

Currents

Your Link to Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative



High Voltage. . .



Energy Price Comparison

As a consumer, it is always difficult to make accurate comparisons between different items. It became so bad in the grocery business that a few years ago laws were passed mandating the display of prices on common units so consumers could compare and not be swayed by pricing and packaging tactics that masked the true cost of an item.

Comparing energy prices is even trickier because the common units are typically quite alien to us poor consumers. Who wants to go comparison shopping on the basis of British Thermal Units or therms? Fortunately, the good old American greenback gives us a common denominator we can all relate to. The table on the right shows you the equivalent prices for electricity, fuel oil and propane.

Let's take an example. If you heat your home with electric resistance heat at \$.112/kWh, the equivalent price of heating oil is \$2.49 per gallon. What does this mean? If heating oil is more than \$2.49, it is a more expensive alternative than the electric resistance.

How about another example? If you heat your home with a high efficiency electric heat pump at the same \$.112/kWh you'd now have to be able to buy heating oil at \$.71/gallon to enjoy equivalent value!

Now, as CSI aficionados will know, Gil Grissom is famous for his "cite your source" challenge when presented with new data.

Commentary by the President & CEO



Spread of Electricity

by Robert M. Kolling
President & CEO

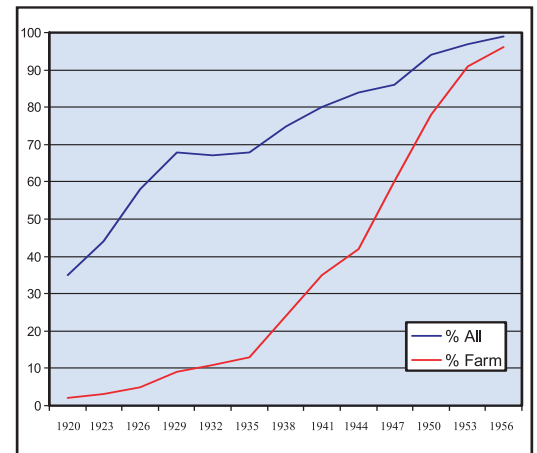
Electricity is so ubiquitous today it's worth noting how recently in our past this was not the case. Electrification was a slow and expensive proposition at the turn of the last century. In 1906, only 8% of American homes had electricity and they paid an average of \$.17 per kWh for the privilege (down from \$.34 just a few years earlier). The utilities of the day were busy competing with each other for business and were more interested in making a profit than in providing universal service. When it came to spreading outside major cities and towns, it was just too expensive. Ultimately, it required Federal legislation to bring electricity to all of America and even then, it took decades.

The chart on the right gives you data about the number of American homes that were wired

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to use electricity from 1920 through 1956.

An interesting question involves what electricity was actually used for at first. After all, the appliances and electronics we take for granted today weren't around. According to research, the first use of electricity was the telegraph that Samuel Morse invented in 1840. Until Edison invented the light bulb in 1880, there wasn't much else for electricity to power. However, the electric light was enough to spawn the growth of electrification world wide.



Source: Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Blvd. West, St. Paul, MN 55102-1906
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Equivalent Cost Comparison	Electricity	Standard Heating Oil - 80% Efficient	Standard Propane - 80% Efficient	High Efficiency Propane - 90 % Efficient
Electric Resistance 100% Efficient	\$.112/kWh	\$2.49/gallon	\$2.41/gallon	\$2.70/gallon
High Efficiency Heat Pump 350% Efficient	\$.112/kWh	\$.71/gallon	\$.69/gallon	\$.77/gallon

So, in that spirit, the source for this data is the Advanced Energy Corporation in Raleigh, NC. Check them out on the web at www.advancedenergy.org.

Look for more in the coming months about high efficiency electric alternatives for your heating needs.

Gadget Guide

By Tom Tate

As parents, my wife and I were pretty concerned about how much time our kids spent watching television. Not that we're that old but the only electronic entertainment options then were the TV, a game console or some pretty clunky computer games. Still, we didn't want the kids coming home and veging in front of the tube until we came home. So, we took Draconian measures and purchased locks for the TV. These were real basic, you unplugged the TV, slipped on a locking device, locked it and, ta-da, the TV was secured.

These days there is far more to be concerned about as a parent. Television is still in play as are game consoles but the real culprit is the Internet. I love the Internet - it is an absolutely amazing thing. It also has the potential for real harm. Just recently I read an article in the paper about online gaming addiction. There is a 12 Step program for these folks. And who can escape the recurring news about online stalkers.



Well, technology has actually kept pace this time and there is a really cool gadget available called the PowerCop, pictured above. Instead of me rewriting the description, let me excerpt the ad copy from SmartHome.com where I ran across the device.

"This easy-to-install video game timer locks away cords to electronic devices for easy monitoring of kids' habits. Open the Power Cop using one of the two included keys. Plug the chosen electronic device into

the Power Cop and plug the Power Cop into the wall. Program the Power Cop, and then lock the unit. The tamper-proof lock will prevent kids from accessing the attached electronic device for extra fun time when they should be studying.

Ideal for video games, televisions, and stereos, the Power Cop can be programmed with a different usage time for each day of the week with a minimum schedule interval of 15 minutes. It can be set to unrestricted to enable usage at any time or turned to "off" to disable usage of an electronic device completely.

The Power Cop will beep and flash to alert the user as time runs down. An internal battery supply saves the timer schedule; the battery recharges itself automatically from the power line."

Not bad, eh? All this control for \$19.99 plus shipping and handling, of course. Check it out on the web at <http://www.smarthome.com/46900.html> or call them at 1.800.242.7329 and ask for item # 46900.

Superior Water Heaters from Your Cooperative

When its time to buy a new water heater there are a number of things to consider. You can buy an inexpensive standard steel unit with marginal efficiencies that might last five to eight years. It will be cheap to purchase but it will cost more to operate. You can invest in a high efficiency steel unit that will save on operating costs but still have the short life expectancy of the less efficient model. Or you can invest in a Marathon unit and enjoy the savings of high efficiency... for a lifetime! Take a look at the table

below to see how a Marathon compares to a standard steel unit.

Marathon tanks are super efficient and warranted not to leak for as long as you own your home.

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative will be offering the Marathon tanks in 50, 85 and 105 gallon sizes. These tanks offer:

- Seamless polybutylene construction so they will never rust, corrode or leak.
- Environfoam(r) insulation that completely surrounds the tank providing the superior efficiency with no ozone-depleting chemicals.

- Heating elements designed to maintain water temperatures and perform in the harshest environments (like ours).
- Bowl-shaped tank bottom with a center drain that allows for more complete draining and improved maintainability.

Check out the complete details at our website, www.sussexrec.com under the Energy Use & Efficiency Information heading on the left side or contact us at 973-875-5101 for more information. Make your next water heater replacement your last with a Marathon water heater from Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15	Total
50 Gallon Marathon Tank Cost (94% efficiency)	\$570															\$570
Marathon - energy	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$7,329.15
Marathon - total	\$1,058.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$488.61	\$7,899.15
50 Gallon Standard Tank Cost (82% efficiency)	\$245					\$245					\$245					\$735
Standard - energy	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$7,828.80
Standard - total	\$766.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$766.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$766.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$521.92	\$8,563.80
Marathon Cost vs Standard Cost	-\$291.69	\$33.31	\$33.31	\$33.31	\$33.31	\$278.31	\$33.31	\$33.31	\$33.31	\$33.31	\$278.31	\$33.31	\$33.31	\$33.31	\$33.31	\$664.65



Tom Tate

Meet your Employees... Tom Tate - Manager, Marketing & Member Services

Tom is our newest employee at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative with a mere 6 months under his belt. Originally from Blacksburg, Virginia Tom graduated from Virginia Tech with a BS in Marketing Management. He then completed his MBA from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. He has worked for electric utilities for 14 years, 5 of them for the North Carolina cooperatives.

In his position as Marketing and Member Services manager he wears many hats. Amongst them is managing Sussex Rural's web-site, developing new programs/services for our members, producing our monthly newsletter "Currents," advertising, the Annual Meeting, safety demos to the schools and community and educating members on energy conservation/new technologies, to name a few. He enjoys the safety demonstrations to the youth, helping customers solve energy problems and writing articles the most. But, changing the outside marquee in either sub-zero or 95+∞ degree weather has proved to be a challenge.

The most exciting cooperative experience he has endured is none other than Hurricane Floyd when it hit the North Carolina area. With so many affected by the storm he was called upon to deliver food, water and ice to electric crews working in the flooded areas. The most challenging part of his position at SREC is communicating the financial, comfort, safety and value benefits to our members of the products/services and programs we offer.



Currently, Tom is residing in McAfee until his wife Nancy can join him from North Carolina. He has two grown children, Tom and Megan. His son Tom resides in Cincinnati, Ohio and Megan lives in Spain. He enjoys spending his spare time with his dogs and cats. He has an Irish Wolfhound (Minnie), a King Charles Spaniel (Lucy), a Scottish Fold cat (Esmarelda) and a Maine Koon cat (Ratter). His hobbies range from PC's to woodworking, hiking, fishing and photography with woodworking his favorite.

Tom is one of the people you can count on at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative.

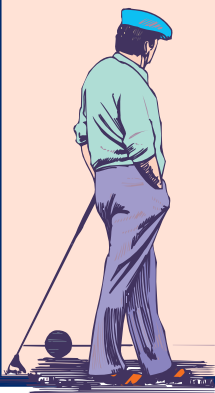
Did you know...

A single flame whale oil lamp from the 1800s produces 2400 lumens (a measure of light output) while our modern 100 watt incandescent light bulb produces 1600? Thanks to Tony Pecoraro for this tidbit.

Why do golf courses have 18 holes? According to a senior member of St. Andrews in 1858, it takes 18 shots to finish a fifth of scotch. By limiting himself to one shot per hole, he figured the round was over when the scotch ran out. Let's do the math on this one:

- 1 gallon = 128 ounces
- 1/5 of a gallon = 25.6 ounces
- 1 shot = 1.5 ounces
- 1.5 ounces x 18 holes = 27 ounces

So, it looks like a plausible explanation and I wouldn't put it past the designers of the game to base the course on such a measure. Thanks to one of my many e-mail contributors for this story, the veracity of which is unsubstantiated but is entertaining regardless.



Scholarship Opportunities

Your cooperative offers two scholarships for eligible high school students. The first is the William F. Matson Scholarship. This scholarship is available to the children of members and employees of the electric cooperatives in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The second is the Jody Loudenslager Scholarship which is available to any college-bound student who participated in Youth Tour through the New Jersey & Pennsylvania co-ops.

Applications for both scholarships are available online at www.sussexrec.com where you click on the Youth Programs link on the left hand side. You may also call and request a copy by calling us at 973.875.5101 or just stop by our office between 8:00 and 4:30 Monday - Friday.

The deadline for applications for both scholarships is May 11, 2007.

Spread of Electricity

Continued from page 1

People were eager to get rid of their dangerous and dirty gas, candle and kerosene light sources.

To see one of the earliest examples of the Edison light, check out this link: <http://www.centennialbulb.org/>. This website chronicles the Livermore (California) Centennial Light which was

manufactured in 1901 by the Shelby Electric Company. It has a hand-blown bulb with a carbon filament and uses approximately 4 watts of electricity. The bulb has been left burning continuously in the firehouse as a nightlight over the fire trucks since 1901. Guess it's true they don't make 'em like they used to. Thanks to Tony

Pecoraro for sharing this fact and the link to the Livermore Centennial Light.

Can you imagine living without electricity? Think about using blocks of ice for refrigeration. Wood and coal for heat and cooking. Hot water for baths from a pan on the wood or coal stove. Candles and oil lamps for light. Plus no television, radio, computers, telephones, dish washers, vacuums, washing machines or dryers. Needless to say, life would be substantially different for us without electricity.

Today, an estimated 2 billion people (or roughly 1/3 of the earth's population), do not have electricity. The difficulty in reaching these people is similar to that faced by America just 70 years ago. The cooperative movement of the United States provides an excellent model for electrification and the NRECA is working overseas to implement cooperatives in areas in need of electric facilities and service. Perhaps in another 50 years we can write that 100% of the population is served by electricity. When that happens everyone will be able to have an iPod and cell phone. Call it progress...

March Retail Promotion Events and Other Observances

Mar. 1-31	National Craft Month
Mar. 1-31	National Frozen Food Month
Mar. 1-31	National Nutrition Month
Mar. 1-31	National Umbrella Month
Mar. 1-31	Save Your Vision Month
Mar. 1-Apr. 15	Lent
Mar. 3-9	3-A-Day Week Dairy Servings
Mar. 4	International Scrapbooking Industry Day
Mar. 11	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar. 14	National Children's Craft Day
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 18	National Quilting Day
Mar. 20	Spring Begins
Mar. 25	Pecan Day
Mar. 26-Apr. 1	National Cleaning Week
Mar. 29	National Mom & Pop Business Owners Day

News & Events

Sussex / Wantage

St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance - Saturday, March 10, Sussex Fire House - Doors open 6:30 pm dinner begins 7:30. DJ from 9:00 to 1:00 am. \$25.00 per person includes corned beef & cabbage buffet, beer, wine, cash bar. Purchase tickets by calling 973-875-5887 or 973-600-7043 or through any SFD member.

St. Monica's Parish Trip for 2007 - will travel to Greece, a journey along the footsteps of St. Paul October 9-19, 2007. Features include a two-night stay in Athens, visiting Corinth and the Acropolis, and a seven night cruise to the Greek Islands, including Istanbul, Turkey and Ephesus, Mykonos, Rhodes, Santorini - all with outside Category "A" cabins. An information session is planned for Sunday, February 11th at 3:00 pm in the church hall. Call Carol at 973-875-4521 if interested. Open to all!!

County Wide

Literacy Volunteers of Sussex County (LVSC): considering being a tutor of adults? Come to our orientation for new tutors, March 7 at 6:30 PM, at Newton United Methodist Church. This is followed by six Wednesday-night training sessions, same place at 6:30 PM. To sign up or learn more about it, call 973-300-9444.

Blood Drive: Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative Offices-March 27- 2:00-7:00 PM. ☐



**BE A HERO
SAVE A LIFE
GIVE BLOOD**

Currents

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