



POWERLINES

Fighting Creek Landfill Gas Project Construction Moving Forward

The construction of KEC's Fighting Creek Landfill Gas Project continues. In early August two 43,000-pound gas generators were delivered to the site. A crane moved them from the semi-trucks they were delivered on to their places inside the facility's building (see photo to the left). [1364803]

The generators have the capability of producing up to 3.2 megawatts of electrical power. That is equivalent to the annual electrical needs of more than 2,000 households served by KEC. The facility is expected to be up and running later this year.

This is KEC's first generation project and we continue to look for additional sources of power. This facility will produce renewable power for KEC members at competitive rates for the next 20 years and will allow Kootenai County to sell methane gas that would otherwise be destroyed. We're looking out for our members' best interests so our future power supply is affordable.

Photo by: Melissa Newcomer, KEC Business Development Rep



BPA Wholesale Power Rate Increase Effective October 1

Our primary power supplier, BPA, will be increasing the cost of wholesale power that they charge to utilities such as KEC. This increase will take effect on October 1, 2011 and marks a new era in our long-standing relationship with BPA. In the past, our power supply choices were limited to those offered by BPA or directly owned by KEC. To keep these wholesale power supply costs in check, BPA's customers requested the opportunity to purchase power from other sources as well. While power we purchase from the BPA-managed hydro facilities operating in the Federal Columbia River Power System remains among the least expensive and cleanest sources of power in existence today, the cost of maintaining them is unfortunately increasing. We will continue to purchase as much of this inexpensive power as we have access to and will use our new flexibility to access other markets to make up the difference.

What does this mean for our members? BPA has informed us that the average utility purchasing power from them will experience an increase in wholesale power supply costs of 8.4%. Because of the way that KEC manages its system, our

increase will be much less. The increase we will experience will be between 5.5% and 7.7%. Taking into consideration that the cost of wholesale power represents approximately 45 cents of every dollar we collect in the rates we charge our members, the average KEC member will see an increase of about 2.5% to 3.5%. This increase is passed through to members as a Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) shown on your monthly bills.

The WPCA is listed as a separate line item on the monthly statement and is only used to pass through any increased cost of purchasing power. The WPCA is currently zero. It is not used to pay for other costs of doing business and we are working hard to minimize costs which helps avoid raising rates.

While nobody likes rate increases, it is important to put such increases into context. Our rates remain below the average for utilities operating in the Pacific Northwest and within North Idaho. Nationally, they remain in the lowest 8%. Our new power supply contract will help us ensure this continues.

General Manager's Message: Light bulbs Getting an Overhaul in 2012



Did you know traditional incandescent light bulbs waste 90% of their energy by releasing heat? I'm reminded of this every time I try to replace one soon after it has burnt out!

Just as cars and refrigerators have become more efficient over time, light bulbs are now getting an overhaul.

In 2007 Congress passed the Energy Independence and Security Act, calling for incandescent bulbs to be at least 28% more efficient nationally by January 2012. It is calculated each household could save up to \$50 every year with this efficiency change, and those savings add up—Americans could save over \$6 billion annually!

Right now, you have several efficient light bulb options. If you don't want to stray too far from the bulbs you're used to, consider halogen incandescent light bulbs. They cut energy use by about 25% and last three times as long as traditional incandescent bulbs.

How are they different? A small capsule holds halogen gas around the filament. This minor addition boosts the bulb's lifespan and efficiency. But everything else—the shape, color range, and ability to dim—stays the same as the original bulbs created 130 years ago.

Another distinctive style of bulb we hope you're familiar with is the compact fluorescent lamps (or CFLs) we have been providing to members for the past several years. While I'm not always crazy about their appearance and illumination, their impact on my monthly electric bill more than overcomes these annoyances!

CFLs are the most common and cost-effective efficient bulb currently on the market. The trademark swirly style is linked to the concept of efficient lighting, but some manufacturers also encase CFLs to diffuse the light and provide the same look and feel as traditional bulbs. CFLs offer 75% energy savings over traditional incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer.

The last lighting option holds the most promise for efficiency in our lighting future. Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are commonly used in electronics. The bulbs are small—about half the size of a pencil eraser—but by

banding several bulbs together, a bright and dependable light emerges.

LEDs use 75-80% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last 25 times longer—by far the longest lifespan yet for light bulbs. They're expensive, but prices are anticipated to fall as the technology evolves.

Ready to start saving? New labels, appearing in January, will help you compare the lumens (light output) so you may buy a comparable efficient bulb. You can learn more at www.energysavers.gov/lighting. You can also stop by our office and check out our CFLs—we'll help you learn more and save you money.



Doug Elliott
KEC General Manager



The three most common energy-efficient lighting options are:

Halogen incandescent light bulbs

Energy Savings: 25%
Lifespan: Three times longer

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)

Energy Savings: 75%
Lifespan: 10 times longer

Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)

Energy Savings: 75-80%
Lifespan: 25 times longer [1634908]

Learn more at www.energysavers.gov/lighting.
Sources: LUMEN Coalition, U.S. Department of Energy



Use 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. Check out the discounts available for card holders by visiting www.kec.com.

You may also use the new Android, Blackberry, iPhone or iPad apps to view card discounts! Get these apps at www.connections.coop. Give us a call at 208.292.3270 and we'll send you a listing of all discounts or a new card if you need one.

Business	Location/Phone	Discount
Modern Glass	4904 W Industrial Ave. Coeur d'Alene, ID 208.765.1644 www.modern-glass.com	One free can of glass cleaner with a minimum \$10 purchase. Limit one per customer, one per visit.
Mountain Moulding & Millwork	14028 N. Ohio St. Rathdrum, ID 208.687.1200 www.braidedaccents.com	20% off retail cost. [1740665]
North Idaho Hypnotherapy	208.660.1616	\$20 off individual hypnotherapy session.
North Idaho Masonry & Hardscape Center	30 W. Orchard Ave. Hayden, ID 208.762.8480 www.nimasonry.com	5% off retail pricing. Options include: "cultured stone," natural stone, brick, block, pavers and retaining wall.
North West Recumbent Cycles	208.818.5491 www.nwrecumbentcycles.com	10% off on products and services. Not to be used with any other offers or promotions.
Northern Highlights Salon & Body Spa	8475 Government Way, Suite 201, Hayden, ID 208.762.3197	10% off any service. Manicure and pedicure \$50. Facial and massage \$90.

Join other KEC members who have saved more than \$45,000 on prescriptions since 2007!

Here's how it works: Show your card at a participating pharmacy (find these at www.kec.com). You will receive the best price available to you through this program at the pharmacy. On occasion, pharmacies will price a particular medication lower than the discount rate provided by the card. If that occurs, you will receive the lower price. [1748432]

This plan is not insurance; it is a pharmacy discount offer. The card provides immediate discounts at the pharmacy. Upon presenting your card to the pharmacist, you will pay the lower of a discounted price or the pharmacy's regular retail price. There are no forms to fill out and no limit to the number of times you can use the card. These discounts are available only at participating retail pharmacies.

More Payment Options Soon

Save time and gas money by paying your KEC bill at Money Gram area merchants. Watch for details soon.

Cooperative Member Survey

KEC is conducting a member satisfaction phone survey in late September and October. We hope to gain insight from the survey results on how satisfied our members are with KEC's performance and what we can do to improve for you. Please take the time to participate in this survey if you are contacted.

Power Quality Reminders

Please be sure to notify us if you are going to make a significant change to your electric needs. This includes purchasing a new heat pump or updating your electrical service. That allows us to make sure your new electric appliances and our electric service are compatible.

Sometimes, you'll see flickering lights or voltage fluctuations after additions or changes you made. In some cases we need to change out the service wire or upgrade the transformer. Give us a call at 208.765.1200 and tell us about your project.

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.

Kootenai Electric Trust Distributes Grants

The Kootenai Electric Trust Board granted their third quarter disbursement of 2011 Operation Round Up® funds. The Trust Board received 19 grant requests and awarded \$14,790 to 13 of the applicants. The following received funding:

- \$1,250 to Borah Elementary to help support their character education program.
- \$2,000 to the Community Action Partnership to sponsor individuals to attend the “Getting Ahead” Class.
- \$500 to the Community Garden of the Master to help build handicap accessible raised garden beds.
- \$800 to Fernan Elementary for penmanship and reading curriculum.
- \$500 to First Book of Kootenai County to help distribute books to children in low income families.
- \$1,200 to the Garwood Elementary PTO to support the “Love and Logic” class for school staff.
- \$2,000 to the Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho to help fund afterschool science programs.
- \$1,500 to ICARE for child abuse prevention services.
- \$1,000 to a KEC member to help cover gas costs to get to cancer treatment.
- \$1,500 to Mullan Trail Elementary for a technology curriculum focusing on computer skills.
- \$275 to River City Middle School for classroom supplies to reduce classroom paper waste.
- \$865 to Special Needs Recreation to purchase a new grill and kitchen supplies.
- \$1,400 to TLC Learning Center to upgrade their playground to be handicapped accessible.

Application Deadline

The next Operation Round Up® grant applications are due at the KEC office by Tuesday, November 1, 2011. Applications are available in the office or at www.kec.com. Members who choose not to contribute to Operation Round Up® or who would like to begin contributing may simply “opt-out” or “opt-in” on their bill or contact KEC by phone, letter or email.

Generator Safety Tips

For the safety of KEC employees and the public we track where back-up generators are installed on our system and request all members who have installed them to call KEC at 208.765.1200.

Generators can cause a serious safety problem if improperly installed and could cause injury to utility workers and the general public. All back-up generator installations must have a transfer switch installed in accordance with the requirements of the National Electric Code. Transfer switch installations must be inspected by the State Electrical Inspector. KEC members must provide KEC with a copy of the State Electrical Permit for the transfer switch installation and notify KEC of generator installation.



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Become a fan by clicking “like” at www.facebook.com/KootenaiElectric.

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE DUCT SEALING?

It's fall already and to prepare KEC may pay to have your ducts sealed. Sealing leaky ducts 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 duct sealing specifications are met.

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