

Cooperative makes changes to members' electric bills

Changes take effect on your January bill

Editor's note: This information presented is based on the majority of the cooperatives rate base (rate 1). For those with other rate classes or special rates, please contact the cooperative to see how these changes will affect your bill.

The cooperative's board of directors and management wanted the members' electric bills to better reflect power costs and other items associated with providing you with safe, reliable electric service. To do this, the cooperative had a cost of service study and rate analysis performed by a licensed pro-

fessional engineer. The study revealed the facility charge was not in-line with the true cost to bring power to the member's home.

Due to the results of this study the board of directors, along with management, has decided to increase the facility charge from \$35.00 to \$52.00. This increase better reflects the true cost to bring electricity to the member's home.

To offset this increase to the facility charge the board and management opted to do two things: reduce the energy portion of the bill by up to 5% and also reset the wholesale power cost adjustment (PCA) to zero. The

resulting changes create an effective increase of just over \$5.00 per month based on average residential electric consumption. **The table below** compares the new rate structure and new facility charge versus the previous rate structure. This information can be found on the billing statement in the "Current Bill Information" box.

The resulting recommendations of the cost of service study will be broken down into three components on your billing statement:

Continued on 16b ►

This is an example of how the new rate adjustment may affect your bill. This example is set up for Rate 1 and is based on the average amount of kWhs consumed by residential members.

This information can be found on the current bill information box on your electric bill.

Rates Effective Through December 31, 2013 (table does not include state taxes)	
Use	1055 Kilowatt hours (KWH)
ENERGY CHARGE:	1055 KWH @ .1260 = 132.93
AVERAGE WHOLESAL PCA:	1055 KWH @ .00459 = 4.84
FACILITY CHARGE:	35.00
	Net Due 172.77
Rates Effective January 1, 2014 (table does not include state taxes)	
Use	1055 Kilowatt hours (KWH)
ENERGY CHARGE:	1055 KWH @ .1197 = 126.28
WHOLESAL PCA:	1055 KWH @ .00 = 0.00
FACILITY CHARGE:	52.00
	Net Due 178.28

This particular member would see an increase of \$5.51 under the new rate adjustments.

NOTE: The effect of these changes, both on a percentage and dollar basis, is dependent upon your electric use.

Rate Changes continued from 16a

- The “**Energy Charge**” is now 11.97 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). This reflects a decrease in the wholesale energy rate from the previous 12.60 cents per kWh. The energy charge is billed based on your actual energy consumption in kWhs.
- To better represent the true fixed costs the cooperative needs to recover, the “**Facility Charge**” will increase from \$35.00 to \$52.00. This cost includes the material and labor needed to maintain lines and poles, improve substations and infrastructure, rights-of-

way clearing, as well as other fixed costs incurred by the cooperative. These are fixed costs and occur whether or not any kWhs are used.

- The “**Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment**” (PCA) is a variable cost. This is an adjustment that can go up or down depending on the cost of power each month from our power supplier.

“The board studied and discussed different options before deciding on this action. This plan protects the cooperative’s investment in its facilities

and keeps the members’ rates stable with a modest overall increase in the members’ bills,” said cooperative chief operating officer Josh Shallenberger.

If you have questions about these changes or want to learn more about billing options such as budget billing, SmartHub or UPay, please contact the cooperative at 1-800-677-2612. You can also visit www.shelbyelectric.coop to learn more about energy efficiency measures and find energy saving tips.

Your Power – Your Plan – Your Choice

UPay - a Prepaid Electric Service from Your Cooperative

Real power solutions to fit your way of life.

Have you ever wished you could take control of your energy consumption? Now you can with UPay, a prepaid energy solution from Shelby Electric Cooperative.

UPay works best for members wanting to take control of their electric use and monitor consumption. Research has found using the prepaid method of buying electricity can actually save you money by reducing your consumption.

UPay allows you to:

- **Control your energy use and budget**
- **Pay for energy as you use it**
- **Purchase electricity on your schedule**
- **Monitor and reduce energy use**
- **Pay as you go, no monthly bills**
- **Have greater flexibility with seasonal homes**
- **Pay and manage a family member’s bill**
- **Control your budget if you are on a fixed income**
- **Control and manage electric consumption on rental property**
- **Enjoy savings with reduced consumption**



Optional In-Home Display

UPay prepay from Shelby Electric Cooperative gives members the control to monitor their electric consumption on a regular basis which allows the member to notice patterns in their day-to-day use. The beauty of the UPay program is that it fits YOUR budget. You can buy enough electricity to last until payday or you can buy enough to last several months. The choice is yours!

Contact Shelby Electric Cooperative to learn more about this prepaid option by calling 1-800-677-2612.

The SEC phone payment and e-bill options for checking or savings accounts will not be made available to members who have had NSF or returned funds with SEC within the past 12 months.

Cooperative to award three academic scholarships

Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) will once again be awarding three academic scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. Scholarships are awarded to a son or daughter of a current SEC member who is receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted.*

In 2013 the winners were Mallory Jefson of Shelbyville, Taylor Damery of Blue Mound and Jared Beeson of Oconee. "We are pleased to be able to provide these students with an opportunity to be awarded a scholarship as a way to give back to the communities we serve," said Heidi Hall, who coordinates this program for the cooperative.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the United States are eligible to participate in the program. Scholarships may be used for educational costs at any two-year or four-year accredited col-



2013 scholarship winners were pictured from left are **Mallory Jefson** of Shelbyville, **Taylor Damery** of Blue Mound and **Jared Beeson** of Oconee.



lege or university, including vocational/technical schools.

Candidates are chosen based on academic and community accomplishments, character and financial need as demonstrated in the application and essay. March 14th is the deadline for receipt of completed applications for 2014. Scholarship winners will be notified in June.

Applications can be obtained by visiting SEC's website www.shelbyelectric.coop and clicking on the "Our Community"

menu tab or by calling Heidi Hall, Member Services Representative. The telephone numbers for the cooperative are 217-774-3986 and 1-800-677-2612. Applications are also available from area high school guidance counselors.

** Sons/daughters of Shelby Electric Cooperative employees and Board members are not eligible to apply.*

SHELBY News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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www.shelbyelectric.coop
twitter.com/YourCoop
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Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

 **Shelby Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fighting winter chills? A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill. To cool energy costs, keep the fireplace damper closed when not in use. Caulk around the fireplace hearth. Double up on wood-earned warmth by lowering the thermostat setting to between 50 degrees and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at www.energysaver.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Shelby Energy Company and Shelby Electric Cooperative team up

The cooperative's LP gas subsidiary, Shelby Energy Company, has been selling Generac whole house generators since June 2006. As part of a plan to help reduce energy use during peak alerts from the cooperative's generation and transmission cooperative, Prairie Power Inc., Shelby Electric Cooperative created an interruptible rate for its residential consumers. If a member purchases a whole house generator and opts for the residential interruptible rate plan, the member will receive a discounted energy charge of approximately 8% (percent can vary slightly) each month for allowing the cooperative to interrupt power during any peak alert from May 1st to October 31st. The cooperative interrupted power during these peak alerts a total of 28 hours in 2013.

The cooperative and Shelby Energy teamed up to offer the following incentives in 2013. A member who purchases a generator from Shelby Energy Company and goes on the cooperative's interruptible plan will receive a \$200 bill credit, \$100 off the cost of the generator, \$100 off the cost of installation



if installed by a Shelby Energy technician and free annual maintenance which is a \$110 value. These incentives are in addition to the discounted energy charge. Members who own a generator or purchased one somewhere else are also eligible for the discounted energy charge and the free annual maintenance if they agree to sign up for the residential interruptible rate plan.

For more information
call Shelby Energy
today at
217-774-2311.

Market Place Free Online Classifieds

Go to www.shelbyelectric.coop to locate a feature called MarketPlace. The MarketPlace icon is in the lower right hand part of the Cooperative's home page.

This is a free classified ad service for your use. There is a place to list items for sale, wanted and free, as well as a place to list rentals and services.

If you do not have Internet access but want to list an item, send your items to MarketPlace, P.O. Box 560, Shelbyville, Illinois 62565 and we will list your item for you. If you have questions or need assistance, contact the cooperative at 1-800-677-2612.

Your item(s) will be posted for 45 days.

