

Your energy provider yesterday, today and tomorrow.

# NEWSLETTER

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

July 2013

## No Anticipated Rate Increase for 2013

Finally some good news... At the May Board meeting the Board reviewed the year to date financials. Good year to date sales coupled with just a small wholesale increase should allow us to get by for 2013 without a rate increase. This is great news as we have had annual increases over the past years.

Another event that has helped is our power supplier, Dairyland Power, was awarded a settlement from the Federal Government for the Government's failure to have a permanent depository for spent nuclear fuel. Dairyland gave one-half of the settlement back in a check as a wholesale rate credit. The remaining half will be given over the next couple years as a credit on our wholesale power bill.

A slow start for our summer construction season...

As of this writing, we continue to get our daily shower. This is really slowing down completing the underground work we planned to do this year. We do have the underground contractor onsite, but they are mostly just pushing mud. We have a couple jobs in the ground now, but we are way behind where we need to be to get the seven miles of underground cable we wanted to install this summer. Fortunately new service requests have been slow this year as most of them would be installed underground and put us even further behind. We will continue to push forward with our projects and maybe, just maybe, one of these days it will quit raining!

-Todd Howard, President & CEO

## Med-A-Lert... In Case of an Emergency Personal Independence with Peace of Mind

Living alone can be an uneasy situation, especially for elderly individuals or those with medical difficulties. Med-A-Lert Service provided by Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative allows individuals the satisfaction of independent living and the peace of mind that comes with knowing there is always someone to help.

We have been providing Med-A-Lert Service to individuals since 1992, with installations in the home, senior care facility, or apartment. Med-A-Lert is a 24 hour, 365 days/year monitoring service. With the touch of a button, the individual is connected with our Response Center. At the Response Center a live person will receive the call and dispatch according to individual account preferences. If medical help is needed, the family contacts and



Med-A-Lert

Only \$25\* / mo.

plus nominal one-time installation fee of \$35

\*3 month minimum basic service



proper authorities, if necessary, are notified.

Chippewa Valley Electric staff provides in-home installation and will demonstrate the use of the unit at the installation appointment. To hook up the unit the individual will need a landline phone jack with service. The wireless button that is worn is waterproof and is recommended to be worn at all times.

The cost for installation is \$35 plus sales tax with the monthly lease and monitoring charge at \$23.70 plus tax. We pride ourselves in being able to provide a quality, local service. **Our service is available to anyone who needs it; individuals do not need to be members of the co-op.**

Please contact Nicole or Russ at 715-239-6800 or toll-free 1-800-300-6800.

# Conserve While Maintaining Home Comfort

## Pair up with cycled air conditioning and a tight home thermal envelope

**B**ecause summer is the peak energy demand season for our region, we are vitally interested in any changes that will help us take an electric timeout weekdays between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. for this summer's Together We Save campaign. Perhaps you could use some innovative, cost effective ideas to make your home more energy efficient. Adopting these strategies can help you lower energy bills no matter the time of the year or budget and price range. Some tips are free or low cost and can be used daily to reduce or shift your energy use, while others require a larger investment. Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative invites you to try one or more of these tips for improving your home's energy efficiency and to contribute to our shared goal of helping the cooperative avoid expensive peak demand rates this summer.

Are you familiar with the phrase "tighten your home's thermal envelope"? This can include activities like:

- closing shades against the heat of summer sun
- sealing air leaks around your foundation, doors, windows and outlets

- ensuring that your home is adequately insulated
- replacing older windows with a more efficient type

To multiply the positive impact of your newly updated thermal envelope, consider the savings possibilities and ease of cycled air conditioning. Central air conditioning has a special control strategy that cycles only the compressor, rather than shutting down the entire system for extended periods. When we need to control central air conditioning systems, the compressor is cycled in 15-minute increments during the control period. The blower is not interrupted, as there is generally enough residual cold in the ductwork for the control to go unnoticed. Chippewa Valley Electric offers a credit of \$6 for the months of June, July, and August to members who participate in this program. If you would like to participate in our Central Air Conditioning Load Management Program please contact our office for a sign-up form, or you may download the form from our webpage at [www.cvecoop.com/forms/ACagreement.pdf](http://www.cvecoop.com/forms/ACagreement.pdf)

With your home's thermal

envelope as tight as possible, the total temperature may rise a few degrees during the day, but will stay comfortable at a higher temperature because you are keeping the humidity out with cycled air conditioning. Your family will remain comfortable at temperatures from 72 to 74 degrees because of the lower humidity, plus, this method is easier on your air conditioning system. Note that your air conditioning system will cycle even less when it is sized properly for the size of space it is cooling.

Another idea to consider is to automate the home comfort process by installing and setting a programmable thermostat. You could save an estimated 10 percent per year on heating and cooling costs by using a programmable thermostat, and by resetting your thermostat when you are asleep or away from home, you won't have to sacrifice comfort.

Remember to shift your flexible electricity use outside of the costly peak hours of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays for the summer. As our motto states, "Together We Save"; we're all in this peak summer energy reduction initiative together for the benefit of our shared electric cooperative and our members. The energy experts at your co-op are ready to support you with ideas that you can implement at your home. Please call Chippewa Valley Electric at 715-239-6800 with any questions or visit our website ([www.cvecoop.com](http://www.cvecoop.com)).

**Source:** U.S. Dept. of Energy: [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov)

## TAKE AN ELECTRIC TIMEOUT 11 am - 7 pm



Electricity costs more during the summer, especially 11 am to 7 pm weekdays. Powering down together helps keep electric rates affordable for everyone.

- ➔ Delay the dishwasher.
- ➔ Turn up the thermostat.
- ➔ Shift the start of laundry.

It's so simple! Power down 11 am to 7 pm weekdays.

### TOGETHER **WE** SAVE

## Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 575  
Cornell, Wisconsin 54732  
(715) 239-6800 or 1-800-300-6800  
[www.cvecoop.com](http://www.cvecoop.com)

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 