




The Light Issue

of the Current Communicator

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News for the member-owners of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative



Your Guide to Energy-Efficient Light Bulbs

The following article was seen in our e-letter **Energy Sense** that goes to our members via the internet. If you don't receive this helpful information, e-mail information@mycvec.com with your account number. We'll sign you up! (Sharing your e-mail address will also allow us to keep you posted on outage info and other timely updates!)

Shopping for light bulbs used to be easy. Conventional incandescents were typically the only type available, and all you had to decide was whether you needed a 40-, 60- or 100-watt bulb. Incandescent bulbs are very inefficient, however, wasting most of their energy as heat.


These days, there are a variety of energy-efficient lighting products on the market, and while these new products can help to reduce your energy bill, they make shopping for light bulbs a lot more complicated. This guide will help you find the right lighting products for your needs.

Shedding light on lumens

For decades, homeowners have shopped for light bulbs based on wattage. A 100-watt light bulb for example, would be brighter than a 40-watt bulb. In today's world of energy-efficient lighting, lumens are what matter most. Wattage is the power that goes into a bulb, while lumens measure the light that comes out of it. Energy-efficient light bulbs are more efficient because they provide more lumens per watt than conventional incandescents. For example, a 60-watt incandescent bulb provides 800 lumens, while a 15-watt compact fluorescent lamp gives you about the same amount of light for much less energy. When choosing among lighting products, look for lumens.


Lighting choices

Three of the most common energy-efficient lighting options available are halogen incandescents, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs).



Halogen incandescents (pictured at left) are about 25 percent more efficient and can last up to three times longer than conventional incandescent bulbs. A capsule inside the bulb holds gas around a filament to increase energy efficiency. They are available in a wide range of shapes and colors, and can be used with dimmers.

CFLs (pictured at right) are smaller, curly versions of the tubular fluorescent lamps commonly used in offices. They cost more to purchase than traditional incandescents, but because they use about 75 percent less energy, they typically pay for themselves in less than a year, and last up to 10 times longer. CFL bulbs are available in the familiar warm (yellowish) tone of conventional incandescents, and some are encased in a cover to diffuse the light and give the bulb a traditional look. CFLs do contain a small amount of mercury, a hazardous material, and should be disposed of properly.



LEDs (pictured above) are made of a solid semiconductor material that converts electricity into light. LEDs are up to 80 percent more efficient than conventional incandescent lamps and last up to 25 times longer. Because they are made of a solid material, LEDs are hard to break, a distinct advantage over conventional light bulbs made with glass. LED products are currently available as replacements for 40-, 60- and 75-watt conventional incandescents. Although they are more expensive to purchase, LEDs pay for themselves over time through their long life and low energy use.

Get the facts

When comparing lighting products, look for the Lighting Facts* label, which is required on most lighting packages by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. The label provides accurate information on the brightness (in lumens), energy used, rated life, and estimated annual energy cost of each product. (*Label info can be found at www.business.ftc.gov ... search lighting facts.)



Seeking Members' Advise

New Member Advisory Council To Be Convened

As a member-owned electric utility, CVEC is democratically governed with member representatives elected to the CVEC Board of Directors. The Directors provide oversight, guidance, and approval of policies, while bringing the member's perspective to their monthly meetings.

Three years ago, the Board of Directors created the **Member Advisory Council (MAC)** in order to share more detailed information with individual members and gather member insights on topics such as reliability and right of way maintenance, the future of wholesale power supply and the impact on CVEC rates, and the keys to member satisfaction.

Fifteen to twenty members from each of our three Divisions met for a meal and conversation in the Spring and Autumn of the year. Conversation was lively and productive as Council members made great suggestions and thoughtful comments.

Continuing that process, we are going to ask those willing MAC members to continue serving and providing their insight. We also offer an invitation for others to join the council. Our format will be somewhat different. In addition to a meal and face-to-face discussion, we will ask our Member Advisory Council to participate online, respond to questions on specific issues and offer comments by e-mail or short surveys throughout the year.

The new format will allow an on-going discussion of important topics without the larger time commitment of an evening meeting. If you would like to be part of the Member Advisory Council, send an e-mail to information@mycvec.com. Tell us a little bit about yourself. Share any skills or knowledge that you would bring to the table. We hope to have a diverse group of people willing to critique CVEC processes and provide constructive recommendations.

Any member can participate! You can make a difference. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Board of Directors Update

Officers Elected & New Director Chosen

This past summer, the CVEC Board of Directors elected new officers for two-year terms. **R. Kinckle Robinson** of Appomattox was elected Chair of the Board. Serving with him will be **Roberta I. Harlowe** of Troy as Vice-Chair, **Jace A. Goodling** of Afton as Secretary, and **H. T. Brown, Jr.** of Roseland as Treasurer.

Chair Robinson, a lifelong resident of Appomattox County, has served on the CVEC board for 8 years. He is President and Owner of Robinson Funeral Home, Inc., in Appomattox, a family owned and operated business since 1947, and also shares in a partnership running Kindon Farms, a beef cattle cow/calf operation.

The remaining 2013-2015 officers have served CVEC for varying numbers of years: Brown since 2008 and Goodling since 2005. Mrs. Harlowe has served on the Board for 30 years as of August 2013.

Also, the Board has chosen a new Director **Frank Baber, III**, to fill the open seat in the South District. The vacant Director position was the result of the unexpected passing of **K. M Beasley, Jr.**, this past spring.

Mr. Baber was selected from a strong group of potential appointees who met the Director qualifications outlined in the CVEC Bylaws and who expressed interest in the Director position. He and his family have lived and farmed on the CVEC grid for decades (in Cumberland County). Frank has also served on the CVEC Member Advisory Council for the South District.

Mr. Baber is the Director of James River Agribusiness Operations, managing a variety of farming operations including the dairy herd, the milk processing plant and meat processing plant in addition to 4500 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, and other crops. He also owns his own farm and poultry operation in Cumberland County.

Mr. Baber will serve as Director until the next Membership Meeting in June of 2014 and will be eligible for election to the Board by the full membership at that time.



Kinckle Robinson
Chair



Robert Harlowe
Vice Chair



Jace Goodling
Secretary



H. T. Brown, Jr.
Treasurer



Frank Baber
New Director

