

ELECTRICITY IS STILL A GREAT BARGAIN

Compared with other products, electricity remains a terrific buy.

Over the past 20 years, the overall cost of living has risen 65 percent. In other words, it now takes \$1.65 to purchase what \$1 would have bought in 1991. Some prices have skyrocketed since 1990. For instance, gasoline is up 225 percent. As compared to other necessities in life, the cost of electricity is still reasonable.

While the cost of electricity has only increased 47 percent in the last 20 years, people still find themselves paying more each month for electric power than they did years ago. Although electricity remains a terrific value when measured by the cost of a kilowatt-hour, it doesn't automatically keep your electric bills low.

Inflation, rising fuel costs and tightening Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations are causing much of the increase you've seen in recent years. In addition, bills have gone up due to rising consumption.

A typical Kentucky household now uses 1,150 kilowatt-hours of electricity each month, compared with 950 kilowatt-hours in 1990, a 21 percent jump. And that's only the average; many folks have increased their usage significantly more than 21 percent.

Because our state's electric prices rank among the lowest in the country, some residents have not carefully managed their energy consumption. Newer houses tend to be bigger, so there's more square footage to heat and cool. Also, some household products, especially televisions, have gotten much larger.

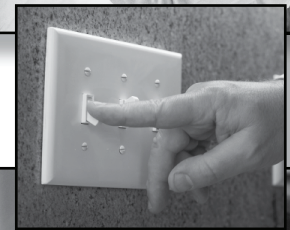
Appliances such as microwaves and air-conditioners are common in homes today. Computers, printers and an assortment of re-chargeable items including mobile phones barely existed 20 years ago.

It's important to remember there are many things you can do to increase energy efficiency and control rising electricity bills.

Call Nolin or check out our Web site at www.nolinrecc.com to see the many programs we offer members. Here are a few examples:

- **Energy Audit** – Nolin will conduct a home audit to determine how your heating and cooling system, appliances and other devices are consuming energy, and show you how to stop wasting electricity.

OVER



Mickey Miller
President & CEO

- **Button-Up** – We'll advise you on adding insulation, weather-stripping and caulking to reduce your usage and increase your comfort—and we'll even pay you rebates for doing so.
- **Budget billing** – We'll average out your monthly payments to make it easier for you to budget your electricity costs.
- **Simple Savings** – On our Web site, www.nolinrecc.com, we offer you numerous free information bulletins about simple energy-saving improvements you can make yourself.

TRY GIVING YOUR HOME A VACATION

Going on vacation? Even if you plan to be away just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here are a few tips that will help give your electricity bill a break when you take a break.

Water heater. Turn down the temperature, so it doesn't keep the water warm while you are away.

Thermostat. During hot weather, turn up the thermostat on your air conditioning system. That way, you'll save energy while ensuring that your home doesn't get too warm.

Refrigerator. Depending on food stored in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as high as 38 degrees without risking spoilage. Food in the freezer compartment will stay frozen if the temperature remains at minus 5 degrees.

Lights. Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security.

Electronics. Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices—computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave, and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features, or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use.

For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit www.nolinrecc.com OR www.energysavers.gov OR Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives energy-saving website, www.TogetherWeSave.com, or call Nolin RECC at 270-765-6153.

By working with Nolin RECC, you can significantly improve and control your energy costs.

Sincerely,



Michael L. "Mickey" Miller
President and CEO

