VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

P.O. Box 1049, Dillon, MT 59725-1049
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E-mail: contact@vec.coop

2014 Educational Awards

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon with which you can use to change the world." While it is hard to quantify the importance and value of education, there is a stark reality to the cost of an education. At Vigilante Electric Cooperative, we believe in education and have a long history of providing financial assistance to deserving students.

All of the educational opportunities through Vigilante Electric Cooperative are funded through unclaimed capital credits. We are required to retain unclaimed capital credits for five years. At the end of this period, we can either use the funds for educational purposes or turn them over to the state of Montana. This balance fluctuates year to year, and is one of the determining factors in the number of scholarships we offer and the dollar value of each scholarship.

Each year, the Board of Trustees of Vigilante Electric Cooperative reviews the scholarship applications we receive from the dependents of current members. This year, the board approved 12 scholarships worth $1,500 each. The following recipients have proven themselves as leaders inside and outside the classroom.

John Luke Koslosky .....Dillon
Courtney Linder .....Dillon
Cody Miller .....Dillon
Mick Paffhausen.....Dillon
Bret Stewart .....Glen
Abigail Williams.....Silver Star
Kasee Clark .....Townsend
Morgan Obert .....Townsend
Jacy Thompson.....Townsend
Kelsie Dustin.....Twin Bridges
Raven Hrysenko.....Whitehall
Darby Peterson .....Wisdom

To borrow another quote from Nelson Mandela, "A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special." After reviewing the scholarships, it was clear that this group is something special. Vigilante Electric would like to congratulate the winners and wish them well in all of their endeavors.

Prescription Discount Tracker

Total Paid Claims YTD 245
Total Savings YTD $7,386.64
Total Savings Percentage..38.64%
Apr. paid claims.....12
Apr. Savings.....$392.42
Apr. Savings Percentage ..53.42%

Trustees

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Dean Peterson

Vice President
Dean Hanson

Secretary/Treasurer
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General Manager
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Outage Notification Numbers

M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
683-2327 or (800) 221-8271

Dillon

After Hours Mon. - Thurs.
Dan Snellman 683-6222
Gary Ferris 683-6321
Cody Tarter 925-3326
Charles Wharton 660-1878

Weekends

683-2327 or (800) 221-8271

Whitehall

After Hours and Weekends
Marty Simons.....287-3950
Chuck Romerio 287-3144
Dake Green 871-4184
John Moos 266-3605

Townsend

After Hours and Weekends
John Moos 266-3605
Justin Bair 266-3351
Chase White.....459-3892
Marty Simons.....287-3950

Light Bulb Shopping Tips

By Denise Hawkins

Bulbs, brands, lumens, and labels — oh my!

If you have been gradually making the switch to the new energy efficient lighting choices, you've noticed that more changes have come to the light bulb aisle. Remember when the odd-looking corkscrew compact fluorescent (CFL) bulb was introduced to consumers a few years ago? It's still there, and so are most of the classic pear-shaped incandescent bulbs. But today's lighting choices have expanded and gotten serious makeovers — their packaging labels and lingo included. There are LEDs, CFLs, halogen, lumens, CRI and more, and there is a host of lighting brands. But in recent years, the focus has been on making all bulbs more energy efficient and cost effective.

End of an Era

We've basked in the golden glow of Thomas Edison's incandescent bulb since the 1800s, but this January marked the end of its run. That's when the federal government finalized its mandated phase out of selected general-purpose light bulbs and Edison's less energy efficient incandescent ones. While you still may find 100- and 75-watt bulbs on store shelves, manufacturers in the U.S. stopped producing them. The old 40- and 60-watt bulbs, which represented over half the market, are following suit. What brought about the lighting change? In 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy estimated that home and commercial lighting was consuming more electricity annually–about 300 billion kilowatt-hours of lighting or the equivalent of about 100 power plants—but most of it was wasted. Old-fashioned incandescent bulbs used plenty of energy to produce only 10 percent light, with 90 percent of the energy given off as heat. In comparison, today's more energy-saving incandescent light bulbs use 25 percent less energy to do the job of lighting the same spaces in your home.

Look on the Bright Side

Prime replacements for the traditional incandescent light bulb are the higher-efficiency CFL and LED or light emitting diode bulbs. But be prepared to pay more upfront for some of the bulbs you choose. Lighting experts say that LEDs are the best choice for energy efficiency and, if price is not a concern, they can last for up to two decades, save you 75 percent or more in energy costs, and offer superior color and brightness. However, they can cost an estimated $10 to $60 per bulb.

The Energy Department assures consumers that there is a bright side — lower electricity bills over the longer term. These are their estimates: using a traditional incandescent bulb adds about $4.80 per year to the average household electric bill, but a CFL bulb adds just $1.20 a year, and an LED adds about $1 per year. That means that a typical household could potentially save about $50 per year by replacing 15 old incandescent bulbs.

Lighting the Way

Since lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of the average home's electricity use, don't stay in the dark when shopping for new bulbs that save on energy and your electric bill. Things to know before you go:

• **Lumens are the new watts.** It's all about the lumens or the amount of light a light bulb emits. Remember this formula: The higher the lumens, the brighter the light — to replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, choose a bulb that offers about 1,600 lumens. There are handy charts at *www.energystar.gov/* that help you compare the old measure of watts to lumens.

• **Three-steps to your new bulbs.** STEP 1: Choose the amount of lumens you need based on how bright you want a room; STEP 2: Determine which bulb has the lowest estimated energy cost per year. This will save you the most money; and STEP 3: Choose bulbs based on your needs — how long it will last and light appearance.

• **Read the label.** Always check the package, making sure that it carries the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR logo. New lighting facts labels on boxes also will help consumers understand what they are purchasing — amount of lumens, estimated annual operating cost and light color.

B. Denise Hawkins writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, Natural Resources Defense Council

Power of Value

Providing affordable power for generations

While so many things we buy have climbed steadily in price over the years, electricity is still one of the best values out there. That's comforting to know, because electricity is essential to energizing our lives and keeping us connected more than ever before — and that's a powerful thing.

Vigilante Electric Cooperative has been committed to making the lives of every member better, not more expensive. We strive to provide dependable electricity to our members at the cost of service. But costs go up; it's just a fact of life.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a loaf of white bread rose 3.73 percent annually, a dozen eggs jumped 7.39 percent per year and gasoline has shot up 12.66 percent each year. Meanwhile electricity has increased just 3.2 percent annually.

While the cost for everyday items continues to rise dramatically, the cost of electricity is still a great value. So the next time you flip a switch, use your toaster or run your washing machine, remember the value electricity holds.

Plug in to the power of Vigilante Electric Cooperative's Touchstone Energy Cooperative membership at *www.TogetherWeSave.com.*