



Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

INSIDE

Serving 14,400 Members

“Owned by those we serve”

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Roanoke EC keeping its commitment to you, the members, in 2008

On the behalf of Roanoke Electric’s staff and employees, we would like to wish you a Happy New Year!

“Keeping our Commitment to YOU” is our plan for this year. We will continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity, while enhancing the quality of life in the diverse communities we serve. We will continue to help you save money through energy efficiency, conservation and other cost cutting measures.

Providing you with the most inexpensive means of electricity is what we strive for on a daily basis. In doing so, we ensure we operate with the most effective technologies that will in return provide reliable electricity to your homes or businesses, deliver prompt and efficient member services, and an opportunity to manage your account online.

As an example of our technologies, when you call into our call center to inquire about your electric bill, our employees are able to better assist you by providing you an estimate of how much energy was used within a period of time.

2007 Accomplishments

The year 2007 was a successful year for the co-op. We

accomplished many things throughout the year and paid close attention to the following:

- ❑ Surviving a rate increase brought about by an increase in fuel charges;
- ❑ Completing many projects, such as the Randy Parton Theater in Roanoke Rapids and the Innsbrook Subdivision in Bertie County; and
- ❑ Securing land for a new facility. As you are aware, the co-op will upgrade to a more state-of-the-art facility in order to adequately serve its members.

What’s ahead for 2008

As we move forward in 2008, you can rest assured that topics such as energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy will be a major thrust for REC. Just recently state legislators embarked on a new way of generating energy for all investor-owned utilities.

Legislation implemented a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS), which requires that all investor owned utilities supply 12.5% of renewable energy by 2020, and electric cooperatives and municipal utilities supply 10% of renewable energy by 2017.

Our co-op will be looking at new ways to generate electricity other than traditional fuels. We will not stop purchasing electricity

that is generated by fuels, but we will simply target other means of generating electricity.

Rising prices of fuel contributes to most of the changes within our industry. I’m sure you feel the increase of fuel at the gas pumps. Filling your gas tank with \$15 is almost obsolete. In 2008, we will continue to work hard at keeping the cost of power at a minimum. Keeping the cost of power at a minimum keeps your electric bills lower.

From a co-op that cares so deeply for the well being of our members and our communities, it’s our plan to:

- ❑ Continue to provide affordable electricity;
- ❑ Increase member education, information and awareness of energy efficiency and energy conservation; and
- ❑ Offer our community a better economy through our subsidiaries and the businesses they bring to our communities.

As we look forward to the many opportunities that 2008 will bring about, we will continue to fulfill our obligations to you as we have done for many years. As we progress throughout the year, we will keep you abreast of our programs, activities and accomplishments.

Roanoke EC honors teachers with Bright Ideas

Roanoke Electric recently honored area teachers at a banquet at the City Hotel and Bistro in Greenville.

This year's special guest speaker was Richard Ruffalo, a former biology teacher for the City of Belleville, N.J. Richard Ruffalo lost his eyesight at the age of 32, but never lost his "vision." At the Walt Disney Company/ McDonald's American Teacher Awards, Ruffalo was named both the Outstanding Coach of the Year and the Outstanding Teacher of the Year for 1995. Vice President Al Gore presented the award to him on nationwide television.

At the Bright Ideas grant awards banquet, each Bright Ideas teacher received a 2007-2008 Bright Ideas Award plaque and grant check for innovative projects.



Pictured are the teachers who won Bright Ideas grants and Roanoke Electric staff.

The Bright Ideas Program, which is administered by cooperatives across the state of North Carolina, awards grants up to \$2,000 to innovative educators in any subject or grade at N.C.-certified K-12 schools. For more information, visit www.ncbrightideas.com

Keep the cold air outside this winter, and the warmth in

Don't let your hard-earned money blow away through drafty doors and windows, as well as un-insulated attics, walls, floors, and basements. Save your money and reduce your utility bills by following the energy efficiency tips below:

- ✓ Find air leaks inside and around the exterior of the home. Check around fixtures that penetrate walls, such as exhaust fans and electrical outlets. Look for unfilled gaps and cracks near dryer vents, chimneys and faucet pipes.
- ✓ Seal leaks between moving parts with weather stripping, such as between a door and its frame. Caulk cracks between windows and walls, as well as around door frames.
- ✓ Replace your screens with storm windows and doors. If you have older or leaky windows that you can't replace, consider doing temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.
- ✓ If you are shopping for new windows, doors, or skylights, look for ones with the Energy Star label.
- ✓ Make sure attics and flooring above unheated areas, such as crawl spaces and the garage, are properly insulated.
- ✓ Have your furnace checked by a professional to make sure it's operating safely and at its optimal level. In addition, change your furnace filters monthly.



- ✓ Have a programmable thermostat installed to automatically raise and lower home temperatures for energy savings by day and night.

How to estimate appliance, electronic energy use

If you're trying to decide whether to invest in a more energy-efficient appliance or you'd like to determine your electricity loads, you may want to estimate appliance energy consumption. You can use this formula to estimate an appliance's energy use:

Wattage × Hours used per day × Days used per year ÷ 1000 =
Kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumption per year

Example:

Personal computer (120 Watts) and monitor (150 Watts):

$(120 \text{ Watts} + 150 \text{ Watts}) \times 4 \text{ hours per day} \times 365 \text{ days per year} \div 1000 = 394 \text{ kWh/year}$

Then, calculate the annual cost to run an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by your local utility's rate per kWh consumed.

$394 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.104 \text{ (current national average)} = \40.98 per year

You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance, or on its nameplate. The wattage listed is the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Since many appliances have a range of settings (hairdryers),

the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time:

Wattage range for household appliances

Clothes washer = 350-500 Watts

Clothes dryer = 1800-5000 Watts

Dishwasher = 1200-2400 Watts (heat drying feature increases energy use)

Hair dryer = 1200-1875 Watts

Microwave oven = 750-1100 Watts

Personal computer

CPU - awake / asleep = 120 / 30 or less

Monitor - awake / asleep = 150 / 30 or less

Laptop = 50 Watts

Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet) = 725 Watts

Televisions

27" = 113 Watts

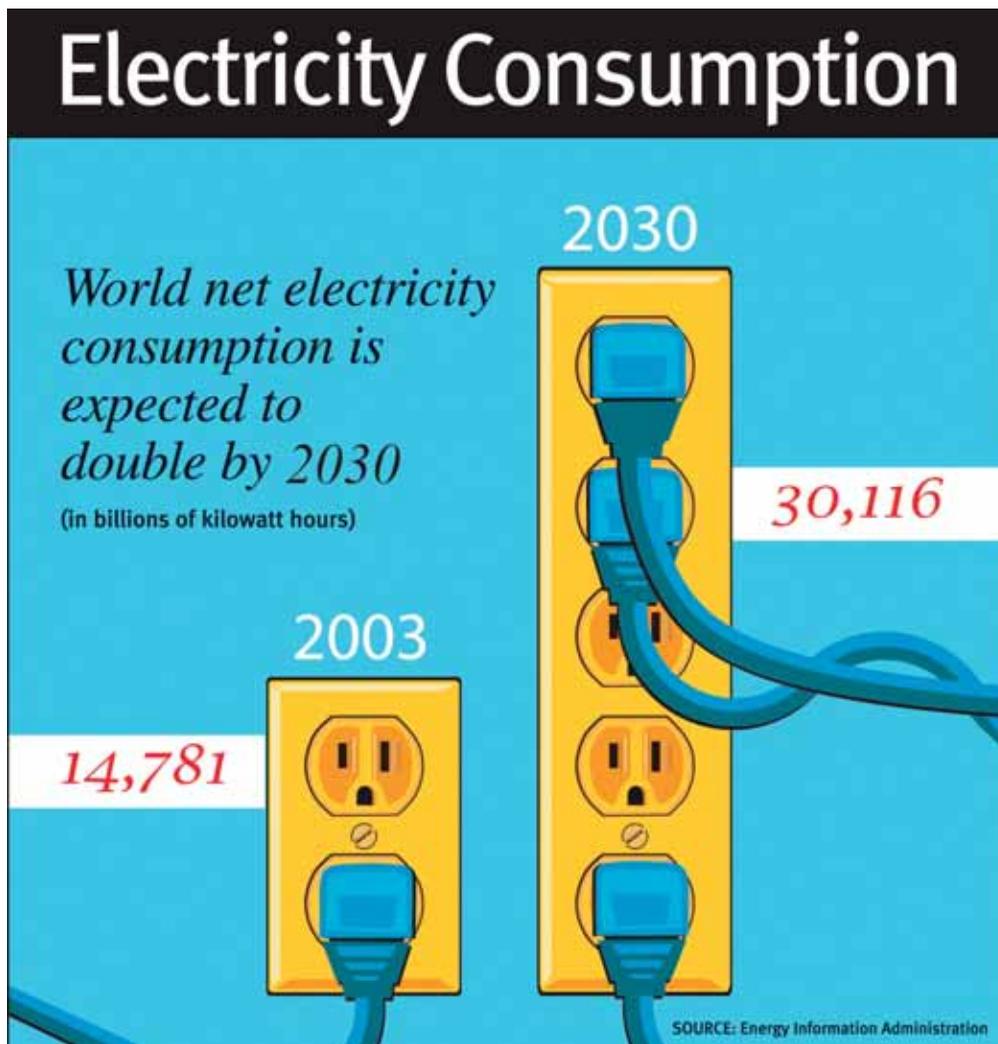
36" = 133 Watts

53"-61" Projection = 170 Watts

Flat screen = 120 Watts

Water heater (40 gallon) = 4500-5500 Watts

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.



January is National “Get Organized” Month

What is the best way to get organized? Experts in the organizing industry agree: there are no “cookie cutter” solutions, and each person must find the system that works best for him or her.

There are an ever-increasing number of products and services designed to help you get organized. First, determine the areas in which you want to improve. These might be filing, clutter control, time management, maximization of storage space or juggling projects and priorities. Then sift through the product and educational options and develop your solutions, even if you use trial and error.

Why be organized? Organized people save time and money, make more money, and have lower stress and frustration levels. There is no one right or wrong way to get organized, and you need to change only what you’re doing if you’re not happy with how you manage your time, paper, information, and space.

At work, you can help increase productivity, reduce stress, and depending on the type of business, heighten profitability.

Getting organized at home will help bring calm and control to home and family life. You’ll save money by organizing bills, shopping, and clothing and get more done in less time. Remember if you put the house in order, you’ll find what you need faster. Tips for your home:



When organizing, the pantry can be an easy place to start. At right, before and on top, after organizing.



- ✓ Take children with you when you go to donate unused items. This helps them learn to part with things.
- ✓ Look up to identify storage spaces in a room; bare walls and above the cabinets are often underutilized. Also, don’t forget behind the door.
- ✓ Evaluate whether you want to continue receiving magazines you’re not reading, or consider rotating subscriptions.
- ✓ Group items together according to how you use them. For instance, keep all ingredients needed for baking together.

High school juniors experience a week of government affairs

Every year approximately 1,500 high school students from more than 40 states gather in Washington, D.C., to visit the historical sites that they have studied. To date, more than 40,000 students from rural areas and

small towns all over America have participated in this unique program.

During the tour, students learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government. They attend educational seminars, visit with their representatives in the House and the



YOUTH TOUR

Senate, and see the sights around Washington, D.C.

Area high school juniors are encouraged to participate in this life-altering experience. Students are selected for this program by their local electric cooperative through the overall strength of the applicant. Students compete for the opportunity to participate by submitting an essay.

Last year, Roanoke Electric selected Jarrika Alston and Erica Bazemore to attend this weeklong tour.

If you want to join this Washington tradition, contact Juanisha Vaughan-Hart, Coordinator of Public Relations and Communications, at (252) 539-3028 or e-mail jvaughan-hart@roanokeelectric.com or contact your high school counselor for additional information. You can obtain an application from the REC Web site at www.roanokeelectric.com

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