

Taylor Report

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OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

DID YOU KNOW THESE CO-OP FACTS?

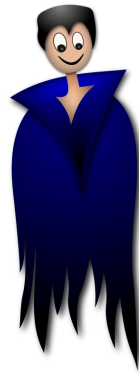
ELECTRIC CO-OPS

- More than 900 electric co-ops provide power in nearly every state (47) in America.
- Account for 42% of the nation's electric distribution lines and cover 75% of the nation's land mass.
- More than 18 million homes, schools, and businesses are powered by co-ops.
- With \$140 billion in assets, electric co-ops account for more than one third of the US electric utility industry.

ALL COOPERATIVES

- U.S. co-ops provide nearly 2 million jobs and create more than \$74 billion in annual wages with revenue of nearly \$650 billion.
- One third of Americans have ownership in a cooperative.
- For every \$1 that is spent at a food co-op, \$1.60 is generated in the local economy.
- Nearly a million of the nation's farmers belong to a cooperative, accounting for 55% of the total U.S. agriculture sales.
- Nationwide Insurance, a cooperative, is the #1 provider of public-sector retirement plans.
- Credit unions can be found in every state.

The dreaded vampire loads



Perhaps you are familiar with an undesirable aspect of the electronic and IOT (Internet of Things) revolution: vampire loads. Vampire loads come from devices that use electricity even when they appear to be off. The primary culprits are chargers, set-top television boxes, instant-on televisions and gaming systems. There are others, but these four represent the major offenders.

Let's look at how these vampire loads occur and why they are approaching 10 percent of average household electric use according to the

Environmental Protection Agency.

Chargers take the 120 VAC (volts alternating current) power at the outlet and reduce it down to the voltage required by the connected device, usually 5 to 12 VDC (volts direct current). Obviously, when your device is charging, the charger is using electricity, but you might be surprised to learn that chargers are still using small amounts of energy even when they're not connected to a device.

Television set-top boxes also consume energy when they appear to be inactive. Anytime the set-top box's lights are on, it is using power. Like chargers, they use more when the television is on, but they are always working – even when the TV is off. This is especially true for those devices with a DVR function that records your favorite TV shows.

The instant-on television is another culprit. The intention of the "instant-on" feature is instant gratification for the viewer, meaning no waiting for the TV to turn on and warm up. Unfortunately, for that convenience, the TV must be on at nearly full power. So, in this mode, it can be a real energy drain.

The typical gaming console can use as much energy as a regular refrigerator even when it's not being used. Make sure to check the console settings and disable automatic updates, which is where the energy drain comes from. Games on the console are frequently updated, which requires a lot of electricity.

So how does the average family combat these dreaded vampire loads? Garlic garlands? Silver bullets?

Fortunately, none of the remedies of fable are necessary. You just need to change how you handle these energy-sucking electronics.

Here are a few suggestions.

- Unplug chargers when not in use.
- Invest in smart power strips. These look like normal power strips but have a twist; one of the outlets is the

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Top Three Co-op Priorities for the Final Version of the Farm Bill

By Cathy Cash

The House and Senate each passed versions of the Farm Bill earlier this summer and are seeking to reach a compromise on the legislation in the fall.

NRECA is urging lawmakers on the Farm Bill conference committee, tasked with coming up with the final version of the bill, to consider electric co-ops' priorities.

"We are encouraging Congress to pass a final Farm Bill that supports several key policy issues for electric co-ops and their member-consumers in rural America," said NRECA CEO Jim Matheson.

Here are the top priorities for co-ops:

Remove Senate changes to Rural Electrification Act loan program

The House Farm Bill retains existing escrow accounts for co-op loan repayments and treatment of deposits into those accounts. The Senate-passed version eliminates the escrow or "cushion of credit" program that allows greater financial flexibility to co-ops and benefits the government by having funds pre-deposited toward loan payments.

"Cooperatives depend on the USDA's electric loan program and its escrow treatment to serve the most rural, hardest-to-serve areas of the country," said Matheson.

Promote true high-speed broadband for rural areas

The House version provides for significant financial investment in broadband development by electric co-ops and other providers in rural areas that have either no internet service or substandard service.

The Senate Farm Bill increases funds for rural broadband but provides only limited support for projects in areas with existing but inadequate service.

"Deployment of rural broadband is essential to keeping rural communities competitive," said Matheson. "NRECA is

working to ensure co-op member-consumers get high-speed internet service on par with the rest of the country."

Include funds for rural economic development and innovation

Co-ops use the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG) to finance economic development projects, such as refurbishing a library or buying emergency response vehicles. Both bills reauthorize and improve the program through 2021. NRECA supports the Senate provision, which also provides \$5 million for the program each year.

Cathy Cash writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

Farm Bill Conference: Electric Co-op Priorities

- Strengthen RUS electric loan program
- Support House broadband provisions
- Promote innovative rural development programs

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

(Continued from page 1)

"master" that receives power all the time. The others are off. When the device connected to the master outlet turns on, the rest of the outlets receive power too. Ingenious and perfect for entertainment set ups. Have the television in the master outlet and when you turn it on, the set-top box, speakers, streaming devices, etc. will turn on too. They are also ideal for PCs and their peripherals.

- Turn off the instant-on function on your TV. Turn off set-top boxes that do not contain the DVR functionality or use a smart power strip.
- Disable automatic updates in gaming consoles and turn the console completely off when you finish using it.
- When replacing any device or appliance, look for an EnergyStar rated product.

Vampire loads are a real problem that will only continue to grow as the digital age advances. But you can fight the vampires with vigilance and application of the recommendations above.

Halloween brings out car loads of little trick-or-treaters on their quests for bags full of candy. Be on the watch this Halloween for all the ghosts and goblins that will be out. Remember to always check your children's candy.