



"Lower Valley is *My* Energy Company."

Mike Randall / Jackson

energy **EDGE**

TETON COUNTY, WYOMING



Quarterly Newsletter / Winter 2005

ENERGY STAR® Helps Heat Homes More Efficiently



With ENERGY STAR, homeowners can save up to 20 percent on annual energy costs by making energy-efficient improvements to their heating and cooling systems. As temperatures drop this winter, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging Americans to save energy, reduce utility bills and protect the environment by increasing the energy efficiency of their home heating systems.

Lower Valley Energy is partnering with Energy Star in a variety of ways, including offering rebates for consumers who purchase Energy Star appliances. We even offer home energy audits where an LVE energy specialist will help check your entire home. This saves members money on their utility bills and may help them get better financing on their new home purchases or upgrades to their existing homes.

The average household spends \$1,500 a year on energy bills, nearly half of which goes to heating and cooling. EPA esti-

mates that if one in 10 U.S. households used heating and cooling equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR label, the change would prevent an estimated 17 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

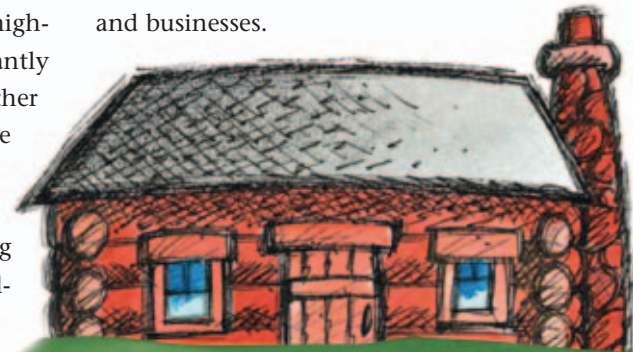
Sealing leaks that allow air to escape the home and replacing old heating equipment with high-efficiency models can significantly reduce annual energy costs. Other steps also cut costs and improve comfort: tuning up heating and cooling equipment annually; regularly replacing the air filters; checking and sealing the duct system; and using a programmable thermostat's multiple temperature settings to get the most savings.

EPA's *Guide to Energy-Efficient Cooling and Heating* provides timely information and more details about how to save energy and money this winter, while helping to protect the environment. It can be found at: www.energystar.gov/hvacguide.

When heating equipment reaches 15 or more years of age, EPA, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and LVE recommend that homeowners consider a more energy-efficient replacement. Many furnaces, heat

pumps, boilers and thermostats meet ENERGY STAR's strict standards for energy efficiency set by the EPA and DOE.

More than 9,000 organizations have become Energy Star partners and are committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes and businesses.



For more information about ENERGY STAR and additional steps

to save money and reduce air pollution, call

Wid Ritchie,
LVE Conservation Specialist,
at 800-882-5875.

Source: EPA



Adding ENERGY STAR-rated programmable thermostats like this one to heating and cooling systems can help members conserve energy and save money on their utility bills.

ACE — A Career In Energy

Lower Valley Energy is currently in the preliminary phase of establishing a trade school program, known as ACE (A Career in Energy), whose objective is to produce highly trained, competent linemen while adding job opportunities to the local area. A.C.E. is linked with the School-To-Careers programs in affiliation with the JHHS and SVHS.



Jake Stewart



Dusty Stump

On the 7th of December the ACE program held its inaugural board meeting. A month later the program welcomed its first students, Jake Stewart and Dusty Stump. ACE will be the area training school for the energy industry focused on exceptional educational opportunities, career development, safety, and commitment to excellence. The vision of the program is to continually seek the opportunity to teach, train, develop, and expand the educational opportunities of those seeking a rewarding career in the energy industry.

Visit www.LVEnergy.com for the full story!

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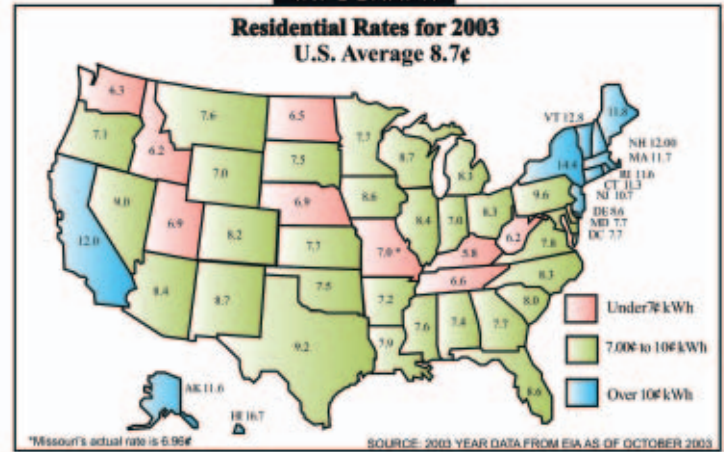
Energy Supply Options

As you've probably heard, we are anticipating a rate increase at the start of 2007. Last year we hired a consulting firm, E3 from San Francisco, to help us explore our power supply options for this upcoming change, evaluate the most feasible resources to meet our energy needs and help guide us in our post-2006 power supply decisions. The findings were presented to the public on the 8th and 9th of December.

Lower Valley Energy's leadership among utilities in Wyoming and the Northwest in providing low-cost quality service to our members is due in part to the competitive wholesale power supply contracts we have been able to secure over the years. According to E3, based on these contracts and other cost-saving measures, our very stable electric rates have saved the average LVE member \$300 a year in electricity costs over the past 4 years. E3 found that the wholesale power increase is certainly inevitable and that BPA is still the most cost-effective option for LVE.

Besides power supply resources, E3 recommends a residential rate structure change. Currently, we have a

INFOGRAPH



Even after the increase in 2007, we're still below the national average.

declining block rate structure, which essentially means the rate is cheaper the more energy you use. A flat rate structure is a possibility, with the rate being the same no matter how much energy a member uses. And then there is the more conservation-friendly inclining block rate structure.

Essentially, E3 foresees a 25% increase in LVE rates by the beginning of 2007.

Visit www.LVEnergy.com for the full story!

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The Quarterly Newsletter From
YOUR Energy Company



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New ACE Board of Directors (from left to right):
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