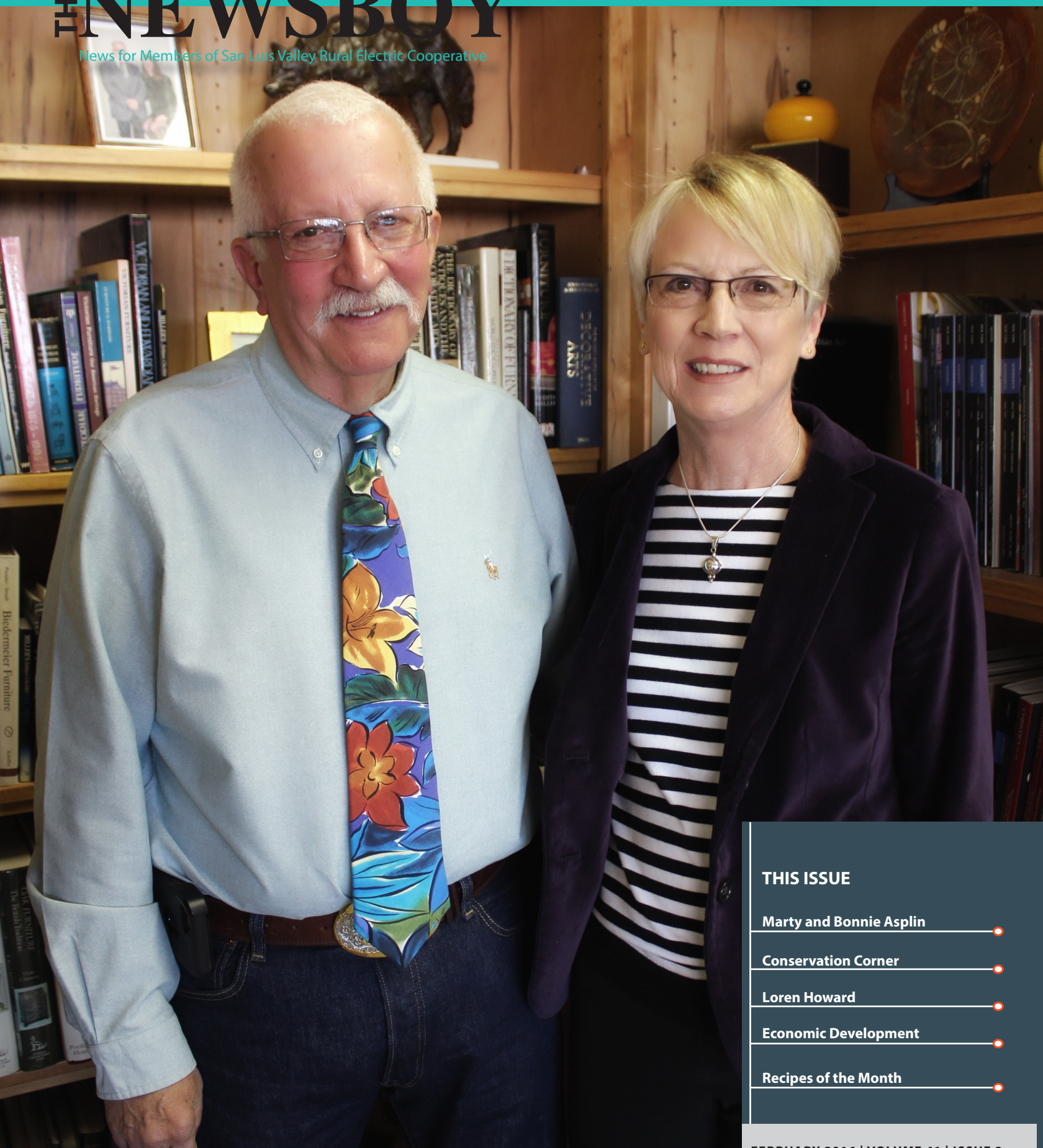


THE NEWSBOY

News for Members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative



MARTY & BONNIE ASPLIN

THIS ISSUE

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FEBRUARY 2016 | VOLUME 41 | ISSUE 2

Conservation Corner



While most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, often it feels overwhelming because many people don't know where to start. How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs? To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know what the top energy users are in your home. With this knowledge, you can choose a path that works best for your family.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the top five energy users in U.S. homes are:

1. Space cooling
2. Space heating
3. Water heating
4. Lighting
5. Refrigeration

Adjust the temperature.

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps.

- During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- During warm weather, the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Cleaning the filters of your HVAC system can cut costs from 5 to 15 percent.
- Clean the coils around your electric baseboard heater to maintain maximum efficiency.
- Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping outdoors.

No matter what the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save you 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.

Shine the light on savings.

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use incandescent lighting, your light bulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can save you \$75 per year. Another easy way to save

is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

Water heating efficiency

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your hot water heater with an insulating blanket. This is all the more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment buildup.

Put cold hard cash back in your wallet.

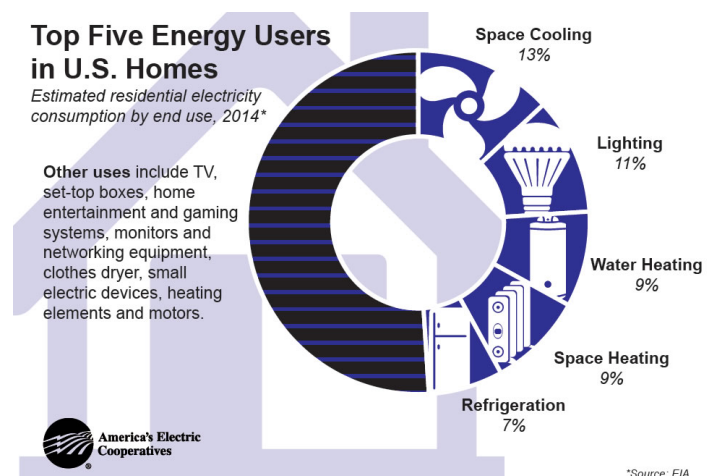
If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new Energy Star model. If you are considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards. Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35 – 38 degrees Fahrenheit for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for separate freezers (used for long-term storage).

By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet.

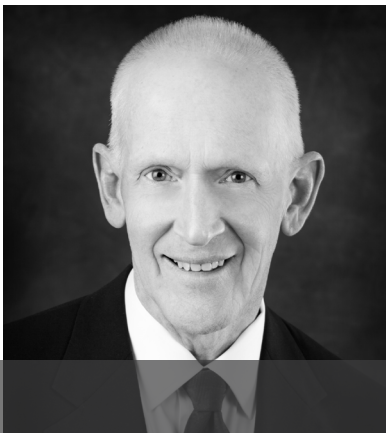
Top Five Energy Users in U.S. Homes

*Estimated residential electricity consumption by end use, 2014**

Other uses include TV, set-top boxes, home entertainment and gaming systems, monitors and networking equipment, clothes dryer, small electric devices, heating elements and motors.



*Source: EIA



LOREN HOWARD

Rate Changes

Every three years, REC employs a firm to conduct a cost-of-service study. This study evaluates the revenues and expenses for each rate classification of REC. There are several rate classifications upon which REC's rates are based – residential, small commercial, large commercial, irrigation and various other smaller groups. The goal of this study is to review and, if necessary, adjust rates, as fairly as possible, allocate the cost of providing electricity to each class of member.

The result of the 2015 cost-of-service study showed that rates needed to increase overall by 4.58 percent in order to maintain the required financial ratios from our lenders and meet sound fiscal practices. It is never pleasant to inform you of a rate increase; and while that is not news anyone wants to hear, you deserve to know the reasons for the increase.

The revenues from sales this past year were noticeably down for two reasons – last winter was very mild and revenues from irrigation were substantially down with the rain in the Valley. As the year progressed, staff regularly evaluated those expenses that are 'controllable', i.e., have to the ability to not be incurred. Those efforts cut or deferred hundreds of thousands of dollars of expense for the year, but those cuts and deferrals come at the cost of lost productivity and aging equipment. Cutting like that can be done for a year or two, but in the long term, it will cost more to continue. Staff made those cuts and deferrals to ensure the budget for 2015 was met, but revenues to support capital credits and the necessary cash operating requirements were down.

The 4.58 percent overall rate increase has two major drivers – the increase in wholesale power costs and maintaining a sufficient cash reserve to meet monthly expenses. The cost of wholesale power went up on average, over all rate classifications by 1.6 percent. The remaining 2.7 percent overall increase is to cover REC expenses such as fuel, equipment, materials and labor. The last rate increase that included a portion to cover REC expenses was at 1 percent in 2013. Prior to 2013, there were no REC increases after 2010. So for the past six years, the average annual increase due to REC expenses was about 0.6 percent.

The employees of REC work diligently every day to control the cost of providing electricity to you. We are implementing many new efforts to reduce time and costs and to improve the efficiency of the operations of REC. In addition to controlling the direct expenses of REC, we are working to control the cost of wholesale power, principally through actively working with Tri-State to mitigate power cost increases.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Marty & Bonnie Asplin

“Economic development can be defined as efforts that seek to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for a community by creating and/or retaining jobs and supporting or growing incomes and the tax base.”
<http://www.svbic.com/node/24>

When Marty and Bonnie Asplin moved to the San Luis Valley in 2002, they saw an area that was away from the bustle of the big city with a wealth of outdoor treasures. Since the beginning the couple jumped into community involvement and development. Marty has been a busy and integral part of the City of Del Norte for many years.

The Asplins have expanded their ability to help economic development in the San Luis Valley through their position with Upper Rio Grande Economic Development. Marty and Bonnie comprise the Economic Development Director position for the URGED. The position came into being in 2015, through a public/private partnership, and has been a great success in facilitating several projects to assist in development and growth around the Valley.

To date, the Asplins have been active in a starch plant project that will be located south of Center, Colorado. This project includes the replication of two existing plants located in China. It will provide over 200 new jobs to the area. The plant will be producing starch flour and frozen French fries for export. The Valley should see value-added agriculture in the amount of 25 to 35 percent to Valley produced potatoes.

Marty and Bonnie have also been integral in a river project in Del Norte. This could mean greater attraction to the area for outdoor activities. The Asplins have been representing the western side of the Valley in the discussions with Adams State University, as well as Trinidad State Junior College in the UAS (unmanned aircraft systems) project. This project could also mean expanded opportunities for the San Luis Valley.

“Create a healthy economy and a healthy environment.”

The Asplins recognize the importance of creating a healthy economy and healthy environment, one to which businesses will want to relocate, a place where employees are able stay and thrive. They recognize that the Valley is an area that struggles with poverty, and they want to help break that cycle. Marty and Bonnie have been engrained within the area and have been helping across the Valley since the time of their arrival here.

For more information please, visit <http://www.urg-ed.com>

Schedule RT - Residential Telephone**Seasonal Rate****\$10.00**

A two year contract is required upon signing up for the seasonal rate.

The seasonal rate can be utilized up to 6 contiguous monthly billing cycles in a 12 month period.

A reconnection fee of \$20.00 per line will be charged at the end of the seasonal rate period.

Supplemental Plan Options

Anonymous Call Rejection	\$1.00
Call Forwarding	\$2.50
Call Forwarding No Answer	\$2.50
Call Forwarding Busy	\$2.50
Call Return	\$5.00
Call Trace	\$7.13
Call Waiting	\$8.00
Caller ID on Call Waiting	\$1.00
Distinctive Ring	\$3.00
Non-published Listing	\$4.50
Remote Call Forwarding	\$2.00
Selective Call Rejection (Call Block)	\$2.00
SimRing	\$8.00
Three-way Calling	\$3.00
vFax	\$3.00

International Calling Plan	100 Minutes	\$ 7.99
	250 Minutes	\$14.99
	500 Minutes	\$19.99

*Belgium, Austria, Australia, Japan, India, Korea,
Norway, Malaysia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Italy,
Spain, Switzerland, Greece, Singapore, Denmark,
Ireland, Portugal, Taiwan, France, Germany, Thailand,
China, Sweden, UK*

Overage of Calling Plan

*Overage will be billed according to
International Rate Spreadsheet -
updated quarterly*

Mexico Calling Plan	75 Minutes	\$6.95
	150 Minutes	\$9.95
	375 Minutes	\$19.95
	750 Minutes	\$32.95

Overage of Calling Plan

*Overage will be billed according to
International Rate Spreadsheet -
updated quarterly*

Schedule CT – Commercial Telephone**Supplemental Plan Options**

Anonymous Call Rejection	\$2.50
Call Forwarding	\$3.00
Call Forwarding No Answer	\$2.50
Call Forwarding Busy	\$2.50
Call Return	\$4.00
Call Trace	\$7.13
Call Waiting	\$8.00
Caller ID on Call Waiting	\$1.00
Distinctive Ring	\$5.00
Non-published Listing	\$4.50
Remote Call Forwarding	\$1.00
Selective Call Rejection	\$2.50
SimRing	\$8.00
Teleconferencing	\$0.12 per caller per minute
Three-way Calling	\$3.00
vFax	\$3.00

Hosted PBX Pricing

	Set-up Cost	Monthly Cost
Basic Station	\$18.00	\$15.00
Standard Business User with Unlimited LD	\$25.00	\$23.00
Call Center User - Agent	\$40.00	\$30.00
Call Center User - Supervisor	\$60.00	\$30.00

Ala Carte Features

Easy Auto Attendant (Business Group)	\$20.00
Premium Auto Attendant (Business Group)	\$35.00
Music On Hold (Business Group)	\$ 5.00
Soft Client (User)	\$ 7.00

Schedule RI – Residential Internet**Seasonal Service**

A two-year contract is required for seasonal service. Charges are based on a full calendar month. During any calendar year, Internet service may be suspended for one continuous period of up to six (6) months.

There is no charge to put service into a seasonal mode. There is a \$25.00 charge to return to full Internet service. Full Internet service is billed at the regular charge based on speed. During the seasonal period, the monthly charge is \$15.00.

San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Rate Schedules
1/15/2016

Rate Name	Charge Type		Old Total	New Total
A-Single Phase	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$	27.50	\$ 29.75
	Energy Charge	\$	0.129	\$ 0.135
A-Single Phase Time of Day	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$	31.50	\$ 33.75
	On-Peak kWh (6 am to 10 am & 2 pm to 10 pm)	\$	0.144	\$ 0.154
	Off-Peak kWh (10 am to 2 pm & 10 pm to 6 am)	\$	0.067	\$ 0.063
A - Single Phase Prepaid Metering	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$	30.00	\$ 32.25
	Energy Charge	\$	0.129	\$ 0.135
B -Three Phase	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$	37.50	\$ 40.50
	Energy Charge	\$	0.120	\$ 0.126
B-Three Phase Time of Day	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$	42.50	\$ 45.50
	On-Peak kWh (6 am to 10 am & 2 pm to 10 pm)	\$	0.144	\$ 0.154
	Off-Peak kWh (10 am to 2 pm & 10 pm to 6 am)	\$	0.067	\$ 0.063
I-Irrigation Block Rate is 150 kWh/HP/Mo	Annual HP Charge (Billed at \$2.65 a month)	\$	24.00	\$ 31.80
	Annual Fallowing HP Charge (Billed at \$1.75 a month)	\$	12.00	\$ 21.00
	Energy Charge (1st Block)	\$	0.125	\$ 0.128
	Energy Charge (2nd Block)	\$	0.108	\$ 0.085
	Energy Charge (3rd Block)	\$	0.055	\$ 0.045
I-Irrigation (Demand) Block Rate is 200 kWh/HP/Mo	Annual Demand Charge (Billed at \$2.65 a month)	\$	24.00	\$ 31.80
	Energy Charge (1st Block)	\$	0.125	\$ 0.128
	Energy Charge (2nd Block)	\$	0.108	\$ 0.085
	Energy Charge (3rd Block)	\$	0.055	\$ 0.045
I - Irrigation Time of Day	Annual HP Charge (Billed at \$2.65 a month)	\$	24.00	\$ 31.80
	On-Peak kWh (12:00 pm to 10:00 pm)	\$	0.181	\$ 0.165
	Off-Peak kWh (10:00pm to 12:00 pm)	\$	0.055	\$ 0.045
	Sundays - all hours off peak			
LP-A Large Power Less than 500 kW Rates 50, 55	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$	80.00	\$ 80.00
	Demand Charge	\$	6.15	\$ 6.15
	Energy Charge (First 200 kWh/Billing kW)	\$	0.1007	\$ 0.1083
	Energy Charge (Next 200 kWh/Billing kW)	\$	0.0902	\$ 0.0868
	Energy Charge (Over 400 kWh/Billing kW)	\$	0.0673	\$ 0.0673
LP-A Time of Day	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$	80.00	\$ 80.00
	Billing Demand Charge	\$	6.15	\$ 6.15
	On-Peak kWh (6 am to 10 am & 2 pm to 10 pm)	\$	0.1117	\$ 0.1315
	Off-Peak kWh (10 am to 2 pm & 10 pm to 6 am)	\$	0.0673	\$ 0.0673
LP-B Large Power Greater than 1000 kW Secondary Metered Rates 51	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$	325.00	\$ 325.00
	Demand Charge	\$	7.00	\$ 7.00
	Energy Charge (First 200 kWh/Billing kW)	\$	0.0907	\$ 0.0960
	Energy Charge (Next 200 kWh/Billing kW)	\$	0.0872	\$ 0.0813
	Energy Charge (Over 400 kWh/Billing kW)	\$	0.0673	\$ 0.0673
LP-B Large Power Greater than 1000 kW Primary Metered Rates 52, 53	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$	325.00	\$ 325.00
	Demand Charge	\$	6.79	\$ 6.79
	Energy Charge (First 200 kWh/Billing kW)	\$	0.0880	\$ 0.0957
	Energy Charge (Next 200 kWh/Billing kW)	\$	0.0846	\$ 0.0808
	Energy Charge (Over 400 kWh/Billing kW)	\$	0.0653	\$ 0.0665
YL Yard Light	Non-Metered	\$	10.89	\$ 11.70
	Metered	\$	5.25	\$ 5.65
Renewable Resource Surcharge	Per 100 kWh block, per month	\$	0.40	\$ 0.40



RECIPES OF THE MONTH



INGREDIENTS

- 2 sweet potatoes (about 1 pound), peeled and cut into thin wedges
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- Kosher salt and black pepper
- 4 6-ounce boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 bunch spinach, thick stems removed (about 4 cups)
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice

CHICKEN WITH ROASTED SWEET POTATO SALAD

Heat oven to 425° F. On a rimmed baking sheet, toss the potatoes, onion, 2 tablespoons of the oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Roast until tender, 20 to 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat the remaining tablespoon of oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Season the chicken with 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper and cook until browned and cooked through, 5 to 6 minutes per side.

In a large bowl, toss the warm potato mixture with the spinach, lime juice, and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Serve with the chicken.

Substitutions: Tossing warm roasted vegetables with fresh spinach gently wilts and tenderizes the greens. In place of sweet potatoes, try butternut squash, rutabaga, carrots, or parsnips.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups whole milk (or any milk you like)
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 3 to 4 tablespoons granulated sugar (depending on your sweetness preference)
- 1/2 a vanilla bean, split and beans scraped out
- 2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- Ground cinnamon to garnish

CINNAMON INFUSED HOT CHOCOLATE

Place milk in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Heat until the milk is steaming but not boiling. Remove from the heat. Crush the cinnamon stick slightly and add to the warm milk. Cover and let steep for 15 minutes.

While the milk and cinnamon steep, rub the vanilla bean into the granulated sugar, creating a fragrant vanilla sugar.

Once steeped, remove the cinnamon stick from the milk and discard. Add the cocoa powder and vanilla sugar to the warm milk. Heat over low heat, whisking constantly until the sugar and cocoa are completely dissolved.

While the cocoa is heating, whip the heavy cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla extract to soft peaks.

Divide hot cocoa between two glasses. Top with whipped cream and sprinkle with ground cinnamon. Enjoy immediately.



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POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625
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February 2016

Our office will be closed Monday,
February 15, 2016 in observance of
Presidents Day.



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's offices are open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Thursday.
Offices are closed Friday through Sunday.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

866-HEAT HELP (866-432-8435)
www.energyoutreach.org

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting February 23 @ 9:30 a.m.
The Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each
month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.



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