

PEC and TVA kick off home energy audit initiative

Pickwick Electric Cooperative and the Tennessee Valley Authority have partnered to provide a free energy conservation kit to all members who complete a do-it-yourself home energy audit.

The offer is part of TVA's effort to help educate the public about energy efficiency while providing tools consumers can use now to start saving energy and money on their electric bills.

Using power more efficiently is an important part of meeting the Tennessee Valley's future energy needs and reducing the growth in power demand in order to help keep electric rates affordable.

One month's electric bill and about 20 minutes are all members will need to complete the audit. See page 17 in this issue for details on how to receive your home energy audit and energy conservation kit.

In addition to the kit, participants who complete the audit also will receive personalized energy-profile reports illustrating their homes' overall energy use and costs as well as specific actions they can take to reduce energy bills now and in the future.

Consumers who use all the contents of the energy-efficiency kits could see savings ranging from \$2 to \$4 on monthly power bills, depending on their individual energy use. If residents follow all of the recommendations from the audit, they could save as much as 20 percent on monthly power bills.

All of us at PEC and TVA have a role to play in bringing home the message of energy efficiency. I encourage our mem-

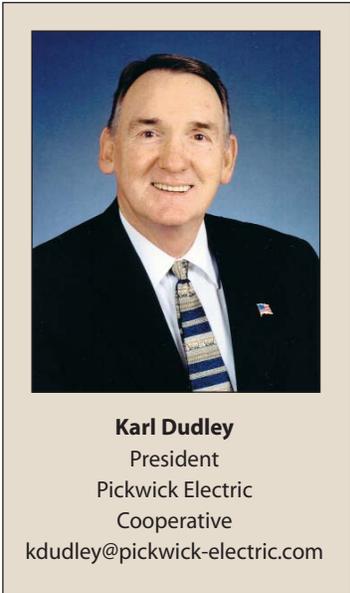
bers to take a few minutes and complete the energy audit in order to learn how efficient their homes are and steps they can take to be more efficient.

In January, TVA set two all-time winter records for electricity consumption in the Valley. Last August, TVA set 13 all-time summer records for power demand during the record-breaking heat wave. TVA's highest periods of consumer power demand

or "peak loads" have been growing nearly 2 percent a year. At its peak, TVA often pays four or five times its normal costs for additional power.

In accordance with its strategic plan, TVA will be working in the coming months with local power distributors and Valley stakeholders to develop new and expanded energy-efficiency and demand-reduction products, services and initiatives for consumers, business and industries.

Currently, TVA partners with power distributors to offer the *energy right*[®] program, which is designed to help Tennessee Valley residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes and businesses. Information on energy-efficient technologies, cost-saving tips, an energy resource library and do-it-yourself cost comparisons are available at energyright.com. Plus, energy-saving information for students is available on the Web site tvakids.com.

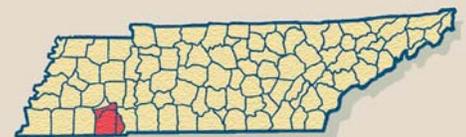


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Pickwick Electric Cooperative

**Serving members in all of
McNairy County and
portions of Chester,
Hardeman and Hardin
counties in Tennessee and
Alcorn and Tishomingo
counties in Mississippi**



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Selmer, TN 38375

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731-645-3411

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Web site:

www.pickwick-electric.com

These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.



Learn ways to save energy, receive a free energy conservation kit

Pickwick Electric Cooperative members can now learn how to save energy and at the same time receive a free energy conservation kit.

Now through June 30, members can receive this kit by completing an *energy right*® Home e-Valuation mail-in audit.

Each efficiency kit includes a comprehensive “How to Save” brochure; two compact fluorescent light bulbs, which use 75 percent less electricity and last 10 times longer than traditional light bulbs; a filter whistle that sounds when the heating- or cooling-system filter is 80 percent clogged and needs to be changed; outlet and light-switch gaskets, which are insulation to help stop drafts and save energy; two faucet aerators that save water and improve efficiency; a hot-water temperature card that measures temperature of hot tap water and indicates if thermostat adjustment is needed to save money and prevent water scalds; and an energy-use thermometer gauge that helps check energy costs for heating and cooling (each degree that thermostats are set back for eight hours a day can reduce heating bills by as much as 3 percent and up to 5 percent on cooling bills).



Once the completed survey is received, the kit will be mailed directly to the member within two weeks.

The *energy right* Home e-Valuation program is Pickwick Electric Cooperative’s and the Tennessee Valley Authority’s way of helping members identify areas in their homes where energy may be wasted. It’s the easiest way to find out how energy around the house is being used and get some expert suggestions on how to use that energy more efficiently. And best of all, it’s free.

Members can request a mail-in *energy right* Home e-Valuation by calling Beverly Lambert at 731-646-3786, Kevin Roy at 731-646-3825 or Bobby Barnes at 731-646-3764.

Members can also go online to request the audit to be sent to their home address at www.energyright.com/savingenergy/evaluation.htm or access the audit online at www.energydepot.com/energyright/index.asp.

So don’t miss this opportunity to receive a free energy conservation kit and learn how to make your home more energy-efficient and lower your monthly electric bill.

Holiday closing

The Pickwick Electric Cooperative office will be closed Friday, March 21, in observance of Good Friday.

Should you have an emergency, we will have standby crews available.

We can be reached by calling 645-3411, 632-3333
or 1-800-372-8258.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.



Creative metal recycling

For several years, Tim Pace has been doing his part to help recycle discarded metal. Pace doesn't recycle by taking metal to the scrap yard; he does so through his talent as a metal sculptor.

Pace, an electrician by trade, has no formal training in the art world. When asked what sparked his interest as a metal sculptor, Pace replied, "The inspiration behind it all was to find a unique gift for my stepdad." Like so many other Americans, he wondered what to buy someone who has everything — or, at least, everything they need. The answer: a three-foot-tall sculpture of a golfer made of scrap metal.

Pace created the golfer, his first sculpture, in 1995. In the months that followed, he made simpler pieces such as dogs and frogs.

In 1998, he decided to quit his full-time job and venture into the world of "found art." What is found art, you might ask? "It is taking an object that already exists and turning it into art," says Pace. "My goal is to retain the shape of the found object and keep it recognizable. Most of my art is created from old farm implements, tools, car parts, cutlery and industrial scrap made of iron or steel."

Pace takes miscellaneous pieces of scrap and places them on the ground to form a shape. He then sifts through his extensive "inventory" in his shop and adds pieces to his creation to make it all come together.

He also uses a dry-erase board to sketch new ideas as he looks around the scrap piles. Pace does not necessarily work on one object until it is complete; he may have as many as 10 to 15 pieces going at one time. When a piece fails to come together, Pace consults with his wife or daughter for their point of view.

Eco-Art

Eco-Art is available at Tim Pace's gallery and studio located in the McNairy County community of Finger; at regional arts and crafts shows; in the gift shop of the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis; in the Chimneyville Crafts Gallery in Jackson, Miss.; and at the Mississippi Crafts Center in Ridgeland, Miss. Tim is also one of the many artists you will see on the Arts in McNairy Artisan Trail, scheduled for the third weekend of both March and November.



As Tim Pace finds all the missing pieces, he places the scrap metal together to form his "Eco-Art" creation. This one resembles a crab.

But, in most cases, he has discovered that found art just comes naturally for him.

As the pieces begin to fit, Pace uses a torch when needed, but he prefers to, with the help of a vice, bend the metal into the shape he sees with his artistic eye. As for time, Pace can complete a piece in 45 minutes if all the material is available.



Pace’s art, known as Eco-Art Creative Metal Recycling, comes in many different forms. His largest masterpiece is a 16-foot-10-inch-tall praying mantis reading a book. It is on display at the Jackson-Madison County Library in Jackson, Tenn.

Pace also makes a smaller version of the praying mantis that holds a garden hose. This is one of his best sellers at a cost of about \$90.

Since many of Pace’s creations are constructed from pieces of old farm implements, he chooses to finish them with a Rustoleum primer and tractor paint. He uses lots of John Deere green and Ford blue paint. “Tractor paint is thick, and it weathers well,” says Pace.

Other Eco-Art pieces come in the form of owls, crabs, frogs and snails that can be displayed as garden art. He also loves to make abstract pieces that move.

Not all of his art belongs in the garden, though. He makes functional pieces such as candle holders, wine racks and business card holders. These range in price from \$20 to \$100.

Each Eco-Art piece is a unique, one-of-a-kind creation, signed and numbered by Pace.

Although Pace has limited space in his shop, he very much enjoys having visitors. He is happy to demonstrate his works and encourages others to take an interest in recycling.

Through the help of a friend, Pace has become involved in arts and crafts shows, participating in 18 different events in 2007. Most shows require the artists to go before a committee and display their wares or send in a slide show for judging. Only a select few are chosen for the shows.

Pace says, “I love working in my shop and feel fortunate to be able to make a living doing something I enjoy.”

For more information, you can contact Pace at 731-989-2366 or info@ecoartbyt看.com.



Shown above and at right are a few of the clever creations available at Tim Pace’s studio in Finger.

Employees recognized for safe driving



Jeremy Hurst



Wes Harrison



Janet Browder



Debbie Tennyson



Keith Taylor



Beverly Lambert

Six Pickwick Electric Cooperative employees recently received awards for safe driving. Employees receiving the awards were Jeremy Hurst, 10 years; Wes Harrison, 10 years; Janet Browder, 15 years; Debbie Tennyson, 15 years; Keith Taylor, 20 years; and Beverly Lambert, 30 years. These

employees have a combined total of 100 years of safe driving.

To be eligible for an award, employees must meet the requirements outlined by the National Safety Council. These rules are followed in determining the number of years of safe driving, while PEC policy determines the award.



Hunting down vampire electronics

Most homes these days never quite shut down for the night. Although lamps may be off, dark rooms are typically spotted with tiny red and green lights of appliances and the glow of digital clocks.

All of those little lights, clocks, and seemingly “sleeping” appliances, however, are using more electricity than most would think. Sometimes called vampire electronics, these devices suck up 5 percent of all energy used in the United States and cost consumers more than \$3 billion every year.

For the average homeowner, vampire electronics can add 20 percent to monthly electric bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. To trim this excess energy use, you need to know where these vampires reside and keep them in check.

Take a closer look at appliances around your home. Those that use remote controls such as TVs, DVD players, ceiling fans, and stereos are suspect. Any digital displays, such as microwave

Spotting Vampire Electronics

Many devices constantly draw power while plugged in, which can quickly add up on monthly electric bills. Keep an eye out for the following clues as to what should be unplugged when not in use:

External power supplies

Computers, printers



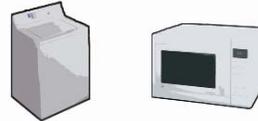
Remote controls

Window AC units, TVs, DVD players



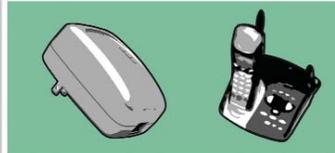
Digital displays

Washing machines, microwaves, VCRs



Rechargeable batteries

Battery chargers, cordless telephones, power tools



Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

and coffee machine clocks, are working against your electric bill. And many of those chargers around the house — those that keep cell phones, power tools, and MP3 players at the ready — constantly draw power when plugged in.

Unplugging these vampires effectively drives a stake into their energy-consuming hearts. Power strips provide another way to thwart them. Simply plug appliances into a power strip, and switch it off when those appliances aren't being used.

In addition, unplug any battery-operated electronic device once charged. You wouldn't walk away from a running water faucet, after all, and you certainly don't want to keep feeding those vampires.

Scott Gates writes on technology and energy efficiency for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Have a safe flight

Spring is coming. And as sure as spring flowers will bloom, kites will fly. To make sure your youngsters' kites fly safely, remind them of a few simple rules:

- Always use cloth string.
- Never fly a kite near power lines.
- Don't try to retrieve kites caught in trees, on power lines or on utility poles.

Better yet, go along for the flight. It'll be great fun. You'll have some quality time with your youngsters. And it's much better than telling them to go fly a kite.