

After Hours Reconnects

Western Cooperative Electric has adopted a new policy for after hours reconnects.

No meter will be installed or reconnected outside of our regular hours of Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This policy is specific to disconnected meters for non-payment of delinquent accounts. Western's members have ample amount of time to pay their electric bill.

Electric bills are printed and mailed with a due date 25 days later. If not paid by that due date, reminder notices are sent, and phone calls are made.

Western's Board of Directors has determined that a reconnect after hours is cost prohibitive to not only Western but also to its members. Additional costs for after hours reconnects mean increased operating expenses which are ultimately absorbed by all members of Western Cooperative Electric.

COOPERATIVE MONTH

Western Hits the Mark

Playgrounds flood with games during school recess. A great example is hopscotch. The game can be played by one child or a large group, and the rules are simple. A course is laid out, typically drawn in chalk on pavement. Blocks are numbered in the order they must be hopped in, with a home, or safe, spot at the end. Then players toss a marker into designated squares and hop through the course.

In some ways, the game reflects how Western Cooperative Electric was formed. Western Cooperative Electric—not for profit—member-owned business—serving members. All cooperatives including Western use the same “course,” following seven key principles. By “hopping” on each principle, Western provides an efficient consumer resource focused on service, not profit.

The seven guiding principles traces its roots to a store started by weavers in the town of Rochdale, England in 1844. The Rochdale model revolved around a set of guidelines drawn up by one of its members, Charles Howarth. When introduced into the U.S. by the National Grange in 1874, these “Rochdale Principles” fueled a

cooperative explosion.

Although stated in many ways, the Rochdale Principles hold that a cooperative must provide:

1. Voluntary And Open Membership:

Membership in a cooperative is available to all who can reasonably use its services, regardless of race, religion, sex, or economic circumstances.

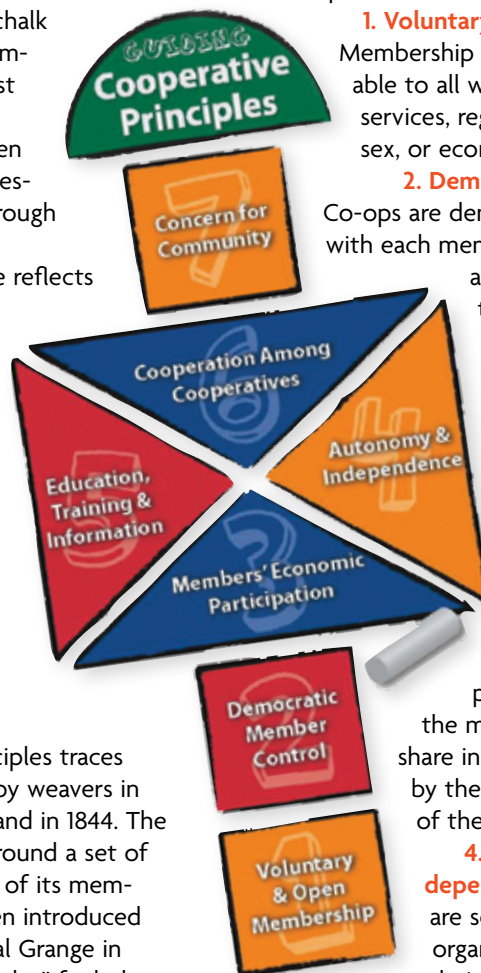
2. Democratic Member Control:

Co-ops are democratically controlled, with each member having one vote. As a result, control remains in the hands of all customers. Directors are elected from the membership.

3. Members' Economic Participation:

Cooperatives provide services “at cost” and remain not-for-profit regardless of the value of benefits delivered. Any money left over after all expenses are paid—margins—belongs to the members. Each member's share in the margin is determined by the amount of his or her use of the co-op's services.

4. Autonomy And Independence: Cooperatives are self-sustaining, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If cooperatives



Western Hits the Mark, Continued

enter into agreements with others or raise money from outside sources, they do so on terms that maintain democratic control as well as their unique identity.

5. Education, Training, and Information: Keeping members, directors, managers, and employees up to date on issues so they can effectively govern the co-op. Communication, particularly with young members and opinion leaders, helps generate necessary public support for cooperatives.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Mutual support helps cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

7. Concern For Community: Cooperatives develop communities with programs supported by the membership.

Over 130 years later Western Cooperative Electric is still “hopping” on each principle, providing electrical service and hitting the mark for you, the cooperative member.

Reduce Your Energy Bill with “Together We Save”



Western encourages you to see how making little changes can add up on your bill by visiting www.TogetherWeSave.com.

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Western Cooperative Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, recently launched “Together We Save,” the brand’s new energy-efficiency themed campaign.

The campaign is aimed at inspiring you to be part of an energy and money-saving movement. At TogetherWeSave.com, you will find tools

to help you and your family reduce your energy bill.

The interactive home tour allows you to “travel” from room-to-room of a virtual house to make energy decisions and shows how those small changes can affect your yearly energy savings.

The site also provides videos with tips on lighting, weatherizing, insulation, heating and cooling systems, which can make your home more energy efficient.

Stay Safe this Halloween

Halloween is one of the best times of the year for both children and adults. Nonetheless, with decorative lights, fog machines, black lights and animatronics, this spooky holiday can be full of electrical hazards if you are not cautious. Use the following tips to keep safety hazards from haunting you this Halloween:



Encourage children use caution while trick-or-treating.

- ▶ Children should always stop at the curb or the edge of the road and look left, then right, and then left again before crossing. They should continue looking in this manner until they are safely across the street.
- ▶ Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, walls or other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture light strings or electrical/extension cords.
- ▶ Provide well-lit walkways and porch lighting for trick-or-treaters. Make sure the walkways are clear for trick-or-treaters.
- ▶ Plug lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold.
- ▶ Make sure decorative lighting is well-ventilated, protected from weather and a safe distance from anything flammable like dry leaves and shrubs. Do not coil power cords or extension cords while in use or tuck under rugs or drapes.
- ▶ Turn out all lights and decorations before leaving or going to bed. Always have at least one fire extinguisher available and know how to use it.