

Changing the Lights

Boone Electric begins a test of LED light bulbs for street and security light applications.

Residents of Rocheport are seeing things a little differently down two of their city streets. Boone Electric Cooperative is testing LED light bulbs in two of Rocheport's street lights.

"One of our main goals involves technology and finding new and better ways to make our services available to our members," says Ryan Euliss, BEC's Manager of Engineering and Technical Services.

Crews replaced the high-pressure sodium lights with the LED bulbs in January. The visual difference was immediate and easy to see. High-pressure sodium lights give off a yellow-tinted light. The new LED bulbs offer a more natural light.

Euliss says there are three main reasons for the cooperative to consider the new bulbs -- increased light quality, energy conservation and lower maintenance costs.

Increased light quality -- the light cast by the new LED bulbs is spread more evenly and is more appealing because it is a more natural light.

Energy conservation -- LED lights use about half the energy of the high-pressure sodium light bulbs. However, the energy savings will take years to equal the cost of the more expensive bulbs.

Lower maintenance costs -- here is where the cooperative will recover the majority of the bulb's price. LED bulbs last longer and require less maintenance over their lifetime. If the bulb lasts even three times longer than a regular bulb, the cooperative saved the expense of two trips from a maintenance crew. Boone Electric has now covered the cost of the more expensive bulb.

The two Rocheport bulbs are just the beginning of the cooperative's pilot project with LED street and secu-



The above photo shows a Rocheport street light with the new LED light bulb. Though it's difficult to see the difference in light color, the even dissipation in the lighting is evident when compared to the high-pressure sodium light, shown at left.

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rity lighting. Additional bulbs will be installed at other Rocheport locations. Soon crews will install similar bulbs in the security lights at the cooperative's parking lot.

It will be a number of months before cooperative engineers are able to determine the success of the test bulbs. First, the cooperative needs to verify the bulbs will maintain quality in all types of weather. Secondly, engineers want to check the lifespan of the test bulbs.

Results of the various tests will help determine the cooperative's future lighting applications.

Member Information

Community Support Programs You Can Add to Your Bill

Operation Round-Up
Helps fund the Boone Electric Community Trust, which provides financial assistance to charitable organizations in BEC's service territory.

C.A.S.H.
Provides utility assistance to low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Funds administered by City/County Health Department.

H.E.L.P.
Provides utility assistance to low-income families with children. Funds administered by City/County Health Department.



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Boone Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

1413 Rangeline Street
Columbia, Missouri 65201
(573) 449-4181
Outside the local calling area:
(800) 225-8143
www.booneelectric.coop
comments@booneelectric.com

G.M. & CEO • Todd Culley
Editor • Christi Miller
Editor • Jim Robertson
Editor • Jessica Spencer

Board of Directors:

Joel Bullard • President
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Benefit from the Savings

The Co-op Connections Card saves you money on everyday or specialty items.

We hope by now that all Boone Electric members have saved money by showing the Co-op Connections Card at participating businesses. The program is geared to save you money on a wide variety of purchases, from paint and tires to eye-glasses and flowers.

One of the quickest and easiest ways for members to save is by visiting the restaurants that participate in the program. Below is a list of those restaurants. For a list of the more than 130 area businesses involved in the program, log onto www.booneelectric.coop.

If you have misplaced your card, please call us for a replacement.

Abigails
Rocheport
On Thursdays, buy one dessert, get one free.

Agave Mexican Restaurant & Bar
Columbia
Free soft drink with a purchase of lunch; 10% off supper bill (excludes alcoholic drinks).

Bambino's Italian Cafe
Columbia
Large order of pasta for the price of a small. Not valid with delivery.

The Buzz Cafe
Sturgeon
10% off total purchase.

C&R Supermarket
Macon
\$1 off any deli meal \$4.99 or more.

Casey's General Stores
Ashland, Centralia, Hallsville, Sturgeon
\$2 off any large pizza.

Catfish Corner Restaurant
Columbia
10% discount on entrees #1-#20.

Chevys Fresh Mex
Columbia
15% off food bill with purchase of \$25 or more.

Chez Monet
Columbia, Jefferson City
10% off purchase.

Co-op Connections® Card



Boone Electric Cooperative

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Copper Kettle
Ashland
Buy one Sunday brunch, get one 1/2 price.

The Crossroads Restaurant
Sturgeon
Buy one dessert, get one free on Wednesdays.

Culver's Frozen Custard & Butterburgers
Columbia
10% off entire purchase.

Dessert Diva's
Centralia
25% off any purchase over \$5.

Grumpy's Bar-B-Que & Cafe
Rocheport
Free drink with the purchase of a meal.

Heuer's Cafe
Sturgeon
Buy one appetizer, get the second one of equal or greater value half price.

Italian Village
Columbia
15% off any regularly priced menu item.

Jack's Gourmet Restaurant
Columbia
Half-priced appetizer with the purchase of an entree. In the dining room only.

Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches
Columbia - four locations
Receive free regular drink with purchase of any regularly priced sub/club sandwich & side item.

Lee's Famous Recipes
Columbia
15% off purchase of meal or pack.

Member Information

Les Bourgeois Vineyards

Rocheport

1/2-price appetizer or 15% discount at A-frame or tasting room and Gift Shop Boutique.

New York Deli & Catering

Columbia

10% off lunch order of sandwich, drink and side; 5% off catering of 10 or more people.

Pizza Haus

Ashland

Buy any large pizza, get a medium for \$5.

Pizza Hut

Centralia

10% discount on food and beverage orders.

Rocheport General Store

Rocheport

15% off all restaurant menu items or free regular coffee with any breakfast purchase.

Smokin' Chicks BBQ

Columbia

10% discount.

Sonic Drive In

Centralia only

Buy a Route 44 drink for \$1.19.

Summit Lake Winery

Hartsburg

10% off purchase.

Woody's Pub-N-Grub

Ashland

Free soft drink per card per visit.

Save at Your Local Pharmacy

A key component of the Co-op Connections Card program is the pharmacy discount. The card could save cooperative members up to 60 percent on their pharmacy costs. Nationwide, cooperative members have saved more than \$16 million through the pharmacy discount.

The pharmacy discount is not insurance and cannot be used in conjunction with insurance. This plan provides immediate discounts at the pharmacy. Upon presenting your card to the pharmacist, you will receive the lower of a discounted price or the pharmacy's regular retail price.

Here are some tips for using the pharmacy discount:

1. Find a participating pharmacy:
 - * log onto www.locateproviders.com. Use the code 22203 as the group number under the "Groups" login section. Next, enter your zip code and the mile radius you wish to search. Providers in that radius will appear when you push enter.
 - * call (800) 800-7616, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
2. To look up drug prices by location, visit www.rxpricequotes.com. Please do not call the pharmacy for price quotes. Prices may change from day to day and they cannot be given over the telephone.
3. Present your Co-op Connections Card along with your prescription to the pharmacist. The

pharmacy computer system will compare the contracted discount price with the pharmacy's retail price when the prescription is processed. You pay the lower of the two prices directly to the pharmacy at the point of sale.

4. If your pharmacy happens to be selling any maintenance medications prescribed to treat on-going ailments, such as high blood pressure and arthritis, for less than the contracted price, you will receive the pharmacy's best price.
5. If you experience any difficulties using the pharmacy program, please call or ask the pharmacist to call the Member Services department at (800) 800-7616, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mail Order Prescription Savings

Cooperative members can also use the Co-op Connections Card to save on mail order prescriptions, particularly those involving maintenance medications. Members can save an average of 10 percent below AARP's prices and beat the lowest retail pharmacy price by \$5 on prescriptions priced over \$10, with no postage or dispensing fees.

For more information about the mail-order feature, call (877) 839-8121, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. A member service representative will assist with price quotes, initial orders and re-orders. Have the name, strength and quantity of the medication available when you call.

Trimming Trees, Trimming Costs

Right of Way Department trims trees and grows trees to trim costs.



Todd Culley
General Manager/
CEO

The spring storm season is just around the corner and we could soon see if the proof is in the pudding with regard to Boone Electric Cooperative's tree trimming and removal program.

In an effort to keep members safe, increase reliability and keep costs under control, Boone Electric's Right of Way Department has been more aggressive in the approach to trees growing in power lines.

Trees growing into power lines are dangerous to the public and to our employees. Trimming trees to a safe distance helps eliminate the danger of a tree becoming energized when it comes in contact with a power line.

Our continual goal is to keep the lights on. Trees in contact with power lines are the No. 1 cause of outages across our system. In 2009 power was flowing to the entire membership 99.984 percent of the time. While that is an incredible percentage and something we are proud of, there is always room for improvement. Trimming trees 15 feet from power lines, which is the standard we've set, will help diminish outages.

The work our tree trimming crews perform now should negate a return trip to the same area for several years, saving money for the cooperative. The goal is to have our in-house crews and contract crews cover every mile of line on a five-year rotation. By clearing a wide path around and under power lines the first time, crews can continue on schedule rather than backtrack to fix problem spots.

If a tree has to be removed because it's simply growing too close to power lines, the cooperative will replace the tree with a shorter-growing variety planted away from the line. The Right-of-Way



Right-of-Way Crews also clear the brush under power lines, creating a 15-foot path from the ground up.

Department is working to trim the budget by growing their own replacement trees rather than buying all of them from local nurseries.

We encourage members to call the cooperative if they have a tree, or even see a tree, that does interfere or will soon interfere with power lines. A cooperative representative will go out to look at the tree, then send a tree trimming crew to trim the tree away from the line.

Each tree trimming crew pulls a chipper machine to make mulch of the tree limbs cut away from power lines. With 15 crews, you can imagine the amount of mulch generated over time. Members are welcome to stop by during the day to help themselves to some mulch from the large pile behind our headquarters building. Members will need to load their own mulch on a typical working day.

However, on Saturday, May 8, right-of-way workers will be on site to load mulch for members who come by the cooperative. All we ask is that you bring a pickup or trailer to haul the mulch. Watch for more information about the mulch-loading day in the May issue of *Rural Missouri*.



Touchstone Energy

Boone Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of local, member-owned electric cooperatives providing a high standard of service to customers large and small.

In order to qualify as a Touchstone Energy partner, electric cooperatives must be active members of their community and be dedicated to serving all customers with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to their community.

You may be contacted sometime this month to complete a telephone survey regarding Boone Electric Cooperative, our programs offered and customer service exhibited. The person calling you will introduce himself or herself as a representative of Boone Electric. The survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete. For those of you who do get a phone call, we appreciate your assistance. These survey results will help us as we work to be an efficient, innovative, member-driven cooperative.