

Appreciating Electricity a Penny at a Time

I'm old enough to remember when penny candy actually cost a penny. For a nickel, you could buy enough candy to rot your teeth out, as my mother used to say.

But what does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny for a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 cents to produce one.

About the only thing of value you can still get for a penny is electricity. You might call it "penny electricity."

No, I'm not kidding. Think about it.

To make the math easier, let's say the average rate for a kilowatt-hour of electricity is 10 cents. That is 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for a dime, so a penny of electricity equates to 100 watts. It's enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb—the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb—for 11 hours, all for only a penny.

Where else can you get that kind of value?

How many eggs will a penny buy? How much milk, bread, coffee, medicine or gasoline?

Gas has come down from its stratospheric levels of several years ago, but there is still no comparison to the value of electricity. For example, if a gallon of gas costs \$2.50 and your car gets 25 miles to the gallon, you can drive 176 yards—about two blocks—on a penny's worth of gas.

I will take 11 hours of lighting for a penny over a two-block drive any day.

The value is just as evident when powering things other than lighting. Take, for instance, your smartphone. Using the same 10 cents per kWh price, penny electricity allows you to fully charge your iPhone more than 18 times for a penny. You can charge it once every day of the year for about 20 cents total.

Not impressed? Well, how about these other examples of what you can do with just a penny's worth of electricity: power a 1,000-watt microwave on high for 6 minutes; run a 200-watt desktop computer

for 30 minutes; watch 2.5 hours of your favorite shows on a 40-watt, 32-inch, LED television or 1.3 hours on a 75-watt, 75-inch mega TV.

The examples are endless.

We are fortunate electricity is such an excellent value because we have a huge appetite for it. We tend to forget that.

Electricity is not expensive. It's that we use it for so many different things: lighting, heating, cooking, cooling, refrigeration, cleaning, washing, pumping, entertainment, communications—even transportation these days.

Few corners of our lives are left untouched by electricity.

Unfortunately, we don't always ap-

preciate it. When our monthly electric bill comes, we open it and may complain about the cost. It's a knee-jerk reaction ingrained in us as consumers. We don't stop to think about the value we received for the money.

A penny in 1940 had as much buying power as 17 cents today, which means the residential price of electricity—which now averages 12 cents a kWh nationally and less than 10 cents in the Pacific Northwest—is actually a better deal today than it was in 1940.

So to my way of thinking, the value of electricity is like the bygone days of penny candy, and it's OK to indulge yourself a little. But, unlike penny candy, penny electricity won't rot your teeth out.



CVEC offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 22 and Monday, Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday, and Monday, Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday. Service personnel will be on duty throughout the holidays should you suffer an interruption in your electric service.

**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!**

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

35 W. JC Watts Street, Eufaula

Office Hours

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 September

	2016	2017
Operating Revenues	\$4,807,217	\$4,775,913
Wholesale Cost of Power	\$3,409,892	\$3,077,436
Percentage WPC is of Revenue	70.93	64.44
Consumers per Mile of Line	4.67	4.73
Revenue per Mile of Line	\$915.83	\$909.70
KW Peak Demand - This month	139,591	139,732
Billing kW demand	103,288	102,701
KW Peak Demand - YTD	154,489	161,211
KWh Purchased - This month	57,067,938	54,996,735
Taxes Paid	\$104,250	\$99,137
Interest on Long Term Debt	\$172,205	\$194,344
System Load Factor	56.8	54.7

New Services Staked in October

During the month of October, 36 new services were staked. The total new services staked in 2017 is 327. This compares to 293 for the same period in 2016.

Electrical Safety Activity

The holiday season is a festive time of year! Remember to keep electrical and fire safety in mind as you decorate your home.

Can you find the four hazards in the home below? Use the safety tips for clues.



Electrical Safety Tips:

- Do not overload electrical outlets with too many decorations or appliances.
- Never leave a candle burning if you're not in the room.
- Make sure your tree is watered daily.
- Extension cords used for holiday decorations should be checked for fraying/damaged or exposed wires.



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OPERATION ROUND-UP

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BEGINNING BALANCE 9/30/17.....	\$237,102.87
DEPOSITS	8,302.04
INTEREST INCOME	20.01
CHECKS ISSUED	-2,936.47
APPROVED, NOT YET PAID	-12,117.00
BALANCE 10/31/17.....	\$230,371.45

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

Have a Happy, but Safe, Holiday

Even the happiest of times can turn to tragedy if everyone's not careful. This winter, practice some common-sense electrical safety. You could prevent accidents, fires and injuries—and save the season for everyone who gathers in your home for the holidays. Here are 10 electrical safety tips:

Buy lights designed for outdoor use. The lights you use to safely decorate your indoor tree are not safe to use outside, where it's cold, damp, windy and exposed. Luckily, it's easy to find lights that are designed specifically for the outdoors.

Choose a fire-resistant tree. On an artificial tree, look for label that guarantees it is "fire retardant" so it will resist burning and will be easy to snuff out if it does catch on fire. If you're a fan of live holiday trees, choose one that is fresh and water it every day.

Keep your tree away from heat. Not only will the heat dry out a live tree's needles, it can catch a real or artificial tree on fire. Keep trees and other combustible decorations at least three feet away from a heat source, like a radiator or portable electric heater.

Be picky about hooks. Never staple, screw, nail or tack your outdoor lights to your roof, gutter, railings or doors, as you could cut right through the wires on the light strands. Instead, buy insulated hooks. You'll greatly reduce the risk of a fire, and they won't damage your roof.

Examine the lights. Whether you just bought a new set or you're reusing last year's indoor or outdoor lights, inspect them to make sure they all light up and their wires aren't damaged.

Insist on "certified." The UL label on Christmas lights, replacement bulbs and decorations means the products have passed tests that prove they are fire- and shock-resistant.

Use extension cords sparingly. Extension cords extend the reach of your

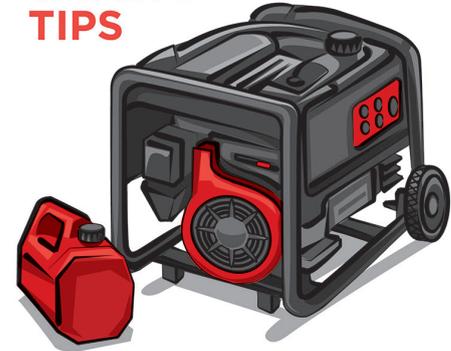
light strands. But if you hide them under rug, they'll get trampled on—and can overheat and catch that rug on fire.

Follow instructions. Manufacturers of incandescent holiday lights usually recommend that you string no more than three sets together before plugging them in. More than that creates a fire hazard. If you're using energy-efficient LEDs, however, you can safely link up to 25 strands.

Use battery-operated candles. Almost half of decoration-related fires are started by candles with real flames, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Install smoke alarms. A beeping smoke alarm could be your first clue that you need to get everyone out of the house. Change your alarm's batteries before your home fills with company.

GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

Portable Generator:

Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is deadly.

Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first before connecting appliances.

Source: SafeElectricity.org

Snowman Sugar Cookie Pie

- 1 pouch (17.5 oz) Betty Crocker™ sugar cookie mix
- Butter and egg called for on cookie mix pouch for drop cookies
- 1/4 cup green, red and white candy sprinkles
- 1 cup Betty Crocker™ Rich & Creamy vanilla frosting (from 1-lb container)
- 1/3 cup blue M&M's™ milk chocolate candies (from 11.4-oz bag)
- 1 lg. marshmallow
- 1 Tbsp. white candy sprinkles
- 2 lg. black gumdrops
- 1 lg. orange gumdrop
- 10 brown M&M's™ milk chocolate candies

Heat oven to 325°. Spray bottom only of 9-inch pie plate with cooking spray.

In large bowl, mix cookie mix, softened butter and egg with spoon until soft dough forms. Stir in 1/4 cup green, red and white candy sprinkles. Press dough in bottom of pie plate.

Bake 33 to 38 minutes or until center is set and edges are golden brown. If needed, cover edges of cookie with foil to keep from overbrowning. Cool completely, about 1 1/2 hours.

Spread frosting over top and to edges of cookie pie. For hat, press blue candies across top third of frosted cookie. Slightly flatten marshmallow; place at top of circle for pom-pom. Sprinkle remaining frosted cookie with 1 tablespoon white candy sprinkles. Place 2 black gumdrops for eyes. Press 1 orange gumdrop to form pointed nose; place in center of cookie. Place brown candies in half circle under nose for smile. To serve, cut into wedges.



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 # _____

AUTOMOBILES & BIKES

1971 Cadillac El Dorado, 2-door coupe, white with red interior, one owner, \$7,500, 405-971-4143.

1977 Mercury 2-door, hardtop, very good original condition inside and out, never been smoked in, does well at car shows, 81K miles, 405-275-5673.

Suburban SUV, \$5,900; 2-ton truck, 405-606-9113.

Ford super duty F250 dies, HD front bumper & bed, 48xs, ball, hydraulic hay spikes, new mud tires & shocks, 65p.od, 4 WD, heat & air compl., new batt (2). 7.3 D., fold-up rear seat, \$8,000, 918-759-1111.

2002 Dodge Ram extended cab, V8, runs good, well maintained, 158K miles, \$2,500, 405-863-3419 after 3 p.m.

1995 Dodge pickup, \$3,000, 405-567-2635.

2002 Honda Civic DX, 5-speed, gets about 35 mpg, tires fair, needs some work but runs okay, 206K miles, good school car, 405-615-2616.

HOME & LAND

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.

FARM & RANCH

250-gal propane tank, \$250, Wanette area, 405-397-8721.

Heavy duty 2 blades turning plow for tractor, 405-598-2625.

8-month-old Barbados sheep, \$60 each, Harrah, 405-818-6911.

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

1996 model 650G John Deere dozer, 970 hrs., 99 hp, power shift transmission, weighs 18,000 lbs., \$27,500, 405-333-2513.

1,600# Bar Six cuber, good condition, Shawnee, 997-3311.

Bermuda-Johnson grass hay, 4x5.5 round bales, will load, \$35, call/text 405-550-5417.

Miniature horses, bred mares, stallions, yearlings, weanlings, great for Christmas presents, at least 15 to choose from, 405-382-3504, 405-584-2530.

4x5 round bales, net-wrapped, #1 quality hay, \$35/bale, can load, I-40 & Hwy. 99 area, Seminole, call or text, 405-382-5045.

38' Discovery MH, two slides, diesel, low mileage, recent update, trade considered, 405-374-1240.

Enclosed 16' trash trailer, \$1,950; lawn mower trailer, \$695; other trailers, various tires, 60-gal. compressor, 405-606-9113.

17' utility trailer, 5' wide, solid iron, no wood, needs some work, \$875 OBO, possibly trade, 405-328-1310.

5' box blade, \$300; old Rockwell table saw, \$60; 5' x 8' trailer, \$750; cherry picker, \$150, 405-567-2635.

MISCELLANEOUS

Large dark wood hutch, \$500;

white front door with frame and storm door, \$75; extension ladders, \$50, 405-712-2621.

Gopher machine by Catlin Manufacturing, 3-pt., excellent condition, \$500, 405-454-0510.

2003 29' Dutchman Classic, 2 slides, special black water clean out, installed trailer hitch on back, canvas 6 months old, tires 1-yr.-old, air condition, 3-yrs., tall porcelain toilet, 6-months-old, special extra-long mattress, 1-yr.-old, \$9,000, Prague, 405-606-5035.

Custom smoker trailer, great condition, \$1,650, 405-444-0900.

Hatler Sawmill & Construction LLC, rough cut lumber, firewood, custom projects, bring your log and we will mill it, 405-397-6618.

Electric wheelchair lift fits 2-3" receiving hitch, automatically folds up when empty, extends 12" behind bumper, lifts 350 lbs. A-1 condition, \$800, 405-598-6739, 405-287-8076.

We turn your unwatned trees into lumber; unlevel house, use our oak shims to level it; firewood by the bundle or rick; round hay bales, 405-397-6618.

Two or four lots in Resthaven Cemetery, \$1,900 each, 405-964-7008.

Stogner 12-gauge coach gun,

\$400; pull-behind mower sprayer, \$275, both like new, 405-964-4141.

Story & Clark upright piano, beautiful oak wood w/matching bench, used very little, like new, \$1,000 OBO, 405-382-1444.

Electric hospital bed, \$50, 405-598-1202, 405-788-1173.

4'x5' round bales, net-wrapped, horse quality hay, \$35/bale, can load, I-40 & Hwy. 99 area, Seminole, 405-382-5045.

Bermuda grass hay - 4'x5.5' round bales, \$35/bale, will load, call or text 405-550-5417.

Cedar tree clearing, \$85; hay hauling, \$4; brush mowing, \$40; driveway leveling, general tractor or skid steer work, 405-642-9356.

WANTED

Used 10' two-horse inline trailer, good tires, floor ___ condition, 405-881-4115.

21-24" TV, cable connection, 405-808-8755.

2,500# 3C cattle feed dispenser, 405-997-3311.

Would the person who ran the ad in the September issue selling a paddle boat please call again, as I lost the number, 405-664-6092.

Warm Up to Electric Bedding

Want to turn the thermostat down overnight to save a few bucks—but you don't want to be chilly? Try wrapping yourself up in an electric blanket.

Depending on how toasty you want to be overnight, you can turn your thermostat down and let an electric blanket keep you warm. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save up to 3 percent on your heating bill for every degree you set your thermostat back during the winter.

So setting it back just 3 or 4 degrees for eight or more hours a day could add up to substantial savings.

Blankets aren't the only bed warmers on the market, however. Heated mattress pads are popular because they don't bunch up like blankets or fall off of the bed during the night.

Whichever product appeals to you, buy one with: **Overheat protection.** When electric blankets bunch up during the night, the heat at the center of the ball has no way to escape. Overheat protection automatically switches the blanket off.

Low voltage. A blanket with 18 volts in both the controller and blanket eliminates the chance of electrical shock in case the heater's wires become exposed or get wet. UL calls this low voltage "non-hazardous," according to the Electric Blanket Institute.

Automatic shutoff. Choose a model with a 10-hour shutoff feature. That's insurance against forgetfulness.

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 1107313101 15th of the month.

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