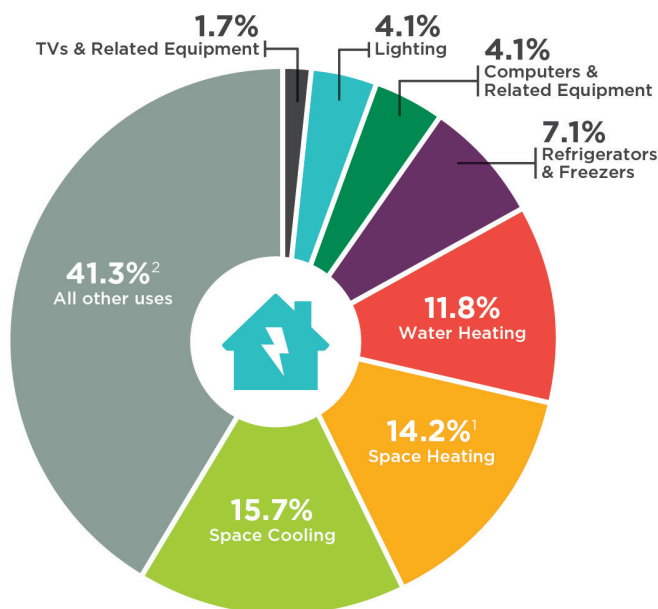


## How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: Energy Information Administration 2021

<sup>1</sup>Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.

<sup>2</sup>Includes miscellaneous appliances, clothes washers and dryers, stoves, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.



# Electricity Remains a Good Value Today

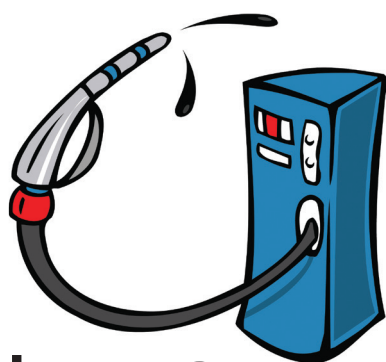
Electricity is one of the most valuable and reliable products we use every day. Take a look around - everything is either powered by electricity or produced with the help of electric power.

As consumers, we directly or indirectly use electricity almost all the time. From powering our homes and businesses to energizing entire communities. Most of the time we don't even think about it. We trust electricity will be there to power our smart phones or alarm clocks so we can wake up on time, brew our first cup of coffee each morning, and have a warm shower before heading out the door. Televisions, game consoles, ovens, washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators, computers, Wi-Fi routers, water heaters, and many other appliances all need electricity to run. It is also the energy behind the clothes you wear, the food you eat, and the cooled or heated air you breathe.

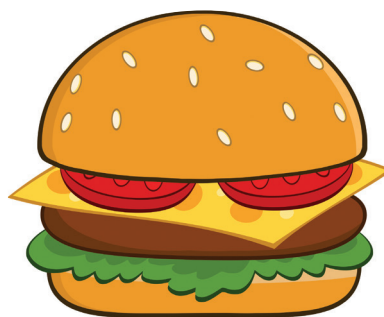
According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household now uses more air heating and cooling, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Your energy bill is no longer just the "light bill".

Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But, even in the country's shifting energy climate, with the high cost of fuel causing rates to climb, it is important to understand that electricity remains an undeniable value and one of life's great conveniences, especially when compared to other consumer goods.

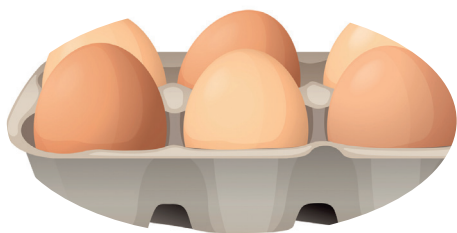
In today's world, you won't find many items that cost less than \$5. It is harder and harder, if not impossible, to purchase



**\$5.73**  
**Average Cost of  
a Gallon of  
Unleaded Gasoline**



**\$5.62**  
**Average Cost of  
a Big Mac®**



**\$8.29**  
**Average Cost of  
an 18 Pack of Eggs**



**\$4.95**  
**Average Cost of a  
Specialty Coffee**

a gallon of milk, a gallon of gas, a loaf of bread, a carton of eggs, or a cup of coffee to go for that; but did you know that an average day's worth of electricity does cost less than \$5? At \$4.54, the average cost of electricity per day is actually consistent with or lower than all the items just mentioned.

While this doesn't take the sting out of high costs, it does demonstrate that electricity has remained a good value, especially considering its increased importance in our lives.

Often, though, the value of electricity is taken for granted. The cost of a mocha or latte from your favorite coffee shop isn't often questioned even though it costs as much or more than it takes to pay for a day's worth of power. People don't usually question the cost of a Big Mac®, but it costs \$1.08 more than power for an entire day. Most people don't hesitate to spend \$2.50 on a 20 oz. soda, more than \$5 on a burger, between \$8 and \$14.75 on a movie ticket, or over \$25 for a pizza, but they are concerned when paying over \$4 a day, on average, on their power bill.

It is nearly impossible for us to think about what our lives

would be like if we did not have electricity.

If at times it doesn't seem that electricity is affordable, remember - even as the demand for electricity grows - annual cost increases still remain low when compared to other consumer goods. Electricity is still a great bargain. So, the next time you crave your morning coffee or a tasty Big Mac®, or enjoy your favorite podcast or TV series, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life for less than you pay for those luxuries. You still get a great deal for your dollar.

CVEA cares about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why your Cooperative will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably. ■

*The average daily cost of electricity is based on 2021 combined average annual costs for Valdez and Glennallen. Other costs are based on current prices averaged between the Valdez and Glennallen districts. The cost of a Big Mac is based on Anchorage MacDonald's prices. Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material.*

# Help Your Child Succeed

*Good reading skills are essential for success in school*

Parents want their children to grow up to become well-adjusted, happy and successful adults. Most parents know that for their children to be successful, they need a good education.

Studies show children do better in school if their parents are involved in their education. Although small children are inquisitive and eager to learn, they need encouragement and reinforcement to start them off and keep them going in the right direction.

Good reading skills are necessary for success in school. Here are some tips to help your child develop good study habits and a lifetime love of learning.

- Start early by instilling a love for learning. Read to preschool children every day. It arouses their natural curiosity about the world around them and encourages them to want to learn to read for themselves.

- Provide books and supplies. Give your children the tools they need to improve their reading and to do projects.

- Work out a schedule. Decide how much time should be set aside for homework and establish a routine.

- Help your children get organized. Using a calendar gives students a sense of accomplishment.

- Designate a quiet, comfortable place for studying. Encourage youngsters to study in the same place every day, away from distractions.

- Provide reinforcement. Praise your children for working hard and completing assignments.

- Talk with your children about what is going on in the world around them. Encourage new ideas and interests.

- Set an example for them. Parents are, after all, the most important teachers in a child's life.



**Provide a quiet, comfortable place for your child to do homework each day to help instill good study habits.**



## Watch for Kids as They Head Back to School

On average, 26 children in the United States are killed every year while getting on or off a school bus, or while waiting at the bus stop.

To avoid such tragedies, drivers are reminded to:

- Carefully back out of driveways. Watch for children walking to the bus stop.
- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street and playing or congregating near bus stops—especially in the early morning hours, when it may still be dark.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking.
- Obey the law. Yellow flashing lights on a bus mean motorists should slow down and prepare to stop. Red flashing lights mean motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn and the bus starts moving again. Unless there is a median, oncoming traffic also must stop.





**CVEA CEO Million met with FERC Chairman Glick to discuss regulatory burdens.**

PHOTO COURTESY APA

# Alaska Utilities Bring Awareness in D.C.

After a three-year COVID-caused hiatus, the Alaska Power Association Federal Legislative Conference returned to Washington, D.C. this past June with the goal of telling Alaska's story and learning more about the opportunities that exist for Alaskan utilities. The event was attended by CVEA CEO Travis Million who believes the federal conference to be one of APA's most important advocacy events. According to Million, "One of the greatest benefits for CVEA and its members is the opportunity to meet with leadership of the federal agencies like the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Department of Energy (DOE), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to name a few. Typically, it is difficult for individual utilities to schedule meetings with these major policy makers, but having a large contingency of Alaska utility representatives makes it easier. It is also always good to speak as a unified group to our congregational delegation and share priorities for the state regarding the electric utility industry."

The group heard from colleagues at the national trade associations who focused on key items such as direct pay for electric co-ops and municipal utilities for parity with investor-owned utilities that can take advantage of tax incentives, funding established in the federal infrastructure law, grid security developments and programs, supply chain issues and potential congressional and administrative solutions, and congressional activity around hydropower issues. They met with FERC Chairman Richard Glick, one of five commissioners tasked with regulating interstate transmission of natural gas, oil, and electricity. The agency also regulates hydropower projects, which is what brings Alaska into its purview. APA and their members have been consistent in advocating for relief from ever-growing

regulation of hydropower projects that financially impact Alaskan communities. Advocacy was the top priority in a meeting with Brie Van Cleve, the senior energy policy advisory to Sen. Manchin, and other members of the Senator's committee staff. Direct pay incentives, hydropower relicensing timeframes, and other issues and solutions that would be advantageous to Alaska utilities were discussed.

Sen. Dan Sullivan, who is always receptive to the needs of the electric industry met with the Alaska utility representatives and discussed FERC issues, developments in the Railbelt, and how grants from the IIJA could be helpful to electric utilities across the state. The final day was spent at DOE headquarters visiting leadership in the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, Emergency Response, and the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, and the final meeting of the conference was with Alaska's senior senator, Sen. Lisa Murkowski. As always, the meeting with Sen. Murkowski was time well-spent and a great chance to keep the issues of APA's member utilities top of mind.

The distance from Alaska to D.C. is vast and decisions made in Washington, D.C. are often made by those with little awareness of the reality in the Last Frontier. Lawmakers and administration officials need to know this, and the APA Federal Legislative Conference brings that information to them. By putting Alaska utilities front and center, an indelible impression is left with people who can affect the electric industry in this great state.

For more information regarding CVEA's government relations work on behalf of the Membership, contact CEO Travis Million at 907-822-3171 ■

*Information provided by Mike Rovito, Deputy Director of Alaska Power Association, in the 2022 Federal Legislative Trip Report.*



# Safety Takes Priority at CVEA

## Celebrating With Safety Week

**By Coreen Palacios**

Each year, CVEA celebrates National Safety Month with a Safety Week planned by the Safety Review and Recommendations Team (SRRT). During the week employees were invited to share safety tips and send pictures of safety hazards with corrective actions taken at work or home that the team can learn from. One shared hazard, improperly stacked cinder blocks, is pictured on the opposite page. The cinder blocks were stacked too high on unstable ground causing them to eventually fall. Luckily no one was around that could get hurt.

Employees were also invited to share creative safety slogans to be used in the coming year company-wide. At the employee meeting on July 18, employees did a live vote to select the best slogan and the winner was “One team, one goal, safety first is how we roll,” submitted by Valdez Plant Operator Steve Williams.

The safety luncheon event, held June 29, was a huge success with employees from both districts gathering in Glennallen. CEO Travis Million thanked everyone for working safely. “We want you to go home to your family the same way you came to work each day.” On the day of the event, CVEA had worked 1,255 days without a lost time injury, hitting a new safety record. Although the Co-op doesn’t focus on the numbers, it

is important to recognize everyone’s shared achievement. The CVEA team continues to improve the safety culture and programs. One way is requesting honest feedback from employees through an anonymous safety culture perception survey. Results and potential changes are then reviewed by the SRRT and Leadership Team.

Todd Stahley, Manager of Operations, gave a tour at the Glennallen pole yard explaining the different materials and equipment used by the line crew. The line crew demonstrated a pole top rescue and how to set up a transformer, and CEO Million demonstrated hard hat safety and explained its protection from head injury, falling or flying objects, or electrical shock and burn. Office staff participated in a relay race installing a cutout and tightening a bolt using rubber gloves, providing an understanding of the challenges line crews endure wearing safety equipment during extreme cold temperatures.

Finally, the entire team was excited to watch Nathanael Severs, CVEA groundskeeper, climb up the pole for the first time since becoming a lineman is the career path he intends to pursue.

If you have questions about the safety program at CVEA, please contact Coreen Palacios, CVEA Regulatory and Compliance Specialist, at 907-822-3211. ■









A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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907-822-3211

Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**

907-835-4301

367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**  
866-835-2832

### Important Dates

#### August

##### **CVEA Community Foundation Contribution Request Deadline:**

The deadline to submit contribution request forms is 6 p.m. Thursday, August 18, 2022

**CVEA Kids Activity Program:** The CVEA 'Back To Fun' Kids Activity Program begins Monday, August 15. Stay tuned for details.

**CVEA Member Tour:** The CVEA Member Tour will be in Valdez Wednesday, August 24, 2022, from 10-5 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The August meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, August 25, 2022, in Glennallen

#### September

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, September 5, 2022, for Labor Day

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The September meeting has been cancelled

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## Register for the Upcoming CVEA Member Tour in Valdez



**When:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022

**Time:** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (est.)

**What You'll See:** Valdez Diesel Plant, CVEA Cogeneration Plant, Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Plant and Dam, Allison Creek Hydroelectric Plant and Diversion Structure \*\*Some locations are weather dependent

**Who Can Participate:** CVEA Members from the Valdez or Copper Basin District (non-member guests may attend if pre-approved and space allows)

- Space is limited to 20 participants
- Registration deadline is 6 p.m., Monday, August 15
- Reserve your spot - email [sscheidt@cvea.org](mailto:sscheidt@cvea.org) or call the local CVEA office
- Details will be provided at registration

### Don't Miss Out on New or Upgraded Service Requests This Construction Season

When summer comes to an end, so will construction season. If you are planning new construction or a service upgrade before the end of the season, don't wait.

All paperwork must be submitted and payment made prior to September 15 in order to be considered for the current construction season. Please email [construction@cvea.org](mailto:construction@cvea.org) with your request as soon as possible. Visit the construction page, under member services at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org), for information and a general summary of the process.