

**WESTERN
COOPERATIVE
ELECTRIC**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC NEWS

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2014 Annual Meeting Highlights

Approximately 300 people attended the 69th Annual Meeting of Western Cooperative Electric on May 14.

Western's linemen provided valet parking for members, and all employees helped serve the meal that was catered by Bigge's Country Kitchen of Stockton.

The Wheatland High School electric car team displayed two cars and shared the past race season's competitions and awards.

After the meal, trivia questions about Western were asked of the membership with prizes given for the correct answers along with a bit of humor. **ISAIAH FABRIZIUS**, one of Western's 2014 youth contest winners sang the national anthem.

Western's Board President, Larry



More than 300 people attended Western's Annual Meeting on May 14.

Evans, called the meeting to order. Introductions included Western's Board of Trustees; Stuart Lowry, President and CEO of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation; and Bruce Graham, CEO of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC).

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Western's linemen provided valet parking for members.



Western's Trustees were present to discuss issues with members.

2014 Annual Meeting Hi



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Darrin Lynch, General Manager, reviewed his first year as manager, including facts and figures for 2013. Lynch also announced to the membership that the recent vote presented to the membership to self-regulate passed and notification of those results will be sent to the Kansas Corporation Commission in Topeka.

Lynch then introduced **BYRUM BITTEL**, son of Western's journeyman lineman, Brady Bittel. Byrum was a 2013 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winner for Victory Electric located in Dodge City. He shared his camp experiences with members.

Stuart Lowry spoke to the members about wind energy, compliances, and current challenges the electric utility industry is facing.

Bruce Graham also addressed

1. A line forms at registration before the meeting.
2. Western's members enjoying the meal.
3. Western's members enjoying ice cream following the meeting.
4. Former Manager Dave Schneider (center) visiting with members.
5. Darrin Lynch, General Manager, addressing the membership.
6. Byrum Bittel speaking about his experiences at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.
7. Stuart Lowry, CEO Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, shares co-op information with the membership.
8. Board President Larry Evans, presides over the meeting.

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Bulbs, Brands, Lumens, & Labels—Oh My!

If you have been gradually making the switch to the new energy efficient lighting choices, you've noticed that more changes have come to the light bulb aisle.

Remember when the odd looking corkscrew compact fluorescent (CFL) bulb was introduced to consumers a few years ago? It's still there and so are most of the classic pear-shaped incandescent bulbs. But today's lighting choices have expanded and gotten serious makeovers—their packaging, labels and lingo included. There are LEDs, CFLs, halogen, lumens, CRI, and more, and there is a host of lighting brands. But in recent years, the focus has been on making all bulbs more energy efficient and cost effective.

End of an Era

We've basked in the golden glow of Thomas Edison's incandescent bulb since the 1800s, but this January marked the end of its run. That's when the federal government finalized its mandated phase out of selected general-purpose light bulbs and Edison's less energy efficient in-

candescent ones. While you still may find 100- and 75-watt bulbs on store shelves, manufacturers in the U.S. stopped producing them. The old 40- and 60-watt bulbs, which represented over half the market, are following suit. What brought about the lighting change?

In 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy estimated that home and commercial lighting was consuming more electricity annually—about 300 billion kilowatt-hours of lighting or the equivalent of about 100 power plants—but most of it was wasted.

Old-fashioned incandescent bulbs used plenty of energy to produce only 10 percent light, with 90 percent of the energy given off as heat. In comparison, today's more energy-saving incandescent light bulbs use 25 percent less energy to do the job of lighting the same spaces in your home.

Look on the Bright Side

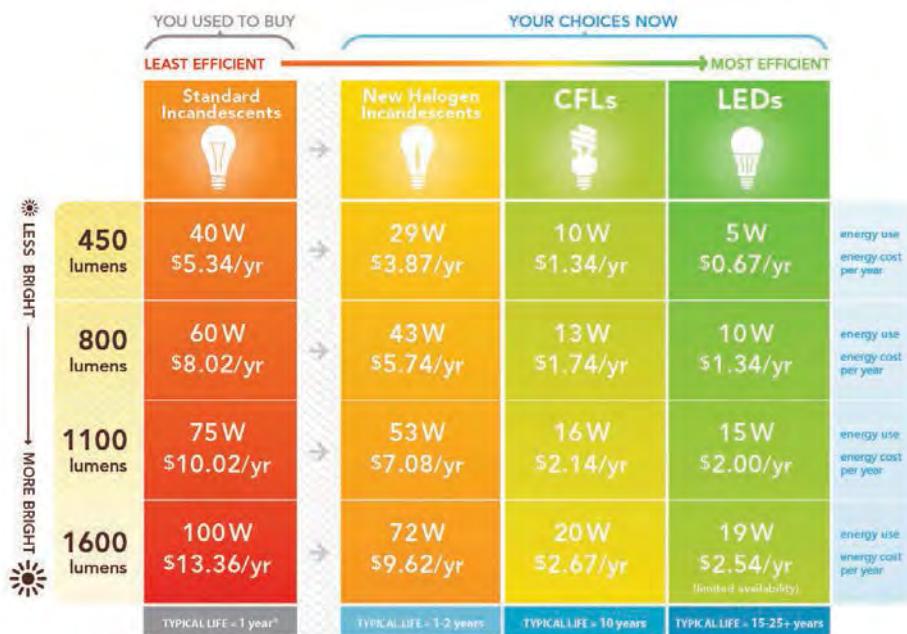
Prime replacements for the traditional incandescent light bulb are the higher-efficiency CFL and LED or light

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the membership about services provided from KEC not only to the 29 distribution cooperatives and two generation and transmission cooperatives, but also provided to the individual members.

An election of three trustees was held and the following trustees were elected for three-year terms: **TERRY HOBBS**, District 1; **RICHARD SCHAUS**, District 2; and **DALE WEINHOLD**, District 3.

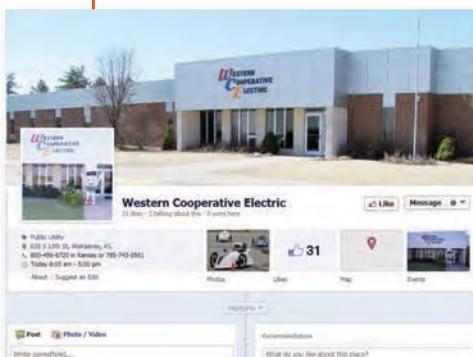
The meeting was adjourned with a drawing for prizes followed by ice cream.



* rated life is based on 3 hours of use per day

Source: Natural Resources Defense Council

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Tip of the Month

When replacing incandescent bulbs from recessed light fixtures, use energy-efficient bulbs that are rated for that purpose. For example, the heat buildup in downlights will significantly shorten the life of spiral CFLs.

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emitting diode bulbs. Be prepared to pay more up front for some of the bulbs you choose.

Lighting experts say that LEDs are the best choice for energy efficiency and if price is not a concern—they can last for up to two decades, save you 75 percent or more in energy costs, and offer superior color and brightness. However, they can cost an estimated \$10 to \$60 per bulb.

The Energy Department assures consumers that there is a bright side—lower electricity bills over the longer term. These are their estimates: using a traditional incandescent bulb adds about \$4.80 per year to the average household electric bill, but a CFL bulb adds just \$1.20 a year and an LED about \$1 per year. That means that a typical household could potentially save about \$50 per year by replacing 15 old incandescent bulbs.

Lighting the Way

Since lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of the average home's electricity use, don't stay in the dark when shopping for new bulbs that save on energy and your electric bill.

Include Home Energy Savings in Vacation Plans

For members going on vacation this summer, the nation's electric utilities advise them to make sure their home's energy use takes a vacation as well. Simple tips can save members money while they are away.

- ▶ **Air Conditioning**—Set the thermostat to a higher setting, such as 85 degrees. If it is a programmable thermostat, use the “hold” or the “vacation” setting to keep it at that temperature.
- ▶ **Electronics**—Appliances use electricity, even when they are not turned on. Unplug them before leaving.
- ▶ **Lighting**—Members can improve their energy savings, and their home's security, by using timers to operate lights each night. And by installing compact fluorescent bulbs, or CFLs, in those lamps,

Things to know before you go:

- ▶ **Lumens are the new watts.** It's all about the lumens or the amount of light a light bulb emits. Remember this formula: The higher the lumens, the brighter the light—to replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, choose a bulb that offers about 1,600 lumens. There are handy charts at www.energystar.gov/ that help you compare the old measure of watts to lumens.
- ▶ **Three-steps to your new bulbs.**
 - Step 1:** Choose the amount of lumens you need based on how bright you want a room;
 - Step 2:** Determine which bulb has the lowest estimated energy cost per year. This will save you the most money;
 - and **Step 3:** Choose bulbs based on your needs—how long it will last and light appearance.
- ▶ **Read the label.** Always check the package, making sure that it carries the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR® logo. New Lighting Facts labels on boxes will also help consumers understand what they are purchasing—amount of lumens, estimated annual operating cost, and light color.

members will be saving more energy, up to 66 percent less in each lamp, and the bulb will last approximately 10 times longer than a regular incandescent bulb.

- ▶ **Water Heating**—Turn the water heater's temperature down to the lowest setting. Many water heaters have a “vacation” setting for this purpose. Leave a reminder to turn it back up upon returning home.
- ▶ **Refrigerator**—Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting. If going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off. Remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew.

For more information on how to use your energy more efficiently this summer, and all year round, visit www.TogetherWeSave.com.