-op will be passed through to you, the members, in the form of a positive or negative PCA.

As we say hello to the new year 2022, our commitment to providing affordable and reliable electric service will always be our primary focus. We wish every one of our members a happy new year and your family good health, prosperity, and happiness. 3046403



View your LREC electric bill statement to see the the PCA amount for your home or business. If you have any questions regarding your bill please call our billing department at 918-772-2526. We are here to help.

Receive \$5 Credit On Your Next Bill

Go paperless during the month of **January** and Lake Region will credit your electric or fiber account **\$5**. You have the option to go paperless on each service you receive a bill for: electric or telecom (fiber).

Save Your Co-op Money

Every month, LREC sends more than 25,100 paper statements (2 sheets each) to electric members. That is a lot of paper, 602,400 sheets a year just in bills. Sending out paper bills each month is a significant part of Lake Region's operating costs. Each member that signs up for paperless billing helps us save money, which translates to keeping your rates affordable.

Reduce Clutter

Every house has that one spot where mail, bills included, just stack up. Maybe that is the corner of your desk or right next to your phone on the kitchen counter. Either way, your bill doesn't have to be part of that clutter. Instead, get your monthly bill delivered straight to your email inbox.

How to opt-out of your paper bill statement



SmartHub App: Log into the SmartHub app on your smartphone, click on Settings, then click **Go Paperless**. Click **Yes** to confirm.



Phone: Give us a call at **918-772-2526** and let a customer service representative know you would no longer like to receive a paper bill, and we will help get your account set-up.



Email: Send a "contact us" submission on our website **www.lrecok.coop** with a note informing us you would like to go paperless.

Remember, you will need a valid email address to go paperless, because we'll send your bill straight to your inbox each month.

Improve your fridge's efficiency

Save up to 8% on refrigerator electric costs per year.



Refrigerators need space to release warm air and function properly. The position of your fridge can have an impact on how hard it has to work. Make sure it is as far away from heat sources like ovens and radiators as possible. Also try to keep it out of direct sunlight. Leave a gap of at least three inches behind, above and around the edges of your fridge for air to escape. If you own an older model, clean dust from the condenser

MORE WAYS TO SAVE > www.touchstoneenergy.com

High-Speed Internet Opens Opportunities

Taking high-speed internet where no one else will has been a cornerstone of Lake Region Fiber's mission from the beginning.

When the pandemic hit, many things changed in the life of Brandon and Heather Meadows in rural Coweta. Their kids' school shut down, Brandon lost his job as an oil and gas engineering project manager, and Heather's work as a motivational public speaker stopped. Heather was still working as a NICU Nurse and was busy with long hours and many unknowns in the early period of COVID.

As all our daily lives evolved with the pandemic, the Meadows had to do something; their boys had to have internet for online schooling, tutoring and Heathers speaking events were transiting to virtual events. After calling AT&T and pleading their case, a cellular Hotspot was purchased, which still had a low data limit at a high price. It had the Meadows rationing data caps from kids' online schooling, Brandon's online job interviews, and Heather's virtual speaking events.

The University of Missouri called Heather and asked if she could do a virtual speaking event in October 2020. After budgeting all the internet data for the month of the conference, doing the conference via zoom, keynote in morning and back online in the afternoon for two-panel discussion, the families AT&T bill ran up over \$400 with data overage charges.

"This was **eye-opening**, as we were trying to live our life lean and needing to continue my speaking events, our childrens school, the internet was a necessity. We knew that Lake Region was expanding its fiber internet service area; we knew this couldn't happen soon enough, **we needed Lake Region fiber**," said Heather.

The Meadows signed up in February 2021 for service in the Coweta zone, and construction was underway in our Phase II build-out.

"We had a bunch of friends telling us we should stream this new show or documentary. Our response became, please don't tell, us we are non-streamers.



Cooperative members Heather and Brandon Meadows.

"We are waiting on Lake Region Fiber," said Heather. Lake Region internet has become more than an internet connection at the Meadows home; it has become a turning point.

"We were seeking God's help on what to do, and being out of work for a year and a half, I was leaning towards starting my own business. We now have better internet than businesses in the town of Coweta. We wanted to create our own businesses. I have an engineering background, with project management experience, Heather's public speaking and publishing work, and our farming business, bailing hay and working on our land passed down from our family. The high-speed internet came online at the right time and has helped make our dream and plan possible of starting our own businesses, Ruby Creek Engineering, Ruby Creek Publishing, and Ruby Creek Farm. I have now started an office remodel to have an at-home meeting area to bring in clients. Lake Region fiber internet service is now benefitting our family - both personally and professionally," explained Brandon.

The Meadows equate the new internet to when Heather's great grandparents purchased the family's land in 1951, 70 years ago. Her grandparents didn't even have indoor plumbing. To today's time, Brandon and Heather understand what it is like to go without an essential utility.

▶ Story continues on page 4 - The Meadows

The Meadows Continued from page 3

This is another one of countless stories of how Lake Region Fiber has stepped in and is changing the daily lives of our rural members.

If you are in need of a great speaker for a conference, schools, businesses, banquets, or church event through inspirational and motivational speaking, be sure to check out www.heathermeadows.com for her full story as a burn survivor.

Heather has also written a new book about her life, sharing intimate details about her journey as a burn survivor which can be purchased on her website.

Order Heather's Book. It's a story you will continue thinking about well after you close the cover



TOP REBATES **Member Savings for 2021**



Ground Source Heat Pump
2 | \$61,500



Water Heaters
20 | \$3,000



Air Source Heat Pump
2 | \$1,400



Smart Thermostat
16 | \$800



Mini Split Heat Pump
7 | \$1,837



Window Unit
16 | \$800



Business Lighting
1 | \$3,954



EV Home Charging Station
1 | \$250

You save, we pay. Members can get money back for installing and completing a rebate. We offer rebates on; programmable thermostats, electric water heaters, mini-split air conditioner, heat pump heating and cooling system as well as an EV home charging station. Visit our website to view all our current rebates at: www.lrecok.coop/rebates

Rebate Reminder - LREC offers a \$250 rebate for installation of an EV Home Charging Station.

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Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in the articles of the *Powerline Press*. *Must be located in the LREC insert inside the Magazine*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill. To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

