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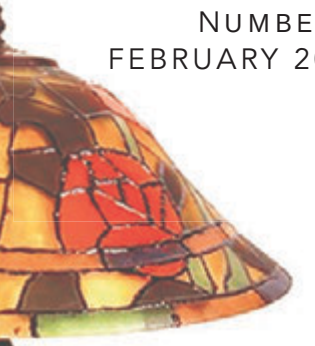


IEC
indian electric cooperative, inc.
918-295-9500 www.iecok.com

Service is the heart of our community!

By Jack Clinkscale, IEC General Manager

I'm seeing red (and pink). Valentine's Day could be a great holiday, but the cards, balloons, and candy cramming aisles this time of year miss the mark. I need a card for our community.

It's great to let loved ones know you care about them, but let's go a step further. As members of Indian Electric Cooperative, a member-owned electric cooperative, we're committed to powering our community and empowering you to improve your quality of life. How can life be better in the IEC service area? We need hearts for service.

On February 14, take time to send a card to a police officer or firefighter. Give candy (or an apple) to a school teacher. Visit a retirement home and spend time with the folks who built our community. Send balloons—or better yet, a donation—to the IEC Foundation, Inc., Operation Round-Up® grant program for financial assistance.

Through Operation Round-Up®, members like you are donating an average of $2,800 per month to strengthen our community by awarding grants to nonprofit organizations, such as:

- Fire and police agencies
- Educational organizations
- Religious organizations like food pantries
- Healthcare organizations
- Civic organizations
- Public libraries

And grants awarded for the benefit of an individual or family payable to a vendor or service provider.

Add your love—and spare change—to the effort administered by the IEC Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees.

Many of our members have rounded up their electric bills since 1994, donating more than $917,600 to service groups, individuals and families needing assistance across our IEC service community. Your heart felt support changes lives each month.

On Valentine's Day (and every day), let's celebrate service, the heart of our community.

Donations are accepted payable to IEC Foundation, Inc., Operation Round-Up®, c/o Indian Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 49, Cleveland, OK 74020.

If you have not registered to participate in the Operation Round-Up® program, there's no time like the present. Participating IEC members voluntarily allow IEC to "round up" their electric bill to the next dollar. These pennies collectively fund the Operation Round-Up® grants. The average "rounding" is 50 cents and never more than 99 cents per month.

Grants are awarded by board decisions generated by a separate eight-member IEC Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees. For more information contact the IEC office at 918-295-9500 or Clara Eulert at 918-295-9558.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Fighting winter chills? A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill. To cool energy costs, keep the fireplace damper closed when not in use. Caulk around the fireplace hearth. Double up on wood-earned warmth by lowering the thermostat setting to between 50 degrees and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at www.energysaver.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Appliance Rebate Program Is Ongoing! See Page 3

Why animals and power don't mix

By Megan McKoy-Noe

What do birds, squirrels, and power outages have in common? Animals trigger 11 percent of power outages across the nation.

"Our members sometimes shake their heads in disbelief when I blame a squirrel for an outage," shares Doyle Whittenburg, Operations Supervisor at IEC. "We spend a large sum of money every year addressing animal management and outages caused by animals."

To ensure safe, reliable power delivery (and healthy wildlife), IEC goes to great lengths to keep animals away from electricity.

It's not often a lineman would be "friendly" with a squirrel as the animal is often to blame for power outages.

Animal Attraction

Electricity seeks the fastest route to the ground. Utility pole insulators keep power flowing safely in your neighborhood, but unwitting squirrels offer high-voltage electricity a way around insulators. If a squirrel doesn't jump far enough, a powerful electric current—up to 14,400 volts—makes the squirrel a conduit to the ground. The squirrel does not survive.

If a squirrel's body falls to the ground, the power blinks but stays on. If it falls into equipment, like a transformer, safety measures shut off power. Then IEC sends a lineworker to remove the animal and restore power.

Squirrels are the main culprit, but they're not alone. Opossums, raccoons, foxes, snakes, birds, and other animals trigger outages, too.

Animal attraction to power infrastructure hurts animals and leaves frustrated IEC members in the dark. Clean up, recovery, and restoring power costs utilities between $15 and $18 million a year, estimates Tyco Electronics, a utility equipment firm.

Grid Guardians

No one wants wildlife hurt. Eighty percent of electric co-ops, public power districts, and public utility districts install animal guards to protect equipment and wayward animals.

"Electric co-ops minimize outages without injuring animals by installing guards:" notes Whittenburg. Animal guards are not foolproof. But the measures help lower the number of outages caused by animals.

Lights Out: *Automatic controls can keep home lighting costs in check*

Whether you can't train your kids to turn out lights when they leave a room or need a better outdoor lighting scheme, automatic controls might be a cost-effective solution.

No matter what type you use, "the most important thing to remember for any lighting control is to use a type of lightbulb that doesn't need to 'warm up,'" says Brian Sloboda, a senior program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, the research and development organization for the nation's electric co-ops. "All of the lightbulbs for residential use now on the market will work—incandescents, compact fluorescent lamps [CFLs], and LEDs [light-emitting diodes]."

If your kids just won't turn the lights out when they leave a room, try automatic lighting controls to keep lighting costs in check.

Source: GE

Indoors

Occupancy sensors are helpful indoors, as long as they're positioned to detect people in any corner of the room. They're also good as task lighting—above places like a desk or kitchen sink—so you get the extra light you need while working, but you don't forget and leave it on all night.

There are two types of occupancy sensors: ultrasonic and infrared. Ultrasonic sensors detect sound; infrared sensors detect heat and motion.

Timers make an empty home look occupied. If kids are still running in and out, however, timers aren't as effective as occupancy sensors. Plug timers into a wall outlet or install them in the wall, like a light switch or thermostat. New varieties are digital.

Photosensors are generally best outdoors, but new applications have found they're also useful for LED nightlights. When an overhead light is on, the nightlight shuts off automatically.

Outdoors

If you already have or are thinking about installing an outdoor security light, consider combining it with a photosensor to keep it from burning all day. A motion sensor goes one step further, if you don't want continuous light.

Timers are commonly used for aesthetic or holiday lighting, sometimes in conjunction with a photosensor—so they turn on at dusk and turn off at a designated time.

Visit EnergySavers.gov to learn more about energy efficiency in your home.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

NEW BULB ON THE BLOCK:

Meet LED Lucy

There's a new lighting mascot in town. CFL Charlie, a cartoon mascot for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives®, the brand "ID" of the nation's not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, helps families become "Super Savers" by switching to energy efficient lightbulbs. In 2013 he was joined by LED Lucy, a dazzling, spunky mascot lighting the way for even brighter bulb savings.

Lighting standards started shifting away from traditional lightbulbs in 2012. CFL Charlie and LED Lucy want to make sure IEC members know about all lighting options.

Compact Fluorescent Lamps

CFL Charlie — and other bulbs like him—are the most common and economical efficient lightbulbs on the market. The swirly style is linked to the concept of efficient lighting, but some consumers haven't warmed to the design.

CFLs offer 75 percent energy savings over traditional incandescent bulbs and pay for themselves in 9 months, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Light Emitting Diodes

Light emitting diodes (LEDs) have been used for years in cell phones and other electronics. Most diodes are small—about half the size of a pencil eraser. By banding several small diodes together, a bright and dependable light emerges. As their popularity grows, some companies are making light with a single, bright LED chip.

"It's going to be fun to watch LED Lucy gain fans," laughs Charlie. "She uses a little less energy than me, and lasts 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs."

Since lighting adds up to 10 percent of a home's electric bill, every bulb counts. To help children learn more about lighting, visit www.kidsenergyzone.com.

IT'S A NEW YEAR: SAVE ENERGY - SAVE MONEY

Energy Star appliances may warrant IEC rebate

Indian Electric Cooperative continually focuses on keeping electricity cost as low as possible for our members. The Energy Star rebate program encourages members to use energy efficient appliances in an effort to delay the construction of new power plants.

The Energy Star rebate program continues through 2014. Rebate requests must be submitted within 90 days of purchase and meet all proof of purchase, installation and program requirements.

"We would caution members to consult the website or contact Member Services, before purchasing to confirm appliance eligibility and rebate amounts if they plan to file for a rebate from IEC," said Clara Eulert. The rebate program covers the purchase and installation of the following items for IEC members:

Electric Water Heater - $50. Unit must be 40 gallons or larger and have an efficiency rating of .90 or higher. Limit two (2) per member address. No rebates will be given for replacement of heat pump, tankless or gas water heaters.

Room Air Conditioner - $50. Applies to the purchase of any Energy Star Unit (for new or replacement unit). Limit one (1) per member address.

Ground Source Heat Pump including the inside unit and loop - $750 per ton. Energy Star Plus 2 rated (19.1 EER). Limit one (1) rebate per member address. Rebates are limited to 50 tons commercial and 10 tons residential per facility. Electric or fossil fuel backup heat will be allowed for ground source heat pumps.

Available for: new home or building construction, replacement of electric resistance heat, replacement of existing natural gas or propane heating system, replacement of an existing dual-fuel heat pump.

Replacement of the Indoor Ground Source Heat Pump Unit Only - $150 per ton. Replacement of the heat pump (compressor) unit must be a gain of 3 EER rating points and meet the 19.1 EER system requirements. Limit one (1) rebate per member address.

Air Source Dual-Fuel Heat Pump - $150 per ton. Energy Star Plus 2 rated (16.5 SEER). The dual-fuel heat pump must have an automatic thermostat control and have back-up unit of natural gas, propane or fuel oil supplemental heating system. Limit one (1) rebate per member address.

Available for: new home or building construction, replacement of existing electric resistance heat, replacement of an existing dual-fuel heat pump.

Air Source Mini-Split Heat Pump - $150 per ton. Energy Star Plus 2 rated (16.5 SEER). Mini-split units with back-up electric resistant heat are not eligible for a rebate. Limit one (1) rebate per member address.

Available for: new home or building construction, replacement of existing electric resistance heat, replacement of an existing dual-fuel heat pump.

Air Source Heat Pump with Electric Backup Heat - $150 per ton. - Energy Star 16 SEER heat pump with electric backup. Limit one (1) rebate per member address.

Available for: new home construction or replacing resistance heat.

Rebate offers, eligibility criteria and rebate forms are available online at www.iecok.com/rebates or from either IEC office. Rebate applications can be mailed to IEC, P.O. Box 49, Cleveland, OK 74020. Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing. The rebate check will be mailed to the IEC member.

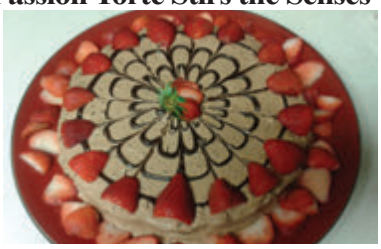
Just a Pinch

Sharing Hometown Recipes, Cooking Tips and Coupons

By Janet Tharpe

Chocolate Passion Torte Stirs the Senses

"It's easier than it looks!



Lori Anderson
Minneapolis, MN
(pop. 382,578)

Home cook Lori Anderson created this wonderfully decadent Chocolate Passion Torte, a delicious cake for choc-o-holics everywhere!

Start with a simple brownie mix, stud it with tons of chopped Oreo, then frost it with a cookies & cream whipped frosting. Top it all off with strawberries and a drizzle of - you guessed it! - liquid chocolate. This is a stunner of a recipe... for the eyes and the palate!

See step-by-step photos of Lori's festive recipe plus thousands more from home cooks nationwide at:

www.justapinch.com/passiontorte

You'll also find a meal planner, coupons and chances to win! Enjoy and remember, use "just a pinch"...

--Janet

Chocolate Passion Torte

- Janet

What You Need

Cake:
1 box brownie mix
1 c chopped Oreo cookies
2 eggs
1/2 c canola oil
1/4 c water

Frosting:
4 tbsp water
1/2 c sugar
1/4 c cocoa, unsweetened
2 tbsp water
1 1/2 tsp gelatin, unflavored
1 c whipping cream
4 chopped Oreo cookies

Directions

- Combine brownie mix ingredients (eggs, oil, water) according to package directions. Add 1 cup chopped Oreo cookies; mix well.
- Bake in greased 10-inch springform pan 43-50 minutes, until middle is almost set. Cool at least one hour.
- For frosting, in a saucepan on low heat mix 4 tbsp of water, 1/2 cup of sugar and 1/4 cup of cocoa until sugar dissolves.
- Put 2 tbsp of water in a small dish. Add 1 1/2 tsp of gelatin. Stir and let stand 1 minute.
- Add gelatin mixture to cocoa mixture; stir. Let stand until room temp.
- Whip cream until stiff peaks form. Fold in cocoa mixture; blend well.
- Add remaining chopped cookies. Spoon over brownie, decorate with liquid chocolate and/or strawberries, if desired. Refrigerate at least two hours before serving.

Submitted by: Lori Anderson, Minneapolis, MN (pop. 382,578)

www.justapinch.com/passiontorte

Brought to you by American Hometown Media

Warning: Don't Bake All Bulbs

Oven lights are handy. Curious if a casserole's ready? Flip the switch; no need to open the oven and release heat to get a baking update. But be careful when replacing this little light. Never put a bulb in the oven that's not built for high heat.

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) use less energy than classic incandescent bulbs, but they're not safe in extreme temperatures. Most lighting labels designate safe temperatures, but warnings may be in fine print. Need to replace your oven light? Look for appliance light bulbs. Found at retailers, these bulbs are designed for extreme temperatures in ovens and refrigerators. The hardy bulbs are here to stay; 40-watt appliance bulbs are exempt from federal lighting efficiency standards.

Why won't CFLs work? Instead of heating a filament until white-hot to produce light like an incandescent bulb, a fluorescent lamp contains a gas that produces (UV) ultraviolet light when excited by electricity. The UV light and the white coating inside the bulb result in visible light. Since CFLs don't use heat to create light, they are 75 percent more energy efficient. But the technology that cuts energy use doesn't stand a chance in an oven's 400+ degree heat.

CFLs are good for the pocketbook but not perfect in every situation. Keep these tips in mind:

1. Don't dim unless it's dimmable. Buy a specifically designed CFL for a dimmer switch application.

2. Don't flip too fast. CFLs work best if they are left on for more than 15 minutes each time they are turned on. Older bulbs take 30 seconds to three minutes to reach efficient operation. Frequently switching them on and off shortens bulb life. Newer CFLs feature an 'Instant on' capability; look for that on the lighting label if you expect frequent flipping.

Use caution when replacing an oven light.
Source: NRECA

3. Give them air. CFLs may be used in enclosed fixtures as long as the enclosed fixture is not recessed. Totally enclosed recessed fixtures create temperatures too high for CFLs.

4. Protect CFLs outside. Look at the package or bulb for temperature restrictions before using a CFL outdoors.

5. Don't shake. Don't use CFLs in vibrating environments such as a ceiling fan or garage door opener.

6. Do the twist. Always screw and unscrew the lamp by its base. Never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket by the glass tubes.

To learn more about using and recycling CFLs, visit www.epa.gov/cfl.

Source: Empire Electric Association, U.S. Department of Energy

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