

Green isn't Just for St. Patrick's Day

You can do more than wear green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year. You can "go" green—all through your home.

The best way to start is simply to waste less. Here are four ways to do that:

Save energy. Use the energy you need—wisely, so you don't waste any. It's simple to conserve energy at home. Some examples: Turn off lights and electronics when they're not in use; lower the heat at night during the winter or raise it during the summer. Replace old, incandescent light bulbs with high-efficiency LEDs.

Conserve water. A few conservation strategies: Take shorter showers. Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when they are full. Invest in water-efficient toilets and low-flow faucets and showerheads. Fix leaks immediately.

Recycle electronics. When you replace your computer, printer or other electronics, don't throw the old ones in the trash; they'll wind up in a landfill. Instead, donate or recycle them. Manufacturers and retailers often have recycling programs, and some charities accept used electronics. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that recycling 1 million laptops saves enough energy to power 3,500 U.S. homes for a year.

Shop locally. Like your electric cooperative, many nearby markets and shops are locally owned and operated. Local merchants often rely on local farmers, craftspeople and labor to supply them with what they sell to you. That means their goods require

less long-distance transportation, which has a positive impact on the environment. A tip: You already buy your electricity from a cooperative;

look for a local food cooperative, credit union and other kinds of cooperatives to do business with.

Spring is in the Air

It seems like it was just Christmas, but spring is right around the corner. As the weather warms up and the days get longer, it's a good time for a few chores that could save energy—and money—throughout the spring and summer.

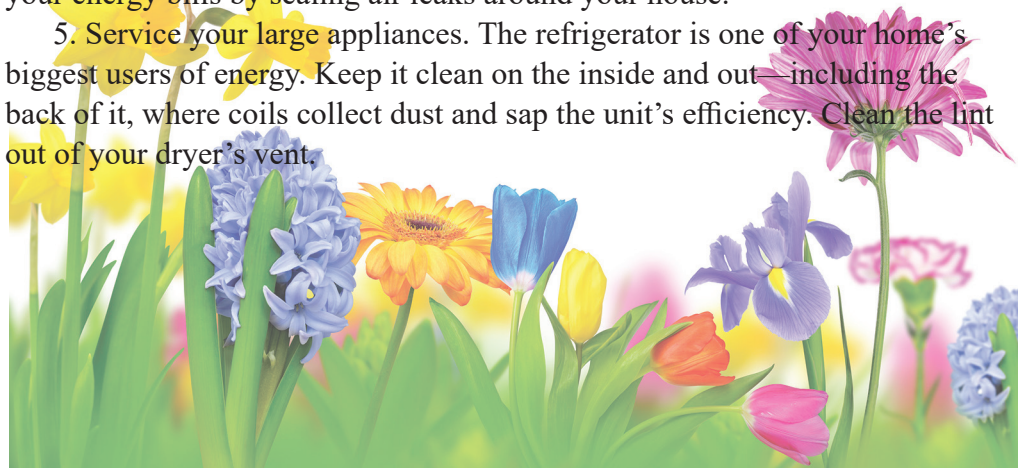
1. Tune-up your air conditioner. Air-conditioning weather is still a couple of months away, but if you put off having your equipment serviced until it's hot outside, you run the risk of an a/c breakdown on a sweltering summer day. A qualified HVAC tech can replace your central air conditioning system's filters, make sure it has enough refrigerant and clean its evaporator coils. A pro also can spot problems-in-the-making and recommend repairs so they don't put your unit out of commission.

2. Open the windows. Natural ventilation costs nothing. On warm spring days, invite spring breezes and sunshine in. It's a great way to air out the house as you begin your annual spring cleaning.

3. Turn off the heat. And delay your use of the air conditioner. Unless March and April are especially warm this year, enjoy the open windows for as long as you can.

4. Seal cracks in the drywall on the indoor side of your exterior walls. You'll find them around electrical outlets, cable lines, windows and doors. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save up to 30 percent on your energy bills by sealing air leaks around your house.

5. Service your large appliances. The refrigerator is one of your home's biggest users of energy. Keep it clean on the inside and out—including the back of it, where coils collect dust and sap the unit's efficiency. Clean the lint out of your dryer's vent.



CANADIAN VALLEY ELECTRALITE

P.O. Box 751 Seminole, OK 74818

Serving Hughes, Lincoln, McIntosh, Okfuskee, Pottawatomie,
Seminole & portions of Oklahoma, Cleveland & Creek counties

Main Office and Headquarters

Interstate 40 at the Prague/Seminole Exit

Area Office

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8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

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In Case of Trouble

1. Check for blown fuse or tripped circuit breakers.
2. Check with your neighbors. Ask if their electricity is off and if they have reported it.
3. If not, call the office or download the Smarthub app to report the trouble.

	<u>Read</u>	<u>Billing date</u>	
Cycle 1	26th-31st	5th	1-1/2% penalty
Cycle 2	6th-11th	15th	applied 20 days
Cycle 3	16th-21st	25th	after billing date

Operating Statistics for December

	2016	2017
Operating Revenues	\$5,382,552	\$5,506,021
Wholesale Cost of Power	\$3,766,850	\$3,833,195
Percentage WPC is of Revenue	69.98	69.62
Consumers per Mile of Line	4.67	4.73
Revenue per Mile of Line	\$1,024.66	\$1,048.97
KW Peak Demand - This month	162,617	166,043
Billing kW demand	103,288	102,701
KW Peak Demand - YTD	162,617	166,043
KWh Purchased - This month	68,658,994	71,866,088
Taxes Paid	\$94,190	\$92,359
Interest on Long Term Debt	\$176,308	\$158,697
System Load Factor	56.7	58.2

New Services Staked in January

During the month of January, 35 new services were staked. The total new services staked in 2018 is 35. This compares to 25 for the same period in 2017.

Solar Panel Safety Precautions for Emergency Responders

Emergency responders are facing unexpected challenges as the use of residential PV (solar energy) systems increases. Rooftop solar panels can present significant hazards for emergency responders if a fire occurs.

Basic safety precautions should be taken into account by all firefighters and other emergency personnel when responding to a fire at a home with a PV system:

- Note the time of day. Fires that occur during the daytime present greater danger because the PV system is generating electricity.
- Inform the IC (incident commander) that a PV system is present.
- Note that securing the main electrical does not necessarily shut down solar modules. If a battery system is present, the home may still be energized even if the main electric service is disconnected.
- Carefully cover all solar modules with 100 percent light-blocking materials to stop electrical generation.
- Never break, remove or walk on solar panels. Treat all wiring and components as energized.



Source: The Fire Protection Research Foundation

*These are basic solar panel safety tips for emergency responders. Emergency personnel should contact the local electric utility for more information.



OPERATION ROUND-UP

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BEGINNING BALANCE 12/31/17	\$241,664.70
DEPOSITS	8,441.90
INTEREST INCOME	20.62
CHECKS ISSUED	-3,711.68
APPROVED, NOT YET PAID	-6,948.99
BALANCE 1/31/18	\$239,466.55

CVEC Foundation administers and disburses funds collected through CVEC's Operation Round-Up Program.

Tips to Prevent Wildfires

Human Error, Coupled with Extreme Drought, Contributes to Wildfires

In 2016, more than 65,000 wildfires burned 5.4 million acres of land in the United States according to the National Centers for Environmental Information. The worst part? Many of these wildfires could have been prevented.

While some wildfires are caused by lightning, approximately 90 percent are caused by human error. Many times, wildfires occur when campfires

are left unattended, debris is burned improperly or cigarettes are carelessly discarded.

A wildfire can grow rapidly out of control when the three following conditions are present: oxygen, fuel and a heat source. The fuel can be any materials that are flammable near the wildfire, and the heat source can be a variety of things, like campfires, cigarettes or even warm winds. When these three conditions are met, a violent wildfire can ensue.

By taking a few extra precautions, campers and outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the sights of nature without causing a wildfire. Here are a few tips from National Geographic to help prevent wildfires (Editorial Note: If you run the Wildfire Prevention Tips graphic, please delete the following bullets/copy and point readers to the graphic instead.):

- Never leave a fire unattended, and make sure you completely extinguish the fire when you're done. Drench the fire with water and stir the ashes until cold.

- Play it safe when using fueled lanterns, heaters and stoves. Lighting and heating devices should be cool before refueling. Keep flammable liquids and fuel away from appliances.

- Never discard cigarettes, matches and smoking materials from moving vehicles, or anywhere on park grounds. Completely extinguish cigarettes before disposing of them.

- When burning yard waste, follow local ordinances. Avoid burning in windy conditions, and keep a shovel, water and fire retardant nearby to keep fires in check.

If conditions are right and you find yourself in the path of a wildfire, evacuate immediately. Listen to local emergency notifications for the most up-to-date information. Better yet, make a wildfire plan for you and your family before a fire occurs.

Visit <https://www.ready.gov/wildfires> for more information about wildfire safety and prevention.

Give Blood, Save Lives During National Red Cross Month

Are you ready to save three lives? You can do that any time you donate blood. Join your community as we celebrate the American Red Cross in March.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt began the tradition in 1943, proclaiming March the month to recognize the work of the American Red Cross. The group began during the Second World War as a blood donor service. The President called on the public to help by giving blood, volunteering time, or donating money. 1104022600 Seventy-one years later, every U.S. president has echoed the proclamation.

The Red Cross collects 6.3 million units of blood a year from roughly 3.7 million blood donors. The group provides 40 percent of the nation's blood supply. Donors—called everyday heroes by the American Red Cross—may save up to three lives with each donation.

Becoming a hero only takes about an hour from the time you arrive at the donation site until the time you leave. The donation process is also simple and relatively painless.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for an easy way to make your home cozier? Try using an area rug to increase the insulation levels of your floors. Area rugs are stylish and can keep cool air from entering through your floors. Your toes will thank you!



Electralite Classified Ads

Each CVEC member family is limited to ONE free classified ad per month. Length of the ad cannot exceed space provided below. Ads run only one time and must be resubmitted to appear in the next edition.

Return the completed form to P. O. Box 751, Seminole, OK 74818.

Forms may also be dropped off at either office location, or email your ad to editor@canadianvalley.org. Ads must be received by the 5th of each month; if received after the deadline they will be printed in the next issue.

All information below must be completed.

Name _____

Address _____

Account # _____

Phone # _____

Find Your Account Number and Win \$25

If you find your account number hidden in this issue of *The Electralite*, you could win \$25.

In order to win, the account number must be your own.

You need to report finding the number to us by the 15th of the month.

And you need to report finding it by phone, mail or in person.

Include Electrical Safety in Spring Cleaning

As you give your house a good cleaning this spring, don't overlook your appliances and electrical fixtures.

Here are 10 items you might not have thought to clean:

1. The stove's exhaust hood. A year's worth of home cooking—especially after the holidays, when your home has been full of company—can leave grime and grease build-up on the hood. That build-up, which also includes food particles and dust, can catch on fire. Remove the hood and clean the

filter and all surfaces.

2. The back of the refrigerator. When is the last time you pulled it away from the wall and vacuumed the coils? A rule of thumb: Do that every two or three months. Dust on the coils prevents the appliance from operating efficiently. Once they're clean, push the fridge back toward the wall, but don't let it touch. Air needs to circulate around those coils.

3. The dryer vent. The lint that collects in the dryer duct presents a fire hazard. Snake it out at least twice a year.

4. Ceiling fans. It's easy to overlook dirt and dust that you can't see. Drag a small ladder into the house so you can climb high enough to wipe down the tops of the blade. If your fan has a built-in light, remove the decorative cover and rinse out the dust and dead bugs. Let it dry completely before replacing it.

5. Baseboard heaters. If they get dirty enough, they can prevent the heat from operating efficiently and an even leave black stains on the nearby walls. To clean them, shut the power off to the heater first.

AUTOMOBILES & BIKES

1988 GMC Sierra pickup, auto, air, 125K miles, \$1,500, Harrah, 405-454-0510.

1980 Honda CM 400T motorcycle, 6K original miles, good condition, \$850; Honda 70 Mini trail, not running, \$325, 580-925-3978.

2001 Suburban, \$4,995, 606-9113.

FARM & RANCH

John Deere tractor, 65 hp, runs good, good tires, \$4,200; square bales Bermuda hay, fertilized, clean, \$5 ea., Seminole, 405-640-9531.

Hay rake, 10', gear driven, \$600, 405-454-0510.

Small square bales of clean, prairie hay, \$4 ea., 405-598-5860.

5'x6' net-wrapped Bluestem hay, good quality, no weeds, will load, \$35/bale, 405-613-4726.

Beefmaster bulls, Circle F and Lasater breeding, 405-374-2591.

Registered Hereford bulls, muscular, gentle, top genetics, low birth weights, out of highly productive cows, 12- to 16-months old, \$1,800-\$2,200, 405-598-1920 or 210-8794.

HOME & LAND

1995 Homestar mobile home, 28'x56', 3 BDR, 2 BA, CH/A, as is, to be moved, \$18,000, 405-831-4509.

3/4 acre lots north of Shawnee for custom homes, North Rock Creek Schools, paved roads, no HOA fees, Hazel Del Road and Kickapoo, 405-590-6776.

16' trailer, various tires, new and used, 60-gal. compressor, \$595; trash trailer, cage, ex panel metal, \$1,950, 606-9113.

MISCELLANEOUS

Two lots in Rest Heaven Cemetery, \$1,800 ea.; pine trees, Evergreen, all sizes, you pick and dig, \$8 ea., 405-878-6697.

Gas cook stove, \$150, dishwasher, \$75, GE washer and dryer, \$200, 405-275-3419.

Refrigerator, freezer, washer and dryer, cook stove, dishwasher, freezer, 9.5 hp boat motor w/tank, 16' tandem-axle, all steel utility trailer, 405-273-7874.

Dark wood table, 5'x3'3" w/20" leaf, 3 chairs sold separately \$5 ea.; clean, plastic and metal barrels, \$10, Harrah, 405-454-0510.

Range Motel rooms by day, month, or week, eating places close, 405-990-9933.

Two 7-month-old Border Collie

pups, black and lots of white, \$150 ea.; paint mare, \$500; 5-year-old donkey and 8-month-old jack, 405-301-0945.

Refrigerator, \$50, 405-273-0817.

Round solid cherry wood table, 48", 2 leaves, \$350, 405-279-3627.

Gas cook stove, \$100; front-loading washer and dryer, \$300; regular top-loading washer and dryer, \$200, 405-275-3419.

Mitsubishi 55" projection TV, \$100, 405-566-8328.

Registered mini-horses - 4-year-old 30" stallion, \$200, 8-year-old gray dappled mare, \$250, 918-290-1506.

INDACO sheet iron - used off 16'x76" mobile home w/10'x30" add on and 8'x60" deck, maroon, good condition, 405-380-8961.

Reese 20K 5th wheel hitch, \$300 OBO, 405-567-9531.

CNG compressor, \$4,100, service available within 100+ miles of OKC, 405-740-0193.

Chest-type freezer, 8 c.f., \$75; complete bedroom suite, mid-century modern, \$500; formal dining room set, includes china hutch, \$1,000 OBO, 405-200-5974.

Compost, cow manure, or garden-ready soil, \$50 small

pickup load, will load your vehicle, off 3600 and south of 99A, 405-683-9128.

2008 Coachman 30' motorhome w/3 slides, dual roof AC, 4kW generator, full body paint, Ford V-10, 22K miles, excellent condition, \$41,500, 405-382-1444.

Lake Eufaula - 2003 5th wheel, comes w/carriage, deck, awning, 2 lots at Terra Starr Park, \$25,000, 405-971-4143.

Four bentwood chairs by Jacob and Josef Kohn, \$500; 16"x1" rock carbide bit by DeWalt, \$20; 15" crescent wrench, \$20, 405-659-5047.

125 Country, Pop, Classical and Religious 33&1/3 records, 50¢ each if buyer takes all of them, 405-642-5136.