

Lynches River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 308
1104 West McGregor St.
Pageland, SC 29728
Phone (843) 672-6111
or 1-800-922-3486
www.lynchesriver.com

Automated Outage System
675-LREC (5732)
or
1-866-675-LREC (5732)

More CFLs on the way!

Electric co-ops around S.C. will send residential members more energy- and money-saving CFLs beginning in March as the Do the Light Switch campaign continues.

Each of Lynches River Electric Cooperative's residential members will receive a single 20-watt CFL, which creates roughly the same amount of light as a 75-watt standard incandescent bulb. Last year, during the first phase of the Do the Light Switch initiative, co-op members received a kit containing two CFLs — a 20-watt CFL to



replace a 75-watt incandescent and a 23-watt CFL to replace a standard 100-watt bulb.

In addition to saving energy and money, CFLs last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. South Carolina's electric cooperatives' plan to distribute seven million compact fluorescent lights to residential members over the next several years.

Learn more about CFLs at DoTheLightSwitch.com.

Information for members of Lynches River Electric Cooperative

Finally, some good news

In the September 2008 issue of Living in South Carolina Magazine, we told you about planned increases to the Wholesale Power Cost Adjuster (WPCA) to cover the rising cost of the fuels used to generate the electricity we distribute to members. We also warned you to expect a significant increase in your electric bills in January 2009 due to even higher coal prices.

Good news. Though fuel costs continue to rise, the increase is not as steep as originally projected; therefore, we did not increase the WPCA in January.

Be heard on Capitol Hill

The "Our Energy, Our Future" grassroots awareness campaign has been going strong for one year, and hundreds of thousands of electric cooperative consumers have sent more than 1.5 million messages to their elected officials. These messages have brought the consumer voice to Capitol Hill, urging lawmakers to develop and support sound, thoughtful policy that will secure an affordable energy future for our nation; however, our work is not done.

Elected officials need to hear a constant drumbeat about how energy costs are affecting you. If you have not done so already, please visit www.ourenergy.coop. Through "Our Energy, Our Future," you can make your opinions heard via e-mail, a letter, or even video.

This is where the voice of the people comes in, and where you, as an electric co-op consumer, can make a difference. By contacting your representatives today and engaging them on the importance of developing economically sustainable energy solutions, you can greatly influence the national energy debate.

While most parts of our economy are



Robert G. Wannamaker
Interim CEO

subject to some bureaucratic influence, whether through safety regulations or anti-trust laws, the government has a say in virtually every aspect of the electric utility industry — from the type of fuel used in power plants right down to the way your house is wired. Unfortunately, if the interests of consumers aren't factored in these decisions, disaster awaits.

And, with a new year comes a new administration to Washington, D.C., and a Congress flush with new members. These new faces must also be made aware of the challenges consumers could face if they pursue the wrong energy policy.

Share your story

In 2009, the campaign will offer you the opportunity to share personal stories and struggles related to paying your electric bills, helping drive home the importance of affordability in any legislative proposal. In addition, we're adding a fourth question, asking you to contact your congressional representatives and ask that they work with local electric cooperatives to understand and solve our nation's energy challenges.

To learn more about how you can record and send a personal message to Congress, please visit www.ourenergy.coop. After one year, this campaign is off to a strong start in a time of energy uncertainty — your voice is needed now more than ever.

Robert G. Wannamaker

WIRE chapter to meet in March

Lynches River Electric Cooperative's chapter of Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE) will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, in the training room at the cooperative office.





Controlling vegetation curbs outages

The adage, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” can be applied to most any situation. In this article, we’ll use it to explain why vegetation management, also called right-of-way maintenance, is so important to Lynch River Electric Cooperative.

Our integrated vegetation management program is in place to stop problems before they begin. You can help us make sure the program works effectively. Let us know when you see power lines running through trees or a tree branch touching a power line. Either situation is dangerous and may cause a power outage. Another way you can help is by understanding why we must control the growth of vegetation around power lines and poles in our rights of way.

It’s not that we don’t like trees. We do, but

not in our rights of way. Without vegetation management, trees and underbrush would grow into power lines. Storms may cause tree branches to break and fall taking down power lines and possibly power poles. Work crews called out to restore power could take longer to reach the damaged lines due to over-grown vegetation in the right of way.

Lynch River Electric Cooperative knows “an ounce of prevention” — routine side-trimming and herbicidal spraying of vegetation — “is worth a pound of cure” — more complicated power restoration efforts after falling trees or limbs cause outages. Vegetation management just makes good sense.

We always put the comfort and safety of our members first in everything we do. Right-of-way maintenance controls vegetation, keeps

lines clear and curbs power outages ensuring reliable electric service for our members.

2009 Vegetation Management Schedule

Side trimming

Town of Heath Springs
Pleasant Hill Community
Primus Community
Flat Creek Area
Taxahaw Community
Buford Community
Antioch Community

Herbicide spraying

Camden Area
Liberty Hill Community
Beaver Creek
White Plains Area
Wolf Pond Community



Youth Tour application deadline Feb. 20

Tour dates June 13–18

Get an application

- Request an application by phone at 672-6111 or 1-800-922-3486
- Download an application from our Web site at lynchesriver.com
- Pick up an application at the co-op office
- Ask your high school guidance counselor

Eligibility requirements

- Must be a high school junior whose home or family business is served by Lynch River Electric Cooperative

For information

- Leigh Smith, Youth Tour coordinator, 672-6111 or 1-800-922-3486, ext. 213
- To find out more about the Washington Youth Tour, go to youthtour.coop



Getting charged

Why does your hair stand up when touching a charged Van de Graaff generator, as Breanna Faile, 11, demonstrates? It’s one of the questions Annette Lesher, a 6th-grade teacher at North Central Middle School, can help her students answer with the “Get Charged!” kits donated recently by Lynch River Electric Cooperative. Created by the Discovery Channel School, “Get Charged!” is a curriculum package about electricity on a topic required by the National Science Education Standard. Each “Get Charged!” kit includes a video, “Understanding Electricity,” an interactive CD-ROM, plus student activity books and a classroom poster, seen on the board behind Breanna. Lynch River Electric and other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have distributed more than 6,500 of the kits nationwide. Kits also include a video, “Our Story,” about how co-ops have improved the quality of life in communities nationwide. A lesson plan, “Get Power — The Cooperative Way,” reinforces this message for North Central students, many of whom are from families served by Lynch River Electric Cooperative. Shown with Lesher and Breanna are Ryan Hunter, 11, holding a “Get Charged!” kit, Madeline Pate, 11, Karim Gaskins, 11, and J.C. Mangum, 12.