

Kilowatt Courier



E-Billing: Secure, Fast, Easy to Use, Free

With Homer Electric's new online billing and payment options, you can now go totally paperless. No checks to write, no postage to pay to mail your payment. To sign up for this service, either call your local office and speak to a member service representative or fill out and submit an enrollment form via the web site at www.homerelectric.com.

Click on the link "Enroll Today: E-Billing." You'll be asked to provide your account number and answer a few security questions, which guarantees the privacy of your data. If you elect

e-mail **bill**

to set up automatic online payments, contact your local Homer Electric office for a temporary pass code. It's that easy.

Once enrolled, you'll receive an email reminder each month that your bill is available for 85319002 viewing online. You'll be linked directly to your current billing. It's an easy jump from there to view your previous billing and payment history. The e-bill looks very similar to your paper bill. For more information or enrollment help, call the member services department at (907) 283-5831, (907) 235-8551 or toll-free at (800) 478-8551. 

Expanded Account Numbers

Your electric cooperative's membership is growing from year to year. To accommodate this growth, a recent software upgrade required Homer Electric to restructure all member account numbers. It's a minimal change, but it will have an impact on processing your payments correctly.

Your account number will now have an additional digit added. For example, if your account number is 12345-01, it will now be 12345-001. Keep that in mind when hunting for your "lucky member number."

If you have further questions, feel free to contact Homer Electric Member Services department at (907) 283-5831, 235-8551 or (800) 478-8551. 

Interested in Serving as a Homer Electric Board Member?

In mid-January, the nomination period will open for members interested in serving on the Homer Electric Board of Directors.

The nomination period will remain open until March 2, 2012, at 5:00 p.m.

Members interested in serving on the Board of Directors are required to gather the signatures of at least 15 Homer Electric members living in the district they would represent in order to qualify for a spot on the ballot. Nomination forms can be picked up at Homer Electric offices in Kenai and Homer.

The opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors is one of the unique advantages of being a member of an electric cooperative. Along with that opportunity are some responsibilities and qualifications.

If you have any questions about the nomination or election process, contact Joe Gallagher at (907) 283-2324.

Qualifications

In accordance with the bylaws of the Association, any member interested in running for the Board of Directors of Homer Electric Association, Inc. (Article IV, Section 3 & 4):

- Must be a member and bona fide resident of the area served, or to be served, by the cooperative for the 12 month period, immediately preceding the date which is forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting of the members at which the directors are to be elected (March 19, 2012), and;
- May not in any way be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative.

There is a serious commitment of time and effort required of anyone who serves

on the Board. Responsibilities and expectations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Must be willing to promote and safeguard the interests of the Cooperative.
- Must be willing to represent the entire membership on an impartial basis.
- Must be willing and able to attend regularly scheduled and special meetings of the board.
- In addition, a candidate should be willing to attend other meetings which may provide information about Cooperative issues.
- Must be aware that members of the board serve without salary and on a fee basis only for time given to regularly scheduled and approved affairs of the Cooperative, plus reimbursement for all reasonable expenses in connection with such scheduled activities. 

Garage Door Safety: An Open and Shut Case

What weighs 600 pounds, deters intruders, and goes up or down at the push of a button? It's your automatic garage door, the largest moving piece of equipment in many homes.

Automatic garage doors may be a routine part of leaving and arriving home, but you should be aware of the potential for injury. Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., recommends these tips to make safety an open and shut case when it comes to your home's garage:

1. Always keep automatic garage doors fully open or fully closed. Some folks may leave a small opening at the bottom for pets to get in and out for food or shade. But a small opening could also be an invitation for a child to try to crawl through and get stuck. Another push of the button could send the heavy door down—causing injury—instead of bringing the door up when trying to free anyone stuck underneath. If you encounter someone stuck in an automatic door, call your local fire department.
2. Read instructions on how to operate and maintain your garage door properly. Check your automatic door monthly to be sure safety precautions are working. Many garage

doors boast a safety feature that triggers an automatic reversal if anything is encountered while closing. To check, place a 1.5-inch object (like a flat 2x4) in the path of the door to make sure the door correctly reverses when contact is made. Instructions should also advise on maintaining a properly balanced door. Call a qualified repair company for service or maintenance.

3. Do not allow children to operate a garage door. It may seem like a harmless, simple task to allow children to push the garage opener. But activating heavy equipment should be taken seriously.

4. Avoid walking under a door that is opening or closing. You never know when a malfunction may take place. Steer clear of a moving door.
5. Know when and how to use the emergency release. You'll find a cord with a handle hanging along the track of your garage door. Always use caution when using this release, and only use it when the door is fully closed.

An automatic garage door opener is a common convenience powered by electricity. Just as electricity demands safety and respect, so does the equipment it operates. 📌

Source: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.



Monthly Financial Update

Homer Electric likes to keep its members informed about the financial status of their electric cooperative. Each month in the *Kilowatt Courier* newsletter there is a brief overview of important financial statistics.

Homer Electric finished the month of October 2011 with a total asset base of \$198.8 million. Year-to-date operating revenue was \$62.0 million and total cost of electric service (operating expense) was \$59.8 million bringing net operating margins to \$2.2 million through October 31, 2011. This chart is a breakdown of key financial indicators for 2011 as compared to 2010. 📌

	Year to Date @ October 31, 2011	Year to Date @ October 31, 2010
Operating Revenue	\$62.0 million	\$53.0 million
Cost of Purchased Power	\$37.0 million	\$29.6 million
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$59.8 million	\$52.4 million
Operating Margins	\$2.2 million	\$0.6 million
Total Kilowatt Hours Sold	386.5 million kWh	384.0 million kWh
Total Number of Meters	31,951	31,749
Total Miles of Energized Line	2,365	2,351

The high-definition cable box or digital video recorder (DVR) that sits innocently by your TV may be using more electricity per year than a new energy-efficient refrigerator. A recent study found that the boxes use \$3 billion in electricity every year in the U.S., with 66 percent of that power wasted while the TV is not being watched or the DVR not recording.

Unfortunately, until cable boxes and DVRs become more energy efficient, there's no easy solution for consumers looking to save energy, explains Brian Sloboda, a senior program manager specializing in energy efficiency with the Cooperative Research Network (CRN), an arm of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"The simple answer is using the power button on the remote or adding a power strip to turn the power off when not in use," Sloboda says. "The problem is that when you cut off all of the power, your DVR will not record programs. You also won't be able to get automatic software updates, and the program guide may be wiped out."

Your best bet is to ask your cable or satellite provider for a box carrying the ENERGY STAR label, which certifies that a product attains specific energy efficiency standards.



Electronic devices at home are entertaining but also drain energy, even when turned off. Home energy use rises with each new gaming console, television, digital video recorder (DVR), stereo receiver, and other electronic device, accounting for up to 15 percent of the average monthly electric bill. Source: NRECA

"Don't assume it's an ENERGY STAR box" Sloboda emphasizes. "Look for the logo on the front of the device."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which created ENERGY STAR in 1992, says it plans to tighten energy efficiency standards for high-definition cable boxes to an average of 29 kilowatts of use per year by the middle of 2013, down from a current average consumption of 38 kilowatts. 

Sources: *The New York Times* (<http://nyti.ms/jbQge9>), Cooperative 86952001 Research Network

Magen Howard writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service organization for the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Commitment to Community

Don't miss an opportunity provided by your local electric cooperative to continue your education! Apply for a Homer Electric scholarship for yourself or your dependent.

Homer Electric will award a number of academic or vocational scholarships in 2012. The scholarships are available for graduating seniors from each of HEA's three districts and adults, throughout the service territory, wishing to continue their education.

Scholarship recipients will be selected in April and will be recognized at the HEA Annual Membership Meeting on May 3, 2012.

Applications are available at both Homer Electric locations and online at www.homerelectric.com. In addition, applications will be sent to area high schools, colleges and vocational schools in Homer Electric's service area.

The application deadline is 5:00 p.m., **Thursday, March 1, 2012.**

Youth Rally

Do you know a high school sophomore or junior who enjoys traveling, making new friends, experiencing trust and team building exercises while learning about teamwork?

Encourage the student to apply for an exciting, **all expense-paid** week at the Youth Rally held in Caldwell, Idaho on July 9-14, 2012. To apply, the applicant must be a high school sophomore or junior in the Kenai Peninsula School District. The application deadline is **Monday, April 2, 2012.**

Safety Poster Contest

Encourage that young budding artist to enter HEA's Safety Poster Contest. The contest is open to 3rd and 4th grade students in HEA's service territory. Contest entry deadline is **April 2, 2012.** 

Watt's Cookin': Chicken Tortilla Casserole

Courtesy of Teresa Gamble, Soldotna

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|---|----------------------------|
| 1 lb. cooked chicken, seasoned to taste;
cut up, shredded or cubed | 2 cans Rotel tomatoes |
| 1 can cream of mushroom soup | 1 lb. Mexican blend cheese |
| 1 can cream of chicken soup | Tortilla chips |

Blend first four (4) ingredients in a large sauce pan or boiler over low heat, mix 87916002 well. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a casserole dish, layer casserole as follows:

- Tortilla chips
- Chicken/soup/Rotel tomato blend
- Cheese
- Repeat layers one more time

Cook with foil and place in oven for 30 minutes. Enjoy! 🍴

Watt's Cookin' is back by popular demand! Please submit your favorite recipes to mcarlin@homerelectric.com. Recipes will be published based on space available each month.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Switch to energy-saving halogen incandescent lightbulbs to cut lighting energy use by 25 percent. These bulbs last three times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs and can easily be dimmed. Want to save more? Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) cut lighting energy use by at least 75 percent. Learn more at energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Lucky Member Number

As a way to say thank you to our readers, Homer Electric is giving you the opportunity to win a \$50 energy credit.

By reading the *Kilowatt Courier*, you can win a \$50 credit to your electric bill! If you find **YOUR** hidden member/account number printed in *italics*, call Melissa Carlin, HEA's communications specialist at 235-3338 or (800) 478-8551 x3338 or email at mcarlin@homerelectric.com before the end of the month to win.

There are three member numbers printed each month. 📄

Annual Pay Discount Program

Save \$25 when you take advantage of Homer Electric's Annual Pay Discount Program.

A \$25 discount is offered when you prepay for 12 months of service.

The amount to be prepaid is calculated by multiplying the average monthly kilowatt usage for the previous 12 months at that meter location by the rate in effect at the time of prepayment. This amount is multiplied by 12 months.

Ask a member service representative for more details and take advantage of savings as we enter the new year. 📄

Service Information

Service centers available for your convenience:

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Homer Service Center: 3977 Lake Street, Homer, AK 99603

Phone: (907) 235-8551 or (800) 478-8551

Central Peninsula: 280 Airport Way, Kenai, AK 99611

Phone: (907) 283-5831

Web site: www.homerelectric.com

If your power goes off: First check your circuit breakers or fuses. If that's not the problem, call (888) 8OUTAGE. To serve you promptly during power outages, our computerized outage-call-handling system will answer the phones, and you will hear a recorded message with the latest known outage information. Please follow all instructions carefully to leave the details on your outage location. You may also tune to the radio stations below for outage information:

KPEN 102 FM	KWAVE 104.9 FM	KBAY 93.3 FM	KBBI 890 AM
KDLL 91.9 FM	KSRM 920 AM	KSLD 1140 AM	KGTL 620 AM
KKIS 96.5 FM	KWHQ 100.1 FM	KFSE 106.7 FM	

The *Kilowatt Courier* is a monthly publication of Homer Electric Association, Inc., your nonprofit, member-owned electric cooperative. Email Melissa Carlin, editor/communications specialist, at mcarlin@homerelectric.com with your comments or questions regarding material in this publication.

Board of Directors & Manager

Debbie Debnam, President.....	262-9277
Alan Bute, Vice President.....	776-8815
Dick Waisanen, Secretary/Treasurer.....	262-6298
Jim Levine, Deputy Secretary.....	299-0323
Kelly Bookey, Director.....	398-7283
Bill Fry, Director.....	235-8484
Ed Oberts, Director.....	398-8039
Bill Warren, Director.....	776-8551
Mike Wiley, Director.....	262-7198
Brad Janorschke, General Manager.....	235-8551

Seven Cooperative Principles

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Voluntary & Open Membership | 5. Education, Training, & Information |
| 2. Democratic Member Control | 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives |
| 3. Members' Economic Participation | 7. Concern For Community |
| 4. Autonomy & Independence | |

Mission Statement

To provide reliable electricity to our members and our community through superior customer service & innovative energy solutions at fair and reasonable prices.