



# POWERLINES

## *Looking Out for You:* KEC Holding Community Meetings

Kootenai Electric Cooperative (KEC) will be hosting a series of community meetings for KEC members in late August and early September. **Please join us and enter to win one of four \$50 KEC energy credits at each meeting!**

The meetings are designed to provide updates from KEC management on topics including rates and the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment, fish and wildlife costs, carbon regulations, Fighting Creek Landfill Gas Project, new member service programs, energy efficiency rebates and more. Members will also have the opportunity to meet KEC management and board members and ask questions. Meeting dates and locations are below:

### **Tuesday, August 30, 2011 at 6 p.m.**

Lake City Community Church  
6000 N. Ramsey Rd., Coeur d'Alene

### **Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at 6 p.m.**

Athol Community Center  
30355 North 3rd St., Athol


### **Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 6 p.m.**

Plummer Community Center  
520 C. St., Plummer

Heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided. Visit [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com) or call 208.765.1200 for details.



## Find Us on Facebook

Become a fan by clicking  Like at [www.facebook.com/KootenaiElectric](http://www.facebook.com/KootenaiElectric).

We'll provide you updates on new programs and services, member discount offers, energy efficiency tips and rebates, power outages and more.

## More Member Choices— Now Offering eBill!



## MEMBER'S CHOICE

KEC is pleased to offer its members eBill, a new paperless bill option! eBill is just one of many choices a KEC member has as part of KEC's Member's Choice program. The addition of eBill provides KEC members the convenience of receiving bill notifications electronically. Electronic notifications make a positive impact on the environment by minimizing the use of paper, printing and the need for energy to deliver hard copy bills. Members can double the positive environmental impact by also paying bills online at [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com) or by making payments via phone at 877.999.3371. Both options are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. [1271332]

KEC's Member's Choice program is a suite of billing and payment options designed to allow members the ability to choose programs and options which best suit a member's individual needs.

"We are committed to providing our members as many options as possible while keeping our prices as low as possible," said Chris Kastella, Member Services Manager. "As a not-for-profit organization, KEC has a different business model than most organizations. We are owned by those we serve and this paperless option becomes a win-win with members. They save money while helping KEC minimize costs for the entire membership."

For more information regarding KEC's new paperless billing option, or to sign up, members should log-in to their account at [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com) or contact KEC at 208.765.1200 or email us at [kec@kec.com](mailto:kec@kec.com).

## General Manager's Message: The Co-op Way Keeps Rising Rates in Check



Many Americans do business with a cooperative every day. They exist in almost every industry from energy to news reporting to healthcare. Electric co-ops are a huge part of the economy in the United States and serve more than 42 million consumers.

While cooperatives may resemble most companies in some ways, they are very different in others. One of the

most important differences is that co-ops are not driven by profit. For-profit companies aim to return a profit to their shareholders. After all, these shareholders have invested their money in the business.

At KEC, our mission, on the other hand, is meeting its members' needs for goods or services. Electric co-ops are part of this tradition of doing business, one that dates back to 1752 when Ben Franklin started the first cooperative in Philadelphia.

While operating on a not-for-profit basis allows us to keep our cost of service very low, those costs rise when the price of doing business goes up. We work every day to achieve operating efficiencies as we face these cost increases. To help our members conserve we provide rebates for purchasing energy efficient equipment such as water heaters and heat pumps. Members who qualify may also have their ducts sealed at no cost.

The largest component of our cost of doing business is the wholesale power we purchase on your behalf. The majority of this power is purchased from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). This low-cost electric power is produced by the federally-owned hydro facilities operating in the Pacific Northwest. However, these facilities have limited capacity and that capacity has recently been reached at peak times. They are also facing increasing costs and for that reason BPA plans to increase wholesale power rates in October 2011. These increased costs are passed through to members through the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) of our rates. See details in the box to the right.

### What are we doing to address these challenges?

We continue to look for additional sources of power and that's why we are in the process of building the Fighting Creek Landfill Gas Project. This facility will produce renewable power for our members at competitive rates for

the next 20 years and will allow the county to sell methane gas that would otherwise be destroyed. We're looking out for our members' best interest so our future power supply is affordable. [1759937]

At a time when Americans' electric bills are going up around the country—the co-op way of doing business is an important way to keep costs manageable. We are not profit-driven and we don't have to impress Wall Street every quarter. Rather, we are service-driven and operate at cost. You can bank on the cooperative difference and the fact that *We're Looking Out for You.*



**Doug Elliott**  
KEC General Manager

## Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment Effective with October Bills

Our power supplier, BPA, plans to increase wholesale power rates effective October 1, 2011. Although we will not hear from BPA until early August on the final rate increase, KEC anticipates the cost of our wholesale power to increase 8-9 percent. This means KEC members will see an increase of approximately 3.5 percent. The average monthly residential member bill would increase by approximately \$2.50. This increase will be passed through to members as a Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) on their October 2011 power bill (the WPCA is currently zero). Look for more information in next month's newsletter.

The WPCA is included on KEC member bills and is only used to pass through the increased cost of purchasing power. It is not used to pay for any other cost of doing business and we are doing all that we can to keep costs down to avoid raising rates further.

Know that if we find it necessary to pass along power supply increases, you can trust that the decision was based on keeping the business financially strong on behalf of all members.



**CHECK US OUT AT THE FAIR!**  
**AUGUST 24-28, 2011**



Visit the KEC booth at the North Idaho Fair to learn more about our Member's Choice program and enter to win one of three \$200 KEC energy credits. The winner will be announced in the October newsletter. Also, pick up a KEC refrigerator magnet and other information.

\*One entry per household, must visit the booth to enter. No purchase necessary and may not be exchanged for cash. The winner will be contacted after the drawing and must agree to participate in future advertising of the contest.



## Save Using Your Co-op Connections® Card!

Don't forget to use your KEC Co-op Connections® Card. This card is free and gives KEC members discounts at area businesses and

helps promote local businesses. Be sure to look at all the discounts by visiting [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com). You may also use the new Android, iPhone or iPad app to view card discounts! A Blackberry app is also being developed. If you don't have internet access, call us at 208.292.3270 and we'll send you a listing of all discounts.

Business	Location/Phone	Discount
Lett's Car Wash and Auto Center	1114 N. 3rd St. Coeur d'Alene 208.666.0836	\$1 off any carwash. 10% off any repair work.
Line-X of Coeur d'Alene	6680 N Government Way Dalton Gardens 208.762.4547 <a href="http://www.linex.com">www.linex.com</a>	10% off any product or service.
Makaio Photography	509.210.9660 <a href="http://www.makaiophotoworks.com">www.makaiophotoworks.com</a>	10% off any wedding photography package. 15% off any family or senior portrait package. 15% off reprints and enlargements.
Melody Alpaca Boutique	208.773.2080 <a href="http://www.melodyalpaca.us">www.melodyalpaca.us</a>	10% discount off all products.
Miracle-Ear Center	9751 Government Way Hayden [1813241] 208.772.0964 <a href="http://www.miracle-ear.com">www.miracle-ear.com</a>	Save up to 50% off retail prices depending on purchase. Additional discount if paid in full. Free batteries, depending on what technology is ordered. Miracle-Ear sold only at Miracle-Ear centers.

## Heat Pump Rebates Changing

The following heat pump rebates are changing effective October 1, 2011: All heat pumps must meet higher efficiency standards to be eligible for rebates: 9.0 HSPF (previously 8.5 HSPF). Heat pump rebates will change to:

- \* \$800 (PTCS + no duct sealing required)
- \* \$1,300 (PTCS + duct sealing required)
- \* \$2,800 (geothermal heat pump)

KEC also offers members a variety of rebates on energy efficient appliances. All appliances must meet energy factor guidelines. Contact us at [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com) or call 208.292.3213 for more information.

## City of Rathdrum Franchise Fee

KEC members in the City of Rathdrum will be assessed a 1% franchise fee by the City of Rathdrum. This is effective with July 2011 usage.

## Win a \$50 Energy Credit

Four KEC account numbers are hidden in this newsletter. If one of these numbers is yours, contact us at 208.765.1200 and receive a \$50 credit on your bill!

## Board of Directors Meeting

Members are welcome to attend KEC's monthly Board of Directors meetings. Meeting dates vary each month. Call Terry Brown at 208.292.3211 to learn more.

## Golf Classic Raises Funds For Scholarships

KEC's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic raised \$9,443 for the Kootenai Electric Trust's Scholarship Program. The event took place on July 15 at Twin Lakes Village Golf Course. Thank you to all the players for making the event successful! The Kootenai Electric Trust Board and KEC members made the event possible with their hard work. A special thank you to all our volunteers including Mel Pasta, Dennis Wilson, Donald Wilson, Catherine Tinder, Carole Swick and Meredith Bryant. [1799513]

### Thank You to Major Sponsors

Border Sheet Metal, CFC, Cline's Air Conditioning Service, General Pacific, Gentle Dental Care, Idaho Forest Group, Texas Roadhouse, Valley Empire Collection and DeCoria, Maichel and Teague.

### Thank You to Hole Sponsors, Raffle Prize and In-Kind Donors

Albertsons, Avondale Golf Club, A Quality Dental Lab, Advanced Benefit, Allegra Print & Imaging, Andrews, Apex Communications, Batteries Plus, Blue Plate Café, Bonita, Broadway Splicing, Buck Knives, Camp Fire USA, Car Wash Plaza, Centennial Distributing, Coeur d'Alene Casino, Kroc Center, David Londeree, Ductz, Express Employment Professionals, Fulcrum Investments, H&H Express, Holehan Electric, Jerry Short Cabinets, Kent Setty, Kootenai Title, Lake City Playhouse, Lake Coeur d'Alene Cruises, Lakeshore Décor, Mert Barth, Mountaineers, NISC, Northland Nursery, Northwest Public Power Association, Pepsi, Phones Plus, Polar Ice, Ponderosa Springs Golf Course, Prairie Falls Golf Club, Sargent's Restaurant, Service Master, Silverwood, Spokane Symphony, Squeaky's Car Wash, Stoneridge Golf Club, Super 1 Foods, Survey & Ballot Systems, The Big Picture, Thorco, Tomato Street, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communications, Twin Lakes Mini Storage, Twin Lakes Village Golf Course and Vanhoff's.

## DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE DUCT SEALING?

The heating season will be here before we know it and to prepare KEC may pay to have your ducts sealed. Sealing the leaks can reduce heating bills by up to 10%. Eligible homes must have electric heat and the ducts must be located in an unconditioned space such as a crawlspace or attic. A pre-test is performed to determine the duct leakage, and if necessary, duct sealing measures are performed. The ducts are then re-tested to ensure we've met duct sealing specifications.

KEC is working with three certified contractors to complete duct sealing for our members. If you qualify KEC pays the contractor directly—you have no cost. For more information call Chris Aiken at 208.292.3213 or contact one of these contractors to see if you qualify:

- \* Ductz - 208.664.6704
- \* Inland Energy Management - 208.818.2505
- \* Northwest Energy Conservation - 208.819.6278

## Electrical Safety Vacation Checklist

Summer vacations are hard to pull off these days, so it's important that trip-takers have peace of mind while away. Fires can start when lightning storms strike electronics or small appliances; burglaries tend to increase because folks aren't at home. The electrical safety checklist below will help you decrease the risk of problems occurring while on vacation:

1. Turn off all electrical appliances, including toaster ovens, stoves and curling irons.
2. Unplug television sets and computers—these items are especially susceptible to lightning and power surges.
3. Use a timer on indoor lights. Look for one that can be set to a random pattern rather than regular times throughout the day.
4. Install motion-detecting lights outdoors.
5. Set the thermostat to 80 degrees in the summer and 55 degrees in the winter if you plan to leave for an extended period of time.
6. Give your house key to a neighbor and make sure he or she has a phone number where you can be reached.



**Turn off and unplug power strips before you leave home for vacation.**