

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# Valley News

November | December 2009

Volume 66 | Issue 6

Wrapping a few appliances this year? Turn to **Pages 4-5** for a look at their average energy consumption

[www.valleyrec.com](http://www.valleyrec.com)

# Mark your calendars

I'M SURE many of you "Type A" personalities like myself out there have already begun to transfer important dates and reminders into your new 2010 calendars.

As you're making plans for the promising year ahead, we at Valley Rural Electric hope you keep some important co-op events in mind -- specifically our district nominating meetings and annual meeting.

The district nominating meetings are held each year in three of the cooperatives' nine director territories. These dinner meetings give you a chance to gather together with your co-op neighbors and friends. They also provide the opportunity for you to choose candidates for a position on the Valley REC board of directors. And they give you the chance to get the latest information on co-op programs and policies and what's happening in the energy industry.

This year, co-op districts 7, 8 and 9 have positions in the election rotation. Members who live in the following areas will be eligible to participate in the nomination process:

**District 7 - Franklin County:** Metal and Peter townships

**Fulton County:** Ayr, Belfast, Bethel, Dublin, Licking Creek, Taylor and Todd townships

**District 8 - Huntingdon County:** Dublin and Tell townships

**Juniata County:** Beale, Lack, Spruce Hill, Turbett and Tuscarora townships

**District 9 - Blair County:** Allegheny, Catharine, Frankstown and Tyrone townships

The 2010 district nominating meetings will be held during the first week in February.

The District 7 meeting will be held Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Hustontown Fire Hall.

The District 8 meeting will be held Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Shade Gap Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary Building.

The District 9 meeting will be held Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. at the Geeseytown Community Fire Hall.

Invitations and postage-paid reservation cards containing additional details will be mailed in the coming weeks.



**Wayne F. Miller**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

Of course, attendance at a district nominating meeting is just one of the many privileges of membership in the cooperative. Unlike private power companies, rural electric co-ops like Valley are owned and governed by the people they serve. That means consumers like you have a voice in how the business operates and a vote in who will represent your interests.

So if you're a member residing in District 7, 8 or 9, plan to exercise your rights in the year ahead and come to your district nominating meeting. Simply return your reservation form, circle the date on your calendar and start looking forward to enjoying a delicious dinner as well as an interesting, informative co-op business session.

And don't forget the Valley REC Annual Meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. April 16 at Mount Union Area High School. It's another occasion for you to learn more about the electric utility that delivers dependable power to your door all year long.

Cooperatively yours,

**Wayne F. Miller**  
President & CEO

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# Holiday Lighting Tips

**Decorating for the holidays? Consider using ENERGY STAR qualified decorative light strings. These lights:**

- Consume 75% less energy than conventional incandescent light strands.
- Last up to 10 times longer!
- Are cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.
- A traditional light string with 300 lights costs about \$4.50 in energy costs over the holiday season. In contrast, an ENERGY STAR certified light-emitting diode (LED) equivalent costs only \$0.43 to operate!

Source: ENERGY STAR



PHOTO BY LUANNE ECKENRODE

## Making a joyful noise

Campers at the Pennsylvania Lions' Beacon Lodge Camp showed off their musical skills during a recent talent show at the facility. Served by Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, the 583-acre camp is a favorite retreat for children and adults with special needs including blindness, deafness and many other physical and mental challenges. Located two miles west of Newton Hamilton, Mifflin County, Beacon Lodge offers a complete recreational experience for its guests including: outdoor bowling alleys, a heated pool, a lake stocked with trout, a Braille Trail and other nature trails, a ropes course, outdoor camping facilities, a miniature golf course, an archery/rifle range, a mountain/tandem bike hut, art rooms, a nature center, an activity room complete with weight lifting and other exercise equipment, a library, a canteen and a playground.

## How to get help with winter heating bills

Do winter bills break your budget? You may be able to take advantage of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) available through your county assistance office.

LIHEAP is a federally funded program which assists people with low or fixed incomes in

meeting their obligations for home heating. Through LIHEAP, eligible applicants are provided with cash benefits to help pay their heating bills. In addition, crisis payments are available to households with an emergency that are in immediate danger of being without heat.

You may qualify for a LIHEAP grant if your income meets the guidelines on the chart to the right.

You may apply for LIHEAP online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us). Or you can request an applica-

### INCOME GUIDELINES 2009-2010 LIHEAP

(For homeowners and renters)

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$16,245
2	21,855
3	27,465
4	33,075
5	38,685
6	44,295
7	49,905
8	55,515
9	61,125
10	66,735

Each additional person, add \$5,610

tion by calling 866/857-7095. You can also pick up an application at your local county assistance office. To apply, you will need the names, social security numbers and dates of birth for everyone in your household, proof of income, and a copy of your most recent heating bill.

If you think you may qualify for LIHEAP, don't wait to apply. The cash program is open now through March 15, 2010. The crisis program runs Jan. 4, 2010, through March 15, 2010.

# A Look at Household appliance energy consumption

BY SUSAN R. PENNING  
Director of Member Services

Did you know that your aquarium could be costing you more to run each month than your refrigerator?

According to a study done at the U.S. Department of Energy's national laboratory, electricity consumption in American homes is growing faster in the category of small appliances than in any other category.

Items such as TVs, computers, dvd players, video game consoles, ceiling fans, vacuum cleaners, electric skillets, dehumidifiers, electric toothbrushes, hot tubs, microwave ovens and stereos now account for nearly a quarter of the energy used in our houses.

Increasing nearly 5 percent a year, the power needed to run small appliances has more than doubled in the past 20 years.

Large appliances, on the other hand, have been improved through energy standards to the point where refrigerators use one-third as much electricity today as they did 20 years ago.

Miscellaneous appliances are not required to meet those new more stringent standards. That's why a 180-gallon coral reef aquarium running 24 hours a day can use more energy than an energy-efficient refrigerator.

## STANDBY LOSS

In addition to the energy they require when operated, many small appliances made today continue to draw power, even when they are switched off.

Did you know that nearly 20 percent of the electricity used by appliances is lost while sitting in stand-by mode, waiting to be used?

Think of your television, turned off, but plugged in and ready to respond to a remote control. Or think of your telephone answering machine, drawing power as it waits for a call. Then there is your portable toothbrush and cordless vacuum

cleaner; both are constantly plugged in to keep the batteries in their units recharged.

Don't forget the microwave oven in the kitchen; it's using power to keep its digital clock running.

By far, the biggest standby loss culprits are modern electronics -- TVs, DVD players, video game consoles, cable boxes and satellite dishes. They account for about 35 percent of a home's standby loss. Audio equipment makes up another 25 percent of standby losses; a small compact audio unit can draw 9 watts while it's turned off. Since most listeners only use their stereos an average of an hour a day, 93 percent of a stereo's energy use occurs when the unit is switched off.

Communications equipment such as answering machines, cordless phones and fax machines are responsible for an additional 10 percent of home electricity losses.

It is estimated that U.S. consumers would save more than \$1 billion each year if manufacturers used proven technologies to reducing the standby losses of many small appliances.

Until that happens, the only way to prevent some appliances from "leaking" electricity is to unplug them.

## BUY SMART

When purchasing an appliance for yourself or someone else, consider buying an Energy Star model, which indicates that the item is rated as one of the most energy efficient of its kind.

Many small appliances, specifically home electronics, now offer the Energy Star label. Buying Energy Star-rated home electronics can help you save money and protect the environment by using less energy. For example, TVs approved by Energy Star can save 75 percent of standby electricity losses.

It pays to be a wise shopper and consider energy savings!

# Average



## Aquarium: \$



## Coffee maker: \$12.80

# Annual energy costs



\$63



**Clock radio: \$4**



**Hair dryer: \$9**



**Microwave: \$9**



**Computer: \$46.80**



**TV: \$25.50**

**To calculate the monthly and annual energy costs of your home's appliances, visit [www.valleyrec.com](http://www.valleyrec.com). Follow the **Save Energy** link to the **Calculators** tab.**

## Energy Feature

# 'How can I figure out what my \_\_\_\_\_ uses?'

Follow these steps to find out how much electricity is used by the various equipment and appliances you own.

### Step 1: Identify the wattage

The wattage measures the capacity to do work. This information is typically found on the serial plate of an appliance. Some electric requirements are listed in volts and amperes (amps) rather than watts. If this is the case, multiply the volts times the amps to get the wattage.

Note: Motors in the 1/2 horsepower (hp) to 10 hp range use about one kilowatt-hour (kWh) per hp per hour.



### Step 2: Figure the estimated kWh

Use the formula below to calculate the kWh used by a specific device for a designated amount of time:

$$\text{Wattage} \times \text{hours of use} = \text{Estimated watt hours}$$

Divide the result by 1,000 to get kWh.

### Step 3: Figure the cost

Now multiply the kWh by \$.089 (8.9 cents) to figure the approximate cost to operate the appliance or equipment for the specified amount of time.

THE  
**Trading  
Post**

Classified Advertising



Co-op members may submit ads via e-mail at [valleynewsads@valleyrec.com](mailto:valleynewsads@valleyrec.com); by phone at 800/432-0680; by fax at 814/643-1678; or by mail at Valley REC, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477. There is no charge for this service. If consumers wish to continue running particular ads, they are required to resubmit the information on a bimonthly basis. The deadline for submission is the 25th day of the month prior to the issue months. Submissions are viewable on the co-op's website at [www.valleyrec.com](http://www.valleyrec.com). Items published are printed at the request of our members. The co-op does not endorse, recommend or assume any responsibility for the products or services advertised. The co-op also reserves the right to edit material for content and/or space as necessary.

### Real Estate

Handsome 1935 Art Deco period lodge - 3 BR, 1 BA, 2 fireplaces, kitchen, laundry room & garage plus pantry. Lg. dining rm. & screened-in, wrap-around porch. Living room has 18" crown molding, 18' ceilings & a balcony. Second story deck off bedrooms. All pine paneling. In orig. & pristine cond. 5-room cottage/mother-in-law suite to the rear. Another 6-room cottage on property. 10 acres total +/- At the foot of Brush Mountain w/ stream running by house. Exc. rental income property or perfect family compound. Access to state game lands. Drive by at Box 312, Sickles Cornerback Rd., Sinking Valley. Will finance for the right party. 508/883-7269.

New 27'x24' 2-story log cabin on 10.18 wooded acres. Furnished, deck, dormer, dbl.-pane windows, wood heat. Two percs, small pond. Secluded, private drive. Great hunting & fishing, Juniata Co., \$129,000. 717/734-3730.

11.917 acres in Shirley Twp., Huntingdon Co. Perc for sand mound, underground elec. & phone, good hunting, \$60,000. Also avail. - 2.166 acres, underground electric & phone, perc for sand mound, \$25,000. 2.349 acres, fronting along Aughwick Creek. Double perc, underground electric & phone, \$30,000. 814/542-2619.

Well-maintained ranch home on 14.5 acres in Germany Valley, Huntingdon Co. 4 BR, 1.5 BA, 2-car attached garage & separate 2-car shop. Gorgeous views, wildlife abounds, near

state game lands & trout fishing. Must see. \$250,000. 814/542-4965.

10+ acres in Huston Twp., Blair Co., Sportsman Rd., \$200,000. 814/832-2974.

1-acre lot (business or commercial), Rt. 22, Alexandria - Underground utilities, 2 wells, sewage tank & sand mound permit. Also avail. - 2-room, 12'x24' office bldg. w/ occupancy permit. 814/669-9592 or 669-4355.

### Free

Black built-in oven, 20 yrs. old, still works. 814/448-3979 after 5 p.m.

### Recreational

Arctic Cat snowmobiles - 2001 ZL 500 w/reverse, elec. start, warmers, cover, only 700 orig. miles, like new. 1994 Cougar 440 w/reverse, warmers, cover, only 2,000 orig. miles, exc. cond. 2000 Floe 2-sled aluminum trailer w/ salt shield. All in exc. cond., only \$5,800. 814/669-4277.

### Tools/Equipment

1949 8N Ford Tractor, very good cond., runs good, 3-pt. hitch w/ 7' blade, front bucket, new tires, chains, \$3,400. 814/643-3746.

20 hp phase converter, new, \$1,500. 814/447-3630 or email [galleryofwood@innernet.net](mailto:galleryofwood@innernet.net)

Case Model PR 1-row corn picker, good cond., nice paint, kept inside, field ready, \$550. 717/436-8655.

Small early 9N Ford Tractor 39-42 yrs. 3-speed trans., really good cond. & runs good. Attachments included: carry-all, snow plow, disk, 2-pt. plow, \$2,800. 814/667-3668.

John Deere Model 3, 3-pt. log splitter, internal hydraulic hook up, \$700. 814/239-5981.

Skilsaw w/ 7" blade, heavy duty, gear drive, commercial version of 2 hp, \$110. 814/643-2726.

Kubota L245 DT 4WD compact tractor w/ front-end loader & power steering, runs well. New front tires, clutch, starter & alternator, asking \$4,695. 814/667-3519.

### Vacation Rentals

Associate membership at Wilderness Camping Resorts in Spotsylvania, Va. A popular campground w/ yr.-round activities including multiple activities focused on children. Cost was more than \$5,000 in 1984; now asking \$3,000. 814/224-5414 for more information.

3-room cabin near state game lands. Mtn. stream nearby, elec. available, \$40/month. 814/447-3630 or email [galleryofwood@innernet.net](mailto:galleryofwood@innernet.net)

### Miscellaneous

Great Christmas gift for growing boys - The Hardy Boys collection of mystery books. 25 books in all. Will sell for \$50 to a boy who likes to read. 814/239-2570.

## Classified Ads

1 ton+ hard coal, call for pricing. Country Comfort wood stove, \$500. 814/669-9370.

2 cherry-finished ladderback chairs w/ wicker seats, like new, \$35 for both. More than 200' of double coaxial cable for TV, satellite, etc. 50 cents per foot, minimum 50'. 814/667-3519.

Clarinet w/ all accessories, good cond., \$200. 814/542-4485.

4 used wood stoves, \$60-\$150. Call 814/447-3630 or email galleryofwood@innernet.net

Avon bottles (no boxes), make offer. National Geographic Magazines, make offer. Brown recliner, \$40. Red leather swivel rocker, \$45. White gal. antique icebox, 33"x17"x37", \$50. Tractor-trailer load of chains, \$25 ea. Black steamer chest w/ drawers & hangers, 18"x22"x40", \$50. Black storage chest, 22"x36"x23", \$40. 814/658-3973.

Blue steel auto. pistol. Fires only 22 blanks. New in box plus cleaning brush & ammo. No permit required, \$25. Hunting license collection, more than 100. Deluxe duck stamps, hunting club cards. 140 items, 1960 to present, \$60. 814/643-3197.

Wurlitzer console piano, exc. cond., \$600. 717/436-8655.

Lenox 85,000 Btu heater, natural gas hanging unit. \$100. LA Spa Fantasy 500 hot tub, seats 8 & has a cover purchased at Alpine Pools, \$1,000. 814/944-7384. 10- 1/2' artificial Christmas tree, exc. cond., very nice, very realistic. Will look beautiful in any home w/ higher ceilings. Orig. cost, \$329. Asking \$50. 814/239-5808.

Grace basteless quilt frame with expanders. Approx. 3 yrs. old & used only once, \$200. 814/643-2809 after 5 p.m.

Kiln-dried lumber for woodworking & crafts. Pine & hardwood, reasonable prices. 814/447-3630 or e-mail galleryofwood@innernet.net

Sawmills - ThinBand bandmills, manual or power feed, blade lube system, log-turning crane, 14 hp Robin engine, made in Pa. 717/469-1393.

Electric trailer brake control, \$40. Reese 5th-wheel hitch w/ rails, \$400. '99 Chevy towing mirrors, \$45. Towtector protection shield, 15" high, fits full-sized pickup, \$25. 36" white full-view storm & screen door, \$49. 814/793-3674 or cell 207-5816.

Interested in local history? McAlevy's Fort Civic Association has three books available for sale. Each book is a continuation of the McAlevy's Fort & immediate area history. The books were written by lifetime local resident & historian James O. Smith (deceased). Books are avail. at Couch's Subs & Groceries, McAlevy's Fort or by calling Sandy Knode at 814/667-2261.

Vinyl-coated chain-link fencing, 100' long x 5' high, brown w/ privacy strips, \$550. 814/667-2189.

Electric scooter chair. Heavy-duty, used twice. Will support over 400 lbs. \$1,000 OBO. 814/224-2679.

Like new Whirlpool microwave, bisque color, \$75. Exhaust fan/light for over stove, bisque color, \$50. Pfaltzgraf dishes. 8-pc.+ setting w/ some accessories, Heirloom pattern, \$125. Dog kennel & roof w/ dog box. Kennel in good shape. Dog box showing some wear, \$100 for all 3. 814/259-3083.

2 very old brass & porcelain table lamps. 5'x7' air mattress, 8" thick. 50 lbs. 8 penny galvanized finishing nails. 814/658-2235.

### Service

Everhart Painting - Interior/exterior painting/staining, power washing, chinking for log homes. More than 15 yrs. exp., fully insured, free est. 814/667-4427 or email jeff@everhartpainting.com

Reserve our outdoor park pavilions or banquet hall for your next special event. Stone Creek Valley Lions Park, 5303 Cold Springs Road, Huntingdon. For rental information, contact Denny Hall at 814/641-7489.

Moore Hair - Where looking good is still affordable. 814/667-2221 for appt.

Sipes Fence L.L.C. All types of agricultural fence installed. Post driving avail. Call for free est. Scot Sipes. 717/491-7539 or 485-3221.

ES Ministries Thrift Shop - In the Faith Center, Mooresville United Methodist Church, Charter Oak Road & Rt. 305. Hours are Thurs. & Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. & Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Shop has clothing, household items, toys & books. We carry items for current holidays. New merchandise added weekly. Weekly 50% off & 50-cent sales. Donations accepted during shop hours.

Roll-off containers - 10, 15 & 25-yd. avail. Great for cleanups, remodeling projects, shingles & more. Smaller dumpsters also avail. Quarry's Sanitation Service, Mount Union, 814/542-9547 or 542-2570. Family owned & operated since 1979. Weekly garbage service avail. in most of Huntingdon Co. & Newton Hamilton/Wayne Twp. areas of Mifflin Co.

Hawk Floor Covering "Shop at Home Service" - We bring the samples to you. Free est., 35 yrs. exp. in carpet, vinyl, wood & ceramic. Call Benny at 814/542-3191.

Quality TLC childcare in Huntingdon area home. Call 814/641-7240 evenings.

K. L. Myers Heating and Cooling - We sell & install Fujitsu ductless heat pumps. These heat pumps are highly efficient and cost a fraction of what geothermal does & we don't dig up your yard. Quiet operation, both inside & out. Take advantage of the federal energy tax credit. Check out [www.noductwork.com](http://www.noductwork.com) & click on Fact or Myth. Then check out the consumer reports for the truth. Don't get scammed out of your hard-earned money. We only sell the Fujitsu ductless heat pump/central air that will save you money or your money back. I heat & cool my 2,200 sq. ft. home with two Fujitsu heat pumps for less than \$500 per year in energy. Call 814/658-2273 anytime for more information.

K. L. Myers Wind Power - We sell & install electric generating windmills. You can now generate electricity for your home & save on your monthly electric bill. There is a 30% federal tax credit avail. also. Call 814/658-2273 anytime for more information.

# Valley News

(USPS 655-940)

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