

Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

High Temps Impact Electric Bills

Hot temperatures, combined with high humidity in Southwest Wisconsin will cause electric bills to rise. Temperatures were in the 90s some days in July. When temperatures outside are high, air conditioning systems must work overtime to keep the air indoors cool.

July is typically the hottest month of the year, but August will most likely be hot, too. Follow these tips to reduce energy use where possible to save money.

Be air conditioner smart

A high percentage of the electricity used at home goes to condition the air inside. To impact cost, the air conditioning system needs to run less.

- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees.
- Don't turn off the air conditioner when you're gone; instead set it higher. Turning it off makes the system work much harder to overcome the heat built up in the house when you do turn it on.
- Use a programmable thermostat; set it to start bringing your home's temperature down to 78 degrees 30 minutes before you get home.
- Replace air conditioner filters, then inspect once a month. The dirtier the filter, the harder your air conditioning system must work.
- Your air conditioning system will operate most

efficiently if you trim nearby foliage to allow adequate air flow around the unit.

- Don't block vents with furniture or other objects.
- Use ceiling fans when you are in a room to provide additional cooling; they also provide better circulation, which reduces air conditioning costs. Make sure you turn the fan off when no one is in the room to enjoy it.

Reduce the heat inside

- Restrict use of heat-producing appliances like ovens, dishwashers and dryers to the early morning (before 11am) or late evening (after 7pm) when temperatures are cooler.
- Grill outside or use a microwave or toaster oven. A toaster oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a regular oven and releases less heat into the home.
- Turn off heat-generating devices when not in use, including lights, televisions, coffee makers, and computers.
- On warm days, close blinds and drapes, especially in south-facing windows which allow in the most heat.
- Hang clothes to dry outside. Using a clothes dryer, even though it is vented to the outside, still adds heat to the inside of your home.



Energy Efficiency Incentives Available

Water Heater Rebates

• Standard Water Heater, 50-74 gallons	\$50
• Standard Water Heater, 75 gallons or greater.....	\$125
• High-Efficiency Water Heater, 75-99 gallons with an Energy Factor (EF) of .90 or greater	\$250
• High-Efficiency Water Heater, 100 gallons or greater with an Energy Factor (EF) of .85 or greater.....	\$400
• Commercial Water Heater, 75-99 gallons.....	\$250
• Commercial Water Heater, 100 gallons or greater	\$400
• Heat Pump Water Heater with an Energy Factor (EF) of 2.00 or greater (load management control not required)....	\$300
• Solar Storage Water Heater with Electric Backup.....	\$1,200

See Vernon Electric's website at www.vernonelectric.org for more energy efficiency rebates .

Eligibility and Instructions

- The water heater must be new and purchased and/or installed, on Vernon Electric lines, in 2017.
- A load management control must be installed (free of charge) by a Vernon Electric technician (heat pump water heaters exempt). A load management control will turn your water heater off for a few hours during periods of high demand or high market costs for electricity. During these periods, you will rely on the stored hot water in your water heater's tank.
- Rebates are in place through December 31, 2017 or until funds are depleted
- Submit rebate form and receipt no later than 3 months from installation.
- Rebate forms are available at www.vernonelectric.org, or by contacting our office.

The Benefits of Electric Water Heating

Electric water heaters have many attributes that appeal to home owners:

- High-efficiency electric water heaters, including heat pumps, are readily available.
- Electric water heaters are safe. They produce no carbon monoxide, and they pose no threat of combustion or explosion.
- Electric water heaters can run on power generated from a range of energy sources, including solar, wind, hydro and other renewables.
- Electric water heaters don't lose energy from exhaust or the replacement air that circulates into and out of a house.
- Electric water heaters are easy to install. They require no expensive gas lines or exhaust flues.
- The price of electricity is less volatile than for other fuels.
- Electric water heaters are used in energy storage and load control programs to keep costs low, integrate renewable resources and reduce greenhouse gases.

Right-of-Way Maintenance Happening in the Hillsboro & Purdy Areas

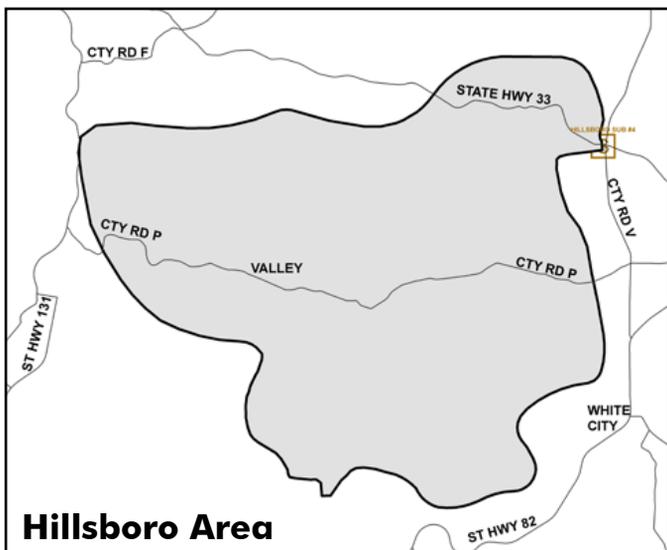
Asplundh Tree Service crews will be in the shaded areas of the maps over the next few weeks to perform a foliar herbicide application to brush that is occupying the powerline right-of-way. The application will be made during the months of August and September. This is a

free service provided by Vernon Electric in order to maintain safe and reliable electric service for you and your neighbors.

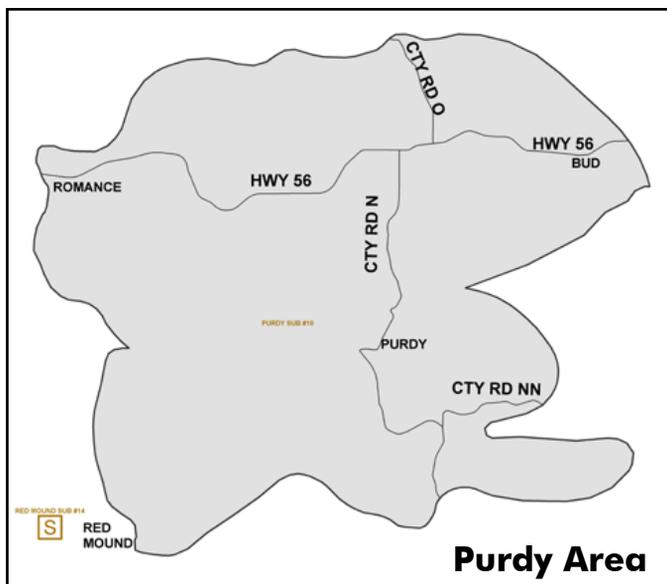
Please keep in mind that:

- You may not have brush located on your property affected by the work.
- Asplundh Tree Service crews are trained to recognize undesirable brush stems versus desirable woody vegetation. They know different tree species and understand how their growth patterns can cause line clearance problems in the future.
- The herbicides are classified as general-use by the EPA and all applicators are licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.
- Crews may need to access the work by driving on your property. Vehicles will utilize the utility right-of-way or other established roads or lanes that may exist.
- A tank mix of Garlon 3A and Escort herbicide will be used. This mixture controls broadleaf weeds and brush, but does not kill grass. There is no pasture or grazing restriction for either of these products for all livestock except lactating dairy animals. For lactating dairy animals, do not graze or harvest green forage for 7 days following application. If the powerline right-of-way that crosses your property supports brush and is accessible to lactating dairy animals, please notify our office in advance at 608-634-3121 or 800-447-5051.
- If your property or parts of your property are Certified Organic and/or we cannot use herbicides, you **MUST** contact our office at 608-634-3121 or 800-447-5051 as soon as possible so that a representative can meet with you and mark your property. Regardless of whether you have called in the past, please contact our office again to be certain we have your information.

Trees are the leading cause of lengthy service interruptions to our members. Maintaining brush at regular intervals is vital to supply reliable electric service to you in the future. Your cooperation is essential and very much appreciated.



Hillsboro Area



Purdy Area

Line Department Update for August

New Poles Coming to the Red Mound Area

Push Construction has been contracted to replace poles in the Red Mound area that did not meet recent inspection standards. Crews will be utilizing the utility right-of-way as much as possible but, at times, may need to cross private property to access the right-of-way. About 100 poles are being replaced as part of the project.

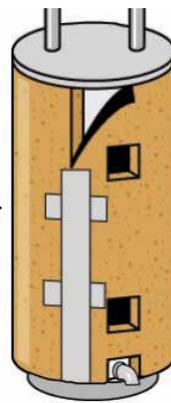
Line Replacements

- An overhead distribution line between Victory and Battle Island will be replaced with a combination of overhead and underground to provide better service to that area.
- An overhead distribution line out of the Westby Substation feeding the Bloomingdale area will be replaced with a new underground line.



Give Your Water Heater a Blanket

Wrapping an insulation blanket around the tank of your water heater can save you money on water-heating bills. The insulation blanket will reduce standby heat loss – heat lost through the wall of the tank – by 25% to 45%, and you'll likely recover the cost of the blanket through reduced water-heating bills within a year.



- Check the owner's information that came with your water heater to make sure the manufacturer doesn't prohibit installing an insulation blanket.
- Look for a blanket with an insulation value of R-11 or higher.
- Buy a blanket kit designed for your type of water heater, and carefully follow the installation instructions. For example, on electric water heaters you should avoid covering the unit's thermostats.

**Watt's
New**

The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by David Maxwell, Marketing and Communications. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:
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