

RURAL MISSOURI

BCEC Ground Source

the official newsletter of Barton County Electric Cooperative

March 2017



CEO/GM NEWS

CEO/General Manager Russell McCorkle

Rate Change Coming in June

Since this past December I have been discussing rate structure options. Something we had not decided was the exact direction we would go with our structure. I have talked about adding a demand charge to our billing, I have also explained what the Service Availability Charge covers, what it is currently and what it should be based on our most recent cost of service study. As we look into the future rate structure will continue to be a hot topic of discussion.

At the January board of director's meeting, your board, with my recommendation decided to raise the service availability charge from the current \$25.00 to \$35.00 per meter, per month for residential and small commercial and the kWh charge from .112 cents per kWh to .1133 per kWh. This change will go into effect June 1, 2017. Our last Service Availability increase was in 2006 and the last kWh increase was in April 2014. Most members will not notice much of an increase in their bill for the kWh charge but will see the \$10.00 increase for your Service Availability. As a cooperative we are here solely to provide electricity to our members at the lowest possible costs while maintaining safe, reliable service. This means anytime we look at changing rates we take it very serious. As we look at our financial future with our bank we are required to meet their financial requirements. Our bank is always a vital part in our decision making when it comes to rates.

As we look into the future we still see the possibility of a demand charge being added to our rate structure. For now, collecting a little bit more from every member will help keep your cooperative strong while maintaining safe, reliable electric service. As always, please call or stop in to visit with any questions or concerns you may have.

SAFETY FIRST!

As warmer weather approaches, homeowners will start doing outdoor projects. If your work involves outdoor electric equipment, make sure your cords are heavy enough to handle the equipment and that they are plugged into GFCI-protected outlets.



What to do if a Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) breaks



You probably won't see any mercury because the amount is so small, but nevertheless take these precautions from the Environmental Protection Agency. Note there are no immediate health risks should a compact fluorescent bulb break.

- Open the windows, and leave the room for at least 15 minutes.
- For hard floors, wear disposable rubber gloves and use cardboard or stiff paper to scoop up the debris, rather than sweeping or vacuuming. Then clean the area with a damp paper towel.
- For rugs, use sticky tape to pick up any fragments and powder. Then vacuum the area if necessary.
- Place the debris and cleanup materials in a plastic bag and seal it. Put it into another plastic bag and seal it.
- If your trash hauler, city and county allow it, and no other disposal or recycling options exist, place the bag in the trash outside. Wash your hands. Note that Lowe's and Home Depot recycle CFLs.

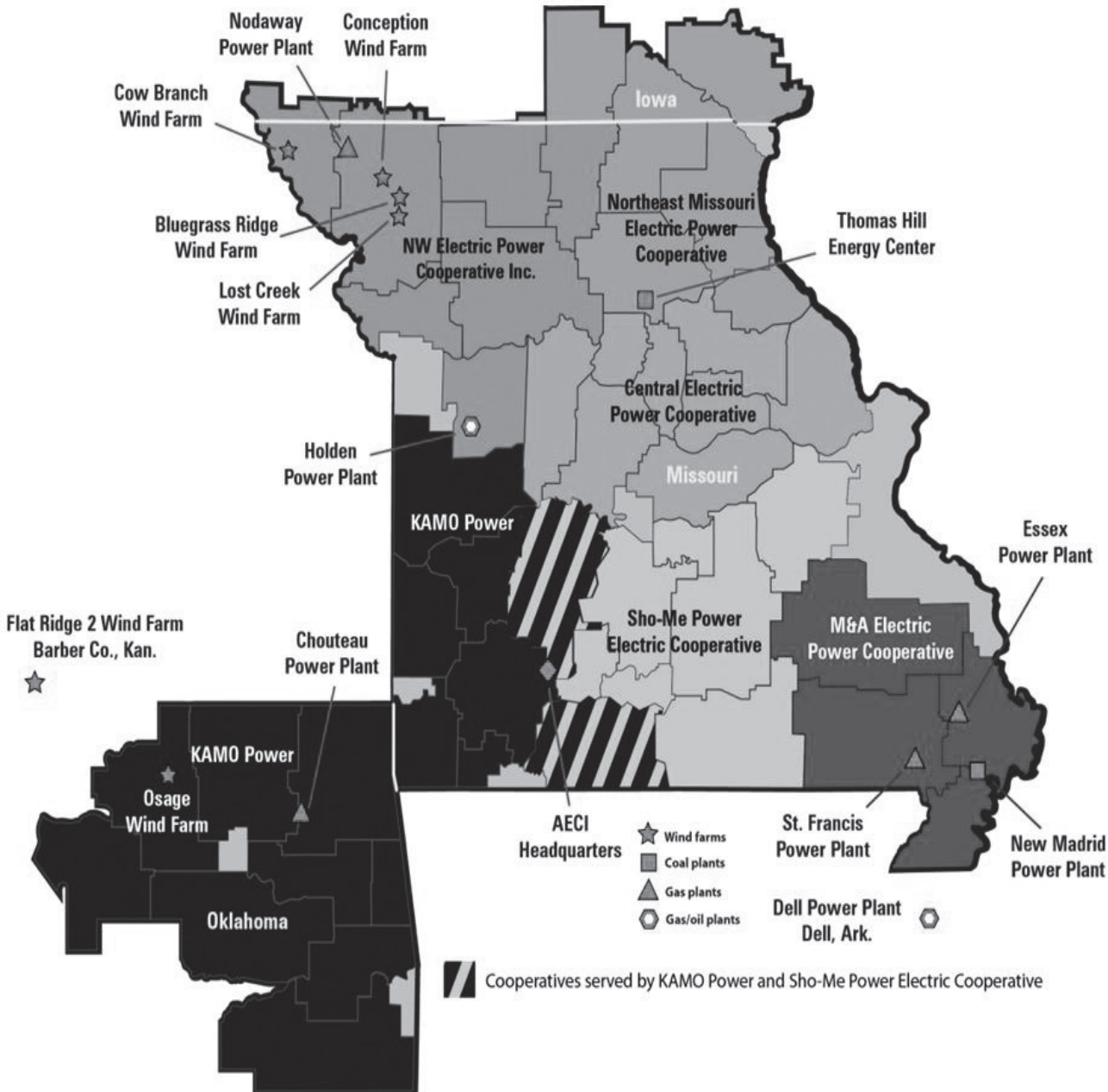
**People will forget what you said
People will forget what you did
But people will never forget
How you made them feel**

FIND YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER AND WIN \$25!

1. Find your account number hidden in this issue of *bcec Ground Source*
2. Call the cooperative or stop by our office: 417.682.5636 or 800.286.5636
3. If the account number is yours you will get a \$25.00 electric bill credit!
4. You must call to claim your prize during current issue

Barton County Electric is Part of the Bigger Whole

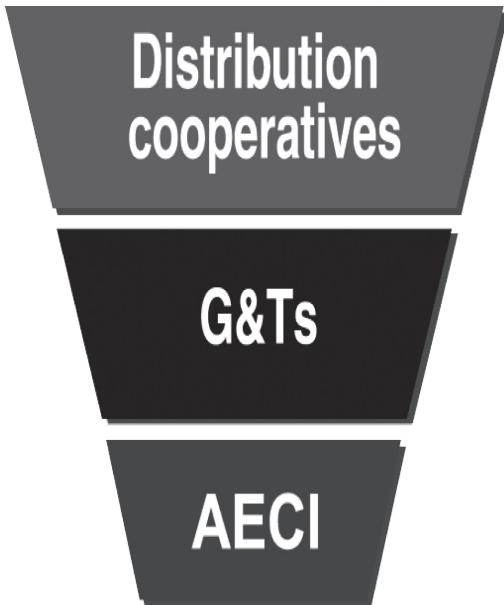
This map shows Associated Electric's service territory along with generation resources. As you see Barton County Electric is part of something much bigger which gives us strength as we continue to provide safe, reliable electric service today and into the future



- TO REPORT AN OUTAGE**
 Call 417.682.5636 or 800.286.5636
 24 hours a day
Before you call:
- Check breaker(s) in your home and below your meter
 - Check with your neighbors to verify they have power
 - To better serve you when you do call please have the following information ready:
 - Name on the account you are reporting
 - Your six-digit Bcec location number

- Bill Payment Options**
- 1. The Office**
 You are always welcome to stop by the office located 1 mile west of Lamar at 91 West 160 Highway
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - 2. Drive-up Drop Box**
 located at our office available 24 hours a day
 - 3. On-Line Bill Pay**
 available 24 hours a day at www.bartonelectric.com
 - 4. By Mailing To:**
 Barton County Electric Cooperative
 91 West Highway 160
 Lamar, MO 64759
 - 5. Auto Pay**
 from your checking or savings account or with your debit/credit card
 - 6. By Phone**
 Using your debit or credit card Monday thru Friday 8am to 5pm
 417-682-5636 / 800-286-5636
 - 7. Prepay**
 Call or stop by to learn more about how you can prepay for your electricity

- Your Directors**
- Kenny Owen, President
 - Jerry Thieman, Vice President
 - Tom Williams, Secretary/Treasurer
 - Barbara Barley
 - Karl Morey
 - Matt Schlichting
 - David Stump
 - Kevin Taffner
 - Max Walters
- Your CEO**
 Russell McCorkle



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

When is the last time you looked at your water heater? You can save money by setting its thermostat no higher than 120 degrees. If it's not well-insulated, buy a blanket kit and install it according to the instructions. Drain a small amount of water out each month to keep heating elements free from sediment.

smart hub

The way to manage your account

- Access your account details
- Receive mobile alerts
- Pay your bill from your phone or tablet
- Update account information and much more

