

Energy saving tips for lower summer bills

Your June issue of LOUISIANA COUNTRY includes a special insert containing tips for saving energy this summer. While SLECA's electric rates are among some of the lowest in the region, everyone benefits when we save energy.

Remember, summer heat drives up electric bills. How can you reduce your summer energy use (Acct. No. 2253446700)?

1. Use or install ceiling fans. Air movement increases comfort because it makes your skin feel cooler.
2. Keep sunlight out of your home. Window blinds, drapes and tinted window coating keep the sun's rays and heat out of living areas.
3. Save moisture-producing chores like running a dishwasher, washing machine or taking showers for after dark or early morning when it's cooler.
4. Install a programmable thermostat that reduces air conditioning use overnight and while everyone's at work during the day.
5. Clean or replace your air conditioner filters every month. You should also clean the lint trap on clothes dryers with every use.
6. Remove weeds, leaves and debris from around your outdoor air conditioner compressor. This material restricts airflow to the unit and increases operating costs.
7. If your air conditioner is 10 years old or older, it might be cheaper to upgrade to a more energy-efficient system than to continue operating the old unit. Newer models can provide tremendous energy savings. You should also have your system inspected and serviced every year, normally before subjecting it to serious use.
8. Inspect your air ducts, especially if they are located in your attic. Look for air leaks and use the proper tape to make repairs. It may require an expert to do the job properly.
9. Taking a vacation? Don't assume your appliances aren't using power. "Instant-on" electronics ALWAYS use some power. Your electric hot water heater, refrigerator and freezer run constantly. Lower refrigerators and freezer temperatures if you're going on vacation. Turn off your hot water heater at the breaker. Connect security lights to a dusk-to-dawn timer.

Vegetable Field Day held June 20

The La-Terre Master Gardeners and LSU AgCenter in cooperation with the USDA Experimental Station will hold a Vegetable Field Day at the USDA Experimental Station at the Corner of Lafayette St. and Hwy. 311 in Houma from 9 a.m. until noon on June 20.

Displays and tasting of 25 tomato, eggplant, squash, sweet pepper, cucumber and green beans will be featured during the event, which is geared to the home gardener. There will be free information and a tour of the USDA facilities as well as a contest for the largest and ugliest tomato. Admission is free. For information, call 985-873-6495.

SLECA employee attends training program

SLECA offers its employees a comprehensive training program that covers every aspect of utility field operations stressing safety and efficient operations under all possible conditions (Acct. No. 3751208918).

Level VI, Gp. 2 La. Intensive Lineman Training—SLECA employee Brain Landry was among linemen from across Louisiana who took part in the eight level, four-year La. Intensive Lineman Training Program conducted recently at the offices of the Assn. of La. Electric Co-ops in Baton Rouge.



Have a happy July 4th!

SLECA's offices will be closed Friday, July 3 in observance of the 4th of July. Standby crews will be on call to handle emergencies or weather-related outages.

SLECA News



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Alexander Doyle, President
South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Assn.
P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 (876-6880)



Get to know your SLECA directors

SLECA has been ranked as one of the most efficient and best run electric utilities in Louisiana. The key to the success of SLECA, including its low rates, excellent service reputation and one of the best employee safety records in Louisiana, can be found in the directors that the SLECA membership has selected.

"Unlike investor-owned electric utilities, SLECA consumers are able to select their neighbors and fellow members to serve on their Board of Directors," notes General Manager Mike Guidry. "These individuals come from all walks of life and various backgrounds, but they all share common goals—to make SLECA a progressive and responsive organization that always puts the best interests of its members first (Acct. No. 8552154503)."

"And while you may know the neighbor you helped select to represent your local district on the SLECA board, we'd like to offer this opportunity for our consumers to meet ALL of the directors," Guidry adds.

David Luke

Board vice-president David Luke, a board member since 1981, is a wholesale seafood processor. For more than 35 years, the Dulac native has worked in seafood processing, beginning as a boy in his father's plant (Luke Seafood). He and his wife, Elaine, are former owners of D'Luke's Seafood, Inc. in Dulac. The couple owns St. Michael Ice & Fuel in Biloxi, MS, which not only provides fuel and ice to the Gulf Coast but also has two shrimp loading piers. Luke added two ice plants to his Biloxi operation. A lifetime member of the VFW 4752 Rifle Team and the 2nd Marine Division Assn., Luke is also a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 7722 and the Grand Cailou Volunteer Fire Department. District 4 consists of the Grand Cailou and Dulac areas.



Terry Trahan

Director Terry Trahan, elected to SLECA's Board of Directors in 1987, currently serves as the board treasurer. He retired from Trahan's Heating and Air Conditioning after 34 years. Trahan is a native of Bayou Black who enjoys hunting often on his property in Mississippi in his spare time. He serves District 7, which includes areas of Bayou Black, Gibson, South-down West, Ouiski Bayou and The Lakes.



Larry J. Daigle

Bayou Blue native Larry J. Daigle was elected to the SLECA board in April 2004 representing District 3. Having served 39 years as senior vice-president of Caro Produce and nine years as president of Prime Source and Southland Distribution, he is currently the local produce buyer and grower liaison for Rouse's Supermarket. A SLECA member since 1965, Daigle currently is treasurer of the finance committee of St. Louis Catholic Church and has served on the parish council of the church for eight years. Mr. Daigle, who served as advisor to Bishop Boudreaux on the Pastoral Council, received the Bishop's Award in 1988 for outstanding service to the parish.



Tracy Duval

Amelia resident Tracy V. Duval has served on SLECA's Board of Directors since 1993 and currently serves as one of two representatives on the board of the electric cooperatives statewide group, the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives. Duval is Justice of the Peace for Ward 9 in St. Mary Parish as well as serving as the liaison between the Policy Council and the St. Mary Community Action Committee and secretary of the Community Action program. She is also the Eucharistic Minister of the Bread and Wine at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Amelia. Duval represents SLECA District 9, which covers areas of Amelia, Siracusville and part of Bayou L'Ourse.



Alexander Doyle

Alexander Doyle, a resident of Houma, is president of the SLECA Board of Directors and has served in this capacity since his election to the board in 1985. An attorney, Doyle is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, the Terrebonne Parish Bar Association and is qualified to practice law in Federal Court. Additionally, Doyle served as Terrebonne Parish's Assistant District Attorney for 12 years. Doyle serves the District 6 areas of Mulberry, Barrios, Summerfield, Little Bayou Black, Coteau and Oakshire.



Brian Rivet

Gheens resident Brian Rivet, owner of a logging and sawmill business, has served on SLECA's Board since 1983. He is presently secretary of the SLECA Board, is a former member of the Cajun Electric Power Cooperative Board of Directors, and has served as a board member of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, Inc. as well as a past director of Western Fuels. Rivet serves District 1, that includes the Gheens, Raceland and Mathews areas, and portions of Upper Bayou Blue, Coteau and Lockport.



Eroy Acosta

Stephensville native Eroy Acosta, elected to the board in 1987, served his community as a restaurant and lounge owner for many years. Acosta is president of the combined St. Martin Parish Sewage District Board and the St. Martin Parish Water District Board. The Stephensville Volunteer Fire Department was established through his fundraising efforts and he served 21 years as president of the department. Acosta serves District 8, which includes the areas of Stephensville, Bayou L'Ourse and part of Gibson. Acosta has also represented SLECA on the board of directors of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives. Acosta says he enjoys serving the community at both the state and local level.



Roger Dale DeHart

Dularge native Roger Dale DeHart was elected to the SLECA Board of Directors in March of 1997. DeHart represents District 5 covering all of Bayou Dularge and Ashland North Subdivision. He is a member of the Terrebonne Parish School Board and served as its vice-president and president. He was appointed to and served on the Terrebonne Parish Home Rule Charter Commission. DeHart served more than seven years as a commissioner for Fire District 10 and recently was elected to the Democratic Central Committee in District 51. He is very active in his community and is very serious about all of his commitments.



J.D. Boudreaux III

Julien Dennis (J.D.) Boudreaux III, a resident of Donner who has been active in the Donner-Chacahoula Fire Department and Jaycees also has served on the St. Lawrence Church Parish Council. He received the Bishop's Medal in 1987. A self-employed grocery operator and bulk-fuel dealer, he served as president of the Terrebonne Parish Police Jury and was a member and the first chairman of the Terrebonne Parish Council. A former Justice of the Peace, Boudreaux is the Recipient of the Roland J. Thibodaux Award as a Terrebonne Parish school bus driver. He was appointed the District 2 SLECA director in January 2006.

Across the Board

April 8, 2009

Present were directors Alexander Doyle, president; David Luke, vice-president; Brian Rivet, secretary; Terry Trahan, treasurer; Tracy Duval, J. D. Boudreaux, Eroy Acosta, Roger Dale DeHart, Larry J. Daigle and Lloyd Gibson, advisor. Also attending were Michael Guidry, general manager; James Funderburk, attorney; Don Stone, RUS General Field Representative, and Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor.

After the invocation, pledge and a presentation by Mr. Stone, the board approved the minutes of the March 2 regular board meeting, 173 new members and the ALEC report (Acct. No. 1403175407).

The financial report, approved by the board, highlighted interest earnings, cash on hand, rate comparison showing SLECA having the lowest rates compared to other area utilities, line loss, kilowatt hour sales for the month, cumulative sales to date, cost of service, equity, TIER, electric and total revenue versus cost per kilowatt hour.

Following an update on upcoming schools, meetings and events, Mr. Guidry reviewed the following items: (1) SLECA continues to have the lowest rates in the area; (2) A bill introduced by Senator Reggie Dupre that would eliminate the sales and use tax on any carbon dioxide sold for an enhanced oil recovery project; (3) A suggestion by the PSC staff that the PSC not mandate utility lines be buried because of the associated costs; (4) A study being conducted for the Terrebonne Parish Council to try to determine the feasibility of using bagasse and/or trash to produce electricity for the local grid; (5) Jeff Baudier of LA Gen informed the cooperative managers that LA Gen would fight the EPA lawsuit claiming the changes to the plant that allegedly triggered the need to add pollution controls were made by the trustee during bankruptcy, thus absolving LA Gen of responsibility; (6) Rulings by the American Arbitration Association arbitrators were favorable to the cooperatives over LA Gen; (7) Progress continues to be made on storm-related projects; (8) The district meetings went very well with additional "Our Energy, Our Future" cards being collected during the meetings; (9) The NERC/FERC report shows that SLECA currently has no critical assets; (10) The START Corporation has obtained financing to purchase SLECA's old Magnolia Street office.

Following Mr. Guidry's report, the board approved the manager's report and expenses, the safety report, the attorney's report and fees, and a resolution authorizing Mr. Doyle to sign any necessary documents for the sale of the Magnolia Street property pending approval from RUS and CFC.

The meeting was then adjourned.

You may obtain copies of the minutes by contacting SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 or by calling (985) 876-6880 or 1-800-256-8826.

SLECA SWEEPSTAKES

Did you know that each month SLECA gives away CASH just for reading LOUISIANA COUNTRY? It's true. Every month, four lucky SLECA consumers have their account numbers randomly selected by computer. The numbers are then hidden in the articles in the SLECA News section of LOUISIANA COUNTRY. Then it's up to you. If you see your account number, call SLECA and win \$25.00 in cash or have your winnings applied to your bill. It's that simple. So, if you are not reading LOUISIANA COUNTRY you're missing out on great local articles and the possibility of winning extra money.

Lloyd Gibson



Lloyd Gibson, serving as advisor to the board since 1984, is a general contractor and owner of Cooke's Construction Co., Inc. A resident of Gibson, he has served as the Terrebonne Parish Constable in Ward 8 for 28 years. Gibson served as chairman of Terrebonne Parish Recreation Board, District 8, for 19 years and was senior deacon and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the St. James Baptist Church of Gibson for 26 years. He also serves on the board of the START Corp. and is the current president of H.O.P.E. of Terrebonne, a community civic organization. Gibson is very concerned about his community and is actively involved in its development.

Your Cooperative Connection

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What makes SLECA different? Your Elected Directors!

(Meet them on pages 10-11)



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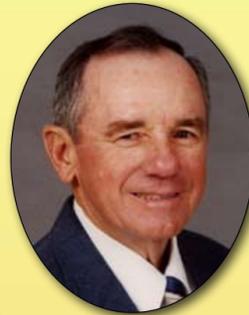
Alexander Doyle



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Look inside for useful
energy saving
ideas!