



“Lower Valley is **my** energy cooperative.”

Nicole Stocki / Auburn

energy **EDGE**

Auburn, Wyoming



your cooperative newsletter  
fall 2013

## let's talk about rates

Low rates are one of the cornerstones of what we do at your energy cooperative. We work hard every year, studying our options, examining future needs, figuring out how best to serve your energy needs.

The 30-year graphic below shows a relatively flat history, and that our electric rate grew less than inflation.

Despite ending 2012 with the second lowest electric rates among all electric cooperatives in the country,

upward pressure from our power supplier, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), remains. The electric rate increase is 3%.

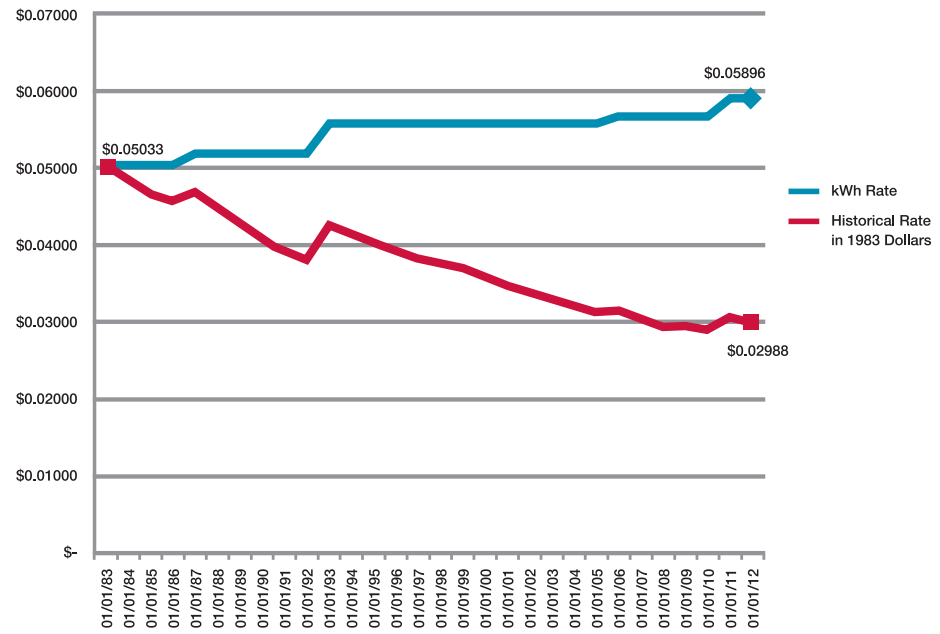
Though rate changes will take effect in October, we are taking steps to minimize the increase and maintain our competitive position. For example, we were one of 4 successful bidders in the Northwest to take advantage of the opportunity to purchase prepaid power discounts from BPA which will save approximately \$1.3 million per year for the next 15 years on our power cost.

On a related note, in our Fall 2011

newsletter we talked about a \$2.9 million refund from BPA, from a residential exchange settlement with large investor owned utilities in the Northwest. The settlement money has been refunded to you, monthly, since 2011 (and shows up as “BPA Refund” on your bill). At the end of August the monies were entirely refunded to you, our members. You will no longer see the credit.

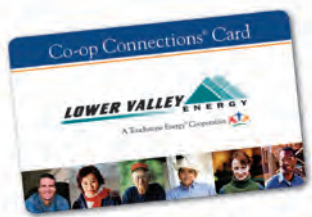


electric rate history



## anatomy of a jobsite

Safety is of the utmost importance at Lower Valley Energy. In servicing our grid's over 2,000 miles of line, not to mention our natural gas and propane systems, we have a lot to be careful about. Above is a picture of a typical worksite. Whenever we have linemen up a pole, safety equipment is used by all members of the team, along with a man on the ground to spot safety hazards up above.



## it's been a year!

It's been a year since we introduced the Co-op Connections card and the program has done very well — over \$156,000 in savings to date at local pharmacies! As a member of Lower Valley Energy you get discounts on products and services from participating businesses with your Co-op Connections Card. The card is absolutely free. Stop in to either office for your free card — simply because you are a Lower Valley Energy member.

ALWAYS present your Co-op Connections Card when filling prescriptions, EVEN if you are already covered by insurance.

Go to [www.LVEnergy.com](http://www.LVEnergy.com) to view a list of available discounts.

### Attention Business Owners!

If you are a business owner that would like to be a part of this program, please contact us immediately. The Co-op Connections Card program offers you the opportunity to advertise a “local discount” for all Lower Valley Energy members. And it is FREE advertising.

Here's a list of our current local discount vendors:

- Aspens Condos
- Blue Lion
- Bressler Insulation
- Livingston Dental
- National Museum of Wildlife Art
- Painted Buffalo Inn
- Raindance Arts
- Silver Star
- Simply Health of JH

This is just one more way you benefit from being a cooperative member. As your cooperative, we are always here to serve you.

Lower Valley Energy is fortunate to be able to buy predominantly clean hydropower from the Pacific Northwest. To learn more about the advantage of clean hydropower, please click the CleanHydro link on our website [www.LVEnergy.com](http://www.LVEnergy.com)

## \$500 for your thoughts

Complete our annual survey and we will enter you in our drawing for a \$500 credit to your energy bill!

As your energy cooperative we take your feedback very seriously. Please let us know what we do well

and how we can better serve you. Our annual survey helps us constantly improve our service to you.

Please go to: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013LVEsurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013LVEsurvey)

All information is used for internal purposes only. We truly value your time and opinion. Thank you for sharing your comments.

The \$500 prize drawing is held on November 1, 2013. Offer valid for current LVE members only. One entry per household.



Visit [www.LVEnergy.com](http://www.LVEnergy.com) for the full story!

## energyEDGE



the newsletter from your energy cooperative

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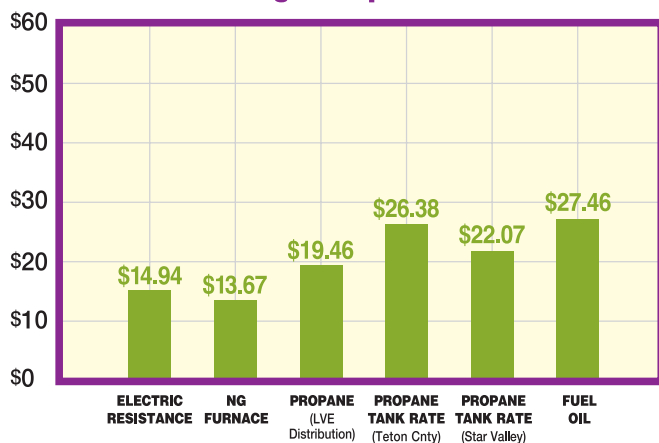
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### heating cost per MMBTU



All fuel type units converted to BTUs