



**State Energy Conservation Office (SECO)
Municipally Owned Utility (MOU) or Electric Cooperative (Co-op)
SB-924 Energy Efficiency Report
Data Entry Form**

MOU or Co-op: Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 County: Caldwell, Comal, DeWitt, Fayette, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays, Jackson, Karnes, Lavaca, Wilson, and Victoria
 Contact: Darren Schauer
 Contact Title: General Manager and CEO
 Address: P.O. Box 118
 City: Gonzales
 Zip: 78629
 Phone: (830) 857-1200
 Fax: (830) 857-1205
 E-mail Address: dschauer@gvec.org

1) Is your MOU or Co-op hereby reporting on energy efficiency as required by SB-924, PURA Sections 39.9051 and 39.9052? Yes No

2) Energy Efficiency Goals: Please tell us about the goals that your MOU or Co-op has related to energy efficiency:

Instructions: Provide a brief description of your MOU or Co-op's energy efficiency goals for the previous calendar year. Examples may include information about energy efficiency for MOU or Co-op customers or utility facilities. Supplemental information may be provided at your option on any long-term energy efficiency goals that your MOU or Co-op might have. Please use a separate sheet of paper if you need more space.

SEE ATTACHED

3) Your MOU or Co-op's Energy Efficiency Programs:

Instructions: Input information as applicable; add fields as necessary. For the previous calendar year, please list energy efficiency programs and provide applicable estimated achieved savings – energy and/or demand, or other program performance metric (for example participation.) Add additional lines as needed.

Energy Efficiency Program	Estimated Energy Savings or	Estimated Demand Savings or	Other Program Performance Metric
SEE ATTACHED			
Totals			

4) Program Materials / Additional Information

Instructions: Public information about your energy efficiency programs (brochures, website information, etc.) may be attached and provided with this form.

5) Please submit this form to SECO at: SB924.Reporting@cpa.state.tx.us



Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative's submission to the State Energy Conservation Office on its corporate practices related to energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable technologies.

Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Report to the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO)
on corporate practices of Energy Efficiency, Conservation,
and Renewable Technologies.

Submitted April 2, 2012

In September 2009, GVEC prepared and submitted a report to SECO regarding its corporate practices in energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable technology. Many of the programs and initiatives have remained fundamentally the same since the initial filing; however, GVEC has continued to refine its programs to best meet the need of its members.

Energy Efficient Rebate Program

Initially launched in March of 2009, the Energy Efficiency Rebate program has been refined several times to ensure that the rebate amounts are properly allocated to the areas that most benefit the Cooperative and the members making the investment. Rebates are available to active GVEC members in a multitude of areas, ranging from Energy Star New Homes to rebates for small, residential size wind turbines.

More information on the Energy Efficient Rebate Program is available at the following link:

<http://www.maximrewards.com/gvec/default.aspx>

Examples of the promotion of these rebates are attached, marked as exhibit A.

Information on the total number of rebates paid to date and associated dollars is attached, marked as exhibit B.

Energy Star New Home Rebates

GVEC is offering the Energy Star New Home rebate program designed to encourage builders and contractors to use energy efficient building materials and appliances. Homeowners will be eligible up to a \$1,500 rebate if the home receives a H.E.R.S. score that is below a 65. Home Energy Ratings (H.E.R.S.) are based off certain criteria, such as: effective insulation, high-performance windows, efficient heating and cooling, and efficient appliances, lighting, and water heaters. The lower the HERS rating the higher the rebate will be. In addition, the homes must be of the all-electric type.

- 75-71 HERS Score: \$1,000
- 70-66 HERS Score: \$1,250

- 65 HERS Score: \$1,500

An example of the promotion of this rebate is attached, marked as Exhibit C.

A complete copy of the Energy Star New Home Rebate Program is attached, marked as exhibit D.

Home Improvement Rebates

GVEC is providing incentives for our existing home owners as well. Members can apply for rebates on the purchase of energy efficient appliances, insulation for walls and attics, efficient windows, water heaters, duct replacement, and heating and cooling systems. Heating and cooling unit rebates are based on the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio, or SEER, of the unit. The higher the SEER rating of the unit, the higher the rebate.

- Duct Replacement: 20% of cost, up to \$500.00
- Energy Efficient Window: \$2.00/ sq. ft. of window openings
- Energy Star Appliance: \$50 per Energy Star Appliance
- Heat Pump, Cooling/ Heating system:
 - SEER > 16- \$550 per unit
 - SEER >17 - \$650 per unit.
- Heat Pump Water Heater: \$300 per Heat pump water heater
- Insulation:
 - Attic Insulation - \$0.20/sq. ft. of installed insulation
 - Wall Insulation - \$0.20/sq. ft. of installed insulation

A complete copy of the Home Improvement Rebate Program is attached, marked as exhibit E.

Renewable Rebates

In addition to the New Home and Home Improvement rebates currently being offered, a member can apply for a Renewable Rebate if they have an interest in a small wind or solar system for their home. Rebates are currently available for solar photovoltaic systems, solar water heaters, solar water wells, and small wind generators.

- Solar Photovoltaic Systems: \$2.50/ Watt, not to exceed \$10,000
- Solar Water Heating Systems: \$1,000 per installed system
- Solar Water Pumps: \$750 per system
- Wind Generation: \$1.00/ Watt, not to exceed \$6,000
- Solar Screens and/ or film: \$0.50/sq. ft. of window

A complete copy of the Renewable Rebate Program is attached, marked as exhibit F.

Residential Renewable Generating Installation Tariff

Originally approved in February of 2008 and revised in January 2009, the Residential Renewable Generating Installation Tariff was designed to outline GVEC's policy regarding renewable installations. Under this tariff, a member can apply for interconnection of a renewable installation with a rated capacity of 20 kW's or less. This tariff also allows for the member to be paid GVEC's average wholesale power cost for any generation above the home's energy requirements.

A copy of the Residential Renewable Generating Installation Tariff is attached, marked as exhibit G.

Conservation Plan 7

Conservation Plan 7 is a financing option available to GVEC members who are interested in investing in energy efficiency or renewable technology, but who may not have the financial resources to purchase them outright. The plan provides funds for up to \$7,000 for the purchase of insulation, new doors and windows, heating and cooling systems, and other energy efficient products. The term is for 7 years at an interest rate of 7%. A member who signs up for Plan 7 has the option to add the monthly payment to their monthly electric bill. From 2009 to present date GVEC has had 106 participants participate in Conservation Plan 7 with a total loan amount of \$729,708 and remaining balance of \$298,051.

More information on Conservation Plan 7 is available at the following link:

<http://www.gvec.org/ycoopConservationPlan7.aspx>

Energy Saving Tips

GVEC offers energy saving tips on its corporate website as well as periodic articles and advertisements in Texas Coop Power magazine. These tips range from temperature settings on heating and cooling systems, insulation, appliances, water heating, and home lighting. In addition, GVEC sponsors the POWERHOUSE program which is focused on educating middle school students on ways to save energy in their own homes.

Examples of these Energy Saving Tips are available at the following link:

<http://www.gvec.org/yeLifestyleChanges.aspx>

<http://www.gvec.org/ycSafetyEducationPresentations.aspx>

Examples of the promotion of these tips are attached, both marked as exhibit H.

Home Energy Suite

In addition to the energy saving tips founds online, a home energy suite is available. This suite also allows a member to input information about their home such as square footage,

heating and cooling system information, lighting, and appliances to potentially help reduce costs and increase efficiency. A commercial energy suite is also available online.

Both suites can be accessed at:

<http://c03.apogee.net/clients/?hostheader=gvec&utilityid=gvec>

An example of the promotion of this service is attached, marked as exhibit I.

Home Energy Checkup

Provided as a free service to all GVEC members, Home Energy Checkups are an important part of ensuring a member's home is running in the most efficient manner possible. Once requested by a member, a Member Service Advisor will examine the energy efficiency of the entire home by checking for adequate insulation, and ventilation in attics and floor areas, inspecting the heating and cooling system, and inspecting efficiency of large appliances. GVEC's Member Service Advisors are trained and certified in the use of Infrared cameras. The infrared Camera is a valuable tool that is used to detect areas that are lacking insulation, and in locating leaks in doors and windows as well as holes or leaks in air conditioning duct work.

More information on Home Energy Checkups is available at the following link:

<http://www.gvec.org/yeFreeHomeEnergyAudit.aspx>

GVEC Home

In existence in some fashion for over 40 years, GVEC Home offers energy efficient appliances and renewable energy technology to GVEC members, as well as the general public. Originally operated as an appliance repair service, GVEC Home, formerly GVEC Home Services, was formed to provide energy efficient appliances to areas of the GVEC service territory where such products would not have been available otherwise. GVEC Home has locations in Seguin, LaVernia, and Gonzales.

More information on GVEC Home is available at the following link:

<http://gvechome.com/>

An example of the promotion of GVEC Home is attached, marked as exhibit J.

Wind and Solar Partnerships

GVEC Home is an authorized dealer of Southwest Windpower's Skystream unit which is a small residential model that has a capacity rating of 2.4 kW. In 2011, GVEC Home installed two Skystream units within the service territory. From 2009 to December of 2011, GVEC home has installed 10 wind generators in varies locations throughout the territory and has been monitoring production of these units with the use of a monitoring meter. GVEC believes

renewable technology is a product that can play a part to help members meet their energy needs. Including units installed by Home, GVEC's electric system has over 30 accounts with a total capacity 119.6 KW of wind generation.

In 2010, GVEC Home partnered with local solar contractors to educate their employees and have a better understanding of the solar market. Today, GVEC employees are trained to be able to answer any technical questions and assist the members who are interested in looking over estimates to where to systems should be located on their property. As of March 2012, the GVEC electric system has 67 accounts with a total capacity of 378 kW of solar generation.

More information on Wind and Solar Systems is available at the following link:

<http://gvechome.com/cms.html?id=14708>

GVEC Sponsored Renewable Displays

GVEC continues to monitor and display Renewable products at many of their offices throughout their service territory. Currently, GVEC has installed wind Generation at four of their facilities, as well as other Renewable applications such as Solar Water heating systems, and Solar Photovoltaic (PV). These renewable products are installed to serve as educational tools for the GVEC membership, as well as the GVEC staff.

GVEC has also sponsored the installation of a small wind generator at the Texas Agricultural Education and Heritage Center in Seguin. "Solar for Schools" is another project GVEC has undertaken with the Marion Independent School District to educate students about the benefits of renewable technology.

The Seguin Customer Service Center was opened in April 2009. The building features rain water collection, solar water heating, and a Skystream wind turbine.

In May of 2011, GVEC opened the Western Operation Center. The Center was Designed and built to meet the US Green Building Councils Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. A few of the energy efficiency and conservation techniques and practices implemented in the design and construction of the facility include the use of native drought tolerant vegetation, rain harvesting and water reclamation. In addition, a 5 kilowatt solar system was installed along with an evacuated tube solar water heating system and a 2.4 kilowatt wind system.

A photo of the new Seguin Office Complex is attached, marked as exhibit K.

A photo of the new Western Operations Center is attached, marked as exhibit L.

Exhibit A

Helping you save time and money.

GVEC offers an array of products and services that can save you time and money. Our goal is to make it easy and convenient for you to do business with us.

Find out more inside about these services:

Conservation Plan 7 - financing for energy efficient home improvements

Power Availability Monitoring - verifies power is reaching your meter

Security Light Installation - added security for your family

Home Energy Audit - a professional evaluation of your home's energy efficiency

Energy Efficient Rebates - making energy efficient upgrades and renewable alternatives more affordable

Online Tools - free energy-saving tips and activities that can help you save energy and money

Gonzales
825 E. Sarah DeWitt Dr.

Cuero
909 E. Broadway

La Vernia
13849 U.S. Hwy 87 W.

Schertz
908 Curtiss Ave.

Seguin
927 N. Highway 46



GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.
800.223.GVEC (4832) | www.gvec.org

Member Services



GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.



Home Energy Checkup

Let a trained GVEC professional provide a complimentary evaluation of the energy efficiency of your home and give you some tips and recommendations to lower your energy usage and costs. Call GVEC at 1-800-223-4832 to make an appointment for a Home Energy Checkup.

Energy Efficiency Rebate Program

GVEC can help with the costs associated with building an energy efficient home, remodeling or upgrading your current home, or installing renewable technologies. Visit www.gvec.org to learn about applications, contractors and program details – or call a Member Service Advisor for more information at 1-800-223-GVEC (4832) or email info@gvec.org.

Power Availability Monitoring

Do you have a lake house or a hunting cabin that you use only occasionally? Do you have a water well for cattle at a remote location that is not convenient for you to check regularly? If so, the Power Availability Monitoring (PAM) Program can help you.

- GVEC will check multiple times every day to verify that power is reaching your meter.
- If we find a problem, we'll automatically address it without the need for notification from you.
- The PAM Program can offer you peace of mind when you have to be away from your property at any time.

Conservation Plan 7

GVEC can also help finance certain energy efficient upgrades for your home. The Conservation Plan 7 Program loans up to \$7,000, at a 7% interest rate, for up to a 7-year term. Credit approval is needed to qualify. Stop by any GVEC office and visit with a GVEC Member Services Advisor today, or call 1-800-223-4832 and get all the details about GVEC's Conservation Plan 7.

Security Lights

Keeping your family secure around your home is a priority. From rural ranches to urban neighborhoods, wherever you are – lighting is an important factor in safety. Let GVEC install a security light for you. Call a Customer Service Representative at 1-800-223-4832 today for more information on rates.

Online Tools

Find free energy-saving features for your home, educational activities for the kids, and community links online at www.gvec.org.

- Click on the Home Energy Suite to learn ways to conserve energy in your home.
- Use the Kids Korner to explore fun energy-related games, experiments, and more.
- Access member recipes and an online trading post.
- Keep up to date with GVEC and industry news that affects you and your family.



GVEC Home is your one-stop shopping location for major brand electric home appliances from the budget models to the latest energy efficient styles. We're also an authorized dealer for Trane and Bryant heating and cooling units. Our licensed HVAC technicians install, repair, and service central electric heating and cooling units and offer additional assistance to help you save energy in your home.

And, if you'd like to explore renewable alternatives, we have wind and solar solutions, too.

To learn more, visit www.gvec.org, stop in at any one of our three locations in Gonzales, La Vernia and Seguin, or call 1-800-223-GVEC (4832).



GVEC.net is an Internet Service Provider serving parts of the GVEC service territory and surrounding areas. GVEC.net commits to providing the highest quality of Internet service regardless of where you live.

GVEC.net offers:

- Dial-Up
- Residential High Speed Wireless
- Commercial High Speed Wireless
- Web Site Hosting

For more details, visit us at www.gvec.net, at any GVEC location, or call us at 1-800-699-GVEC (4832).

Exhibit B

2011 REBATE UPDATE

(January 1, 2011--December 31, 2011)

HOME IMPROVEMENT	Current Program	Rebate Totals	Rebate Paid
16 SEER HEAT PUMP	\$550/UNIT	74	\$40,700.00
17 SEER HEAT PUMP	\$650/UNIT	46	\$29,800.00
ATTIC INSULATION	\$0.20/SQ. FT.	65	\$22,897.00
WALL INSULATION	\$0.20/SQ. FT.	4	\$843.00
EE WINDOWS	\$2.00/SQ. FT	44	\$17,920.00
SOLAR SCREEN/FILM	\$0.50/SQ. FT	101	\$11,100.00
DUCT SYSTEM REPLACEMENT	20% UP TO \$500	10	\$4,000.00
ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES	\$50.00	995	\$49,750.00
HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER	\$300/UNIT	26	\$7,800.00

Home Improvement Total:		1365	\$184,810.00
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RENEWABLES	Current Program	Rebate Totals	Rebate Paid
SOLAR PV	\$2.50/WATT	29	\$267,150.00
SOLAR WATER HEATER	\$1,000/UNIT	2	\$2,000.00
SOLAR WATER WELL PUMP	\$750/UNIT	11	\$8,250.00
WIND GENERATOR	\$1.00/WATT	4	\$11,500.00

Renewable Total:		46	\$288,900.00
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ENERGY STAR NEW HOME	Current Program	Rebate Totals	Rebate Paid
ENERGY STAR NEW HOME	Home Score 75-71, Rebate \$1000	42	\$42,000.00
ENERGY STAR NEW HOME	Home Score 70-66, Rebate \$1250	30	\$37,500.00
ENERGY STAR NEW HOME	Home Score ≤ 65, Rebate \$1500	17	\$25,500.00

EStar New Home Total:		89	\$105,000.00
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GRAND TOTAL:		1500	\$578,710.00
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Exhibit C

Thinking About Buying an ENERGY STAR® Qualified Home?

There's More to These Homes Than Just a Pretty Label



Would you be surprised to know there's a lot more that goes into an ENERGY STAR qualified home than just ENERGY STAR appliances?

It's easy to be confused about the ENERGY STAR program because there are actually two: one program is for rating appliances and electronics, while the other is for rating buildings. So while ENERGY STAR qualified homes will typically include energy-efficient appliances, there's more to them than that.

For starters, a builder must first agree to partner with ENERGY STAR as well as work with an independent certified Home Energy Rating System (HERS) rater. That's because these homes must meet strict guidelines for energy

efficiency set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The builder accomplishes this by combining design and construction elements such as effective insulation systems, tight construction and ducts, high-performance windows, efficient heating and cooling equipment, and energy-efficient lighting and appliances.

Then to earn the ENERGY STAR label, a home must have third-party verification that it meets government guidelines — that's where the HERS rater comes in. The HERS rater reviews and analyzes the builder's plans, and throughout the construction process, verifies the installation and performance of the home's energy-efficiency features. When the home is finished, the HERS rater completes a final inspection and

gives the home a final HERS score based on its energy efficiency. If it gets at least an "85" (meaning the home is 15 percent more energy efficient than a code built home), the home will be issued the ENERGY STAR label.

But take note: to take advantage of GVEC's ENERGY STAR New Home rebate, your new home will need a better (meaning lower) HERS score than that!

GVEC's Rebate: Specific Requirements Need to Be Met

Like all GVEC energy efficiency rebates, the one for ENERGY STAR New Homes was created to help offset the cost for members interested in living a more energy-efficient lifestyle. While some rebates such as the ones for ENERGY STAR appliances only require an application and receipt,

the one for new homes involves more documentation.

"It's very important that GVEC members make their builders aware up front that they want to meet GVEC's rebate qualifications. Our rebate is actually an incentive to exceed the minimum standards that are currently in place that make a home ENERGY STAR qualified," says David Burns, GVEC Member Services Manager.

"We want to make our members aware of how efficient a home can really be, which not only will save money in the long run with lower energy bills, but also provide greater comfort and be more eco-friendly. Our rebate was designed to drive energy conservation and help members achieve maximum savings from their new home."

Before selecting a builder and buying a home, Burns recommends you consult with one of GVEC's Member Services ENERGY STAR experts. They will explain the very specific requirements to qualify for the GVEC rebates, including the supporting documents needed. You can also get information at www.gvec.org. Click on the Rebate Center box at the bottom of the home page and select ENERGY STAR New Home from the New Home dropdown box.

So the next time you see an ENERGY STAR label on a home, you'll know it's a specially designed home that will help you reduce your energy usage. After all, wasting energy can be like feeding a parking meter: you're paying a lot but not getting much in return.

For more information about the ENERGY STAR program, visit www.energystar.gov. For information about GVEC's ENERGY STAR New Home rebate, visit www.gvec.org and click on the Rebate Center icon.

5 CONVERSATION STARTERS

Are you interested in building an ENERGY STAR qualified home? Here are five questions to ask your builder.

1. Does the builder build ENERGY STAR qualified homes and work with a HERS rater?
2. What is the average HERS rating on the builder's homes?
3. Does the home you're interested in meet ENERGY STAR specifications as verified by a certified HERS rater?
4. Is the builder flexible enough to build the home you want with the energy efficiency elements you desire? Can the builder meet GVEC's rebate requirements?
5. What makes the builder's homes energy efficient and what sets this builder apart from others?

ENERGY STAR qualified homes built in 2010 are the equivalent of:

- Eliminating emissions from 62,520 vehicles
- Saving 378,173,796 pounds of coal
- Planting 103,347 acres of trees
- Saving the environment — 741,674,857 pounds of CO₂

Source: www.energysavers.gov

VISIT GVEC'S ONLINE REBATE CENTER

It's a Great Member Benefit

When it comes to the benefits of membership, GVEC has much to offer — including rebates to help you upgrade to a more energy-efficient lifestyle. So, before you buy a new appliance or home, make home improvements, or invest in renewable energy, visit our online Rebate Center.

If it's been a while since you've been there, you'll notice updates that make the site easy to use. For example, just select an option — Home Improvement, New Home or Renewables — to see available rebates.

There's also an option to find GVEC-listed contractors who have agreed to participate in our program by understanding rebate requirements and helping members meet them. You may also call a GVEC Member Service Advisor with any rebate questions.

And remember, as with anyone you hire, get multiple bids and check with the Better Business Bureau if you have concerns.

Other things that are good to know:

- To get to the Rebate Center, visit www.gvec.org and click on the Rebate Center icon.
- Your rebate's status can be checked online at any time.
- Rebate requirements and applications are online. If you don't have Internet access, call a Member Service Advisor: 800.223.GVEC (4832).
- Rebates under \$1,500 are credited to your electric bill. You'll receive a printed check for rebates greater than that.
- Members receive an instant GVEC rebate at any GVEC Home location when buying a qualified ENERGY STAR appliance, water heater, or central electric AC/Heating system.



Exhibit D

ENERGY STAR NEW HOME REBATE

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

REQUIREMENTS

- Guidelines are based off of the Energy Star Qualified New Homes information at <http://www.energystar.gov>, Version 2.0 and 2.5
- Please consult with your Member Services Energy Star Expert when preparing to select an Energy Star Builder and Energy Star Rating Organization (your HERS rater).
- Home shall qualify for GVEC's All Electric Rate
- Only Energy Star performance path homes can qualify for rebate.
- ENERGY EFFICIENT HEATING/COOLING HEAT PUMP SYSTEM IS REQUIRED
- Qualifying renewable rebates, heat pump rebates, appliance rebates, and water heater rebates can be used in conjunction with Energy Star® New Home rebates. Please see additional qualifications and details.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Energy Star Certificate completed with REM/Rate Version 12.9, HERS index score, Builder name and physical address of new home
- Energy Star "Home Report"
- Energy Star "Summary Report"

REBATE AMOUNT

<u>Version 2.0 Qualification Method</u>	<u>Version 2.5 Qualification Method</u>	<u>Rebate</u>
75-71 HERS Score	5 Pts Less than HERS Index Target Score	\$1,000.00
70-66 HERS Score	10 Pts Less than HERS Index Target Score	\$1,250.00
65 HERS Score	15 Pts Less than HERS Index Target Score	\$1,500.00

Exhibit E

DUCT REPLACEMENT REBATE

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

REQUIREMENTS

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- Duct material shall be insulated with R-8.
- ONLY DUCTS IN UNCONDITIONED SPACE WILL QUALIFY (Any discrepancies of unconditioned or conditioned area to be determined by GVEC).
- Invoice shall include: R-value of material used.
- Dampers shall be installed in order to control room-by-room airflow.
- Adjustable louvered ceiling grilles shall not be a substitution for dampers.
- Contractor must hold a current certification showing proof of training in Blower Door, Duct Blaster or National Comfort Institute (NCI) HVAC air diagnostics and balancing testing. Duct air flow leakage testing results must show final duct leakage in CFM and nominal system tonnage.
- Duct system shall be sealed and tested to have $\leq 7\%$ CFM of air leakage based on the nominal system's tonnage of 400 CFM per ton.
- Duct system shall be sealed and designed according to manufacturer's recommended installation practices and procedures, current state and local code requirements, and ACCA Manual D.
- Does not apply to new construction.
- All material shall be new. Air sealants such as mastics and/or foil tape shall be UL 181 approved and designed for air distribution systems.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Duct Design drawing showing damper location, duct size and CFM requirements per room.
- Additional information to include unit's total CFM and CFM of air leakage.
- Signed Invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted.

REBATE AMOUNT

20% of cost, up to \$500.00

ENERGY EFFICIENT WINDOW REBATE

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

REQUIREMENTS

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- WINDOW RATING SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM U-FACTOR OF $< .40$.
- Windows shall have a solar heat gain co-efficient (SHGC) $< .27$.
- Windows in Garages and other non-conditioned areas do not qualify.
- Invoice shall include: window manufacturer, model, size, U-Factor and solar heat gain co-efficient (SHGC).
- Window shall be NFRC (National Fenestration Rating Council) Rated
- Does not apply to new construction.
- All material shall be new.
- Manufacturer's installation practices and procedures shall be followed.
- State and local codes shall be followed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Signed invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted

REBATE AMOUNT

Energy Efficient Windows

\$2.00/sq. ft. of window opening

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCE REBATE

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

REQUIREMENTS

- Rebate only applies to Energy Star® rated appliances.
- Minimum appliance purchase price \$200.
- Applicable to new or existing homes.
- Invoice shall include: manufacturer, model number and serial number.
- Qualifying appliances include: Window Units, Refrigerator, Freezer, Clothes Washer, and Dishwasher.
- All appliances shall be new, purchased by a GVEC member and installed in the GVEC service area.
- Manufacturer's installation practices and procedures shall be followed.
- State and local codes shall be followed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Receipt/Invoice showing Energy Star Appliance purchased

REBATE AMOUNT

\$50 per Energy Star Appliance

HEAT PUMP, COOLING/HEATING SYSTEM REBATE

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

REQUIREMENTS

- Completed Insulation Acknowledgement Form.
- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- UNIT SHALL BE AN ALL ELECTRIC HEAT PUMP SYSTEM
- Auxiliary heating shall be controlled through an outdoor temperature sensor and set at the system's balance point, preventing unnecessary operation of auxiliary heating.
- Outdoor thermostat setting set above 35° will require a balance point diagram.
- Air distribution system (supply, return, plenum, and cabinet closet) shall be sealed or repaired according to manufacturer's recommended installation practices and current code requirements.
- System shall be a NEW matching system certified by AHRI. Both condensing unit and air handler/evaporator coil shall be replaced.
- Applicable to new or existing homes.
- Manual J 8th Edition load calculation to be completed showing the sensible load and total BTU gain at Design conditions of: 75° Indoor, 63° Wet Bulb, 97° Outdoor. Equipment sensible not to exceed 15% of the calculated sensible load.
- Manufacturer's installation practices and procedures should be followed
- State and local codes should be followed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Manual J 8th Edition Load Calculation showing sensible and total BTU gain at Design conditions of: 75° Indoor, 63° Wet Bulb, 97° Outdoor
- Balance Point Diagram (if Required)
- Signed Invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted.
- AHRI Certificate
- Signed Insulation Acknowledgement Form.

REBATE AMOUNT

SEER ≥ 16 - \$550 per unit

SEER ≥ 17 - \$650 per unit

HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER REBATE

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicable to new or existing homes.
- Heat pump water heater units are to be installed according to manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations.
- All Heat pump water heaters shall be new and UL listed.
- Invoice shall include: manufacturer, model number, serial number and energy factor.
- All exposed pipes shall be insulated.
- State and local codes shall be followed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Receipt/Invoice showing unit purchased

REBATE AMOUNT

\$300 per Heat pump water heater

INSULATION REBATE

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

REQUIREMENTS

Attic Insulation Rebate:

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- Final insulation level minimum shall be R-38 to qualify.
- (PRIOR TO UPGRADE) INSULATION SHALL BE R-19 OR LESS.
- Garages and other non-conditioned areas DO NOT qualify.
- Invoice shall include: insulation type, square footage of conditioned area, R-Value prior to upgrade and installed R-Value.
- Does not apply to new construction.
- All material shall be new.
- Manufacturer's installation practices and procedures shall be followed.
- State and local codes shall be followed.
- GVEC recommends that the attic have a minimum of 1 sq. ft. of new free area of inlet ventilation and outlet ventilation for every 300 sq. ft. of attic area.

Wall Insulation Rebate:

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- Rebate is based on the sq. ft. of installed insulation. (Calculated by gross wall area less window and door area, etc.)
- FINAL INSULATION SHALL BE AT LEAST R-13.
- WALL CAVITY TO BE VOID OF ANY INSULATION PRIOR TO UPGRADE IN ORDER TO QUALIFY.
- Garages and other non-conditioned areas do not qualify.
- Shall be installed between conditioned and unconditioned areas to qualify.
- Invoice shall include: insulation type, square footage of conditioned area, R-Value prior to upgrade and installed R-Value.
- Does not apply to new construction.
- All material shall be new.
- Manufacturer's installation practices and procedures shall be followed.
- State and local codes shall be followed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Signed invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted

REBATE AMOUNT

- Attic Insulation - \$0.20/sq. ft. of installed insulation
- Wall Insulation - \$0.20/sq. ft. of installed insulation

Exhibit F

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ELECTRICAL SYSTEM REBATE

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must meet all requirements of Renewable Energy Application and Contract (Interconnection Agreement), Systems that exceed 20 KW do not qualify.
- Maximum rebate not to exceed \$10,000.00
- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- All work shall be performed in accordance with all applicable manufacturer's codes and standards.
- All PV systems shall carry a 1 year warranty from the Installer, and manufacturer's warranty of 20 years on solar panels and 5 years on the inverter.
- All equipment shall be new and listed by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to qualify for the rebate.
- Site location must have minimal shading by trees, structures, etc. GVEC reserves the right to deny rebate based on excessive shading of the solar system. If shading at site location is in question, contact GVEC prior to installation of the system.
- Invoice shall include: PV panel manufacturer, inverter manufacturer and model number.
- Manufacturer's installation procedures and codes shall be followed.
- Should the system be removed, the member will be billed a pro-rated amount of the original rebate based on 80% after one year, 60% after two years, 40% after three years and 20% after four years. After five years there will be no penalty.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Basic wiring diagram
- Renewable Energy Application and Contract (Interconnection Agreement).
- Signed invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted

REBATE AMOUNT

\$2.50/Watt

SOLAR WATER HEATER REBATE

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

REQUIREMENTS

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- All material shall be new and certified by SRCC (Solar Rating Certification Corporation).
- Solar water heaters shall preheat water for an electric water heater that is permanently installed and is the main source of water heating.
- Invoice shall include: manufacturer, model number and Solar Rating Certification Corporation Number.
- Solar water heater shall have a minimum 5 year warranty on all major components.
- Solar water heater shall also be installed with frost protection and scale elimination.
- Manufacturer's installation procedures and codes shall be followed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Signed invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted

REBATE AMOUNT

\$1,000 per Solar Water heater

SOLAR WATER WELL REBATE

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

REQUIREMENTS

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- PV panels shall have a minimum 20 year warranty.
- All material shall be new.
- Invoice shall include: manufacturer, model number and pv panel warranty.
- Shall be installed by a licensed contractor.
- Manufacturer's installation procedures and codes shall be followed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Signed invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted

REBATE AMOUNT

\$750/Unit

WIND GENERATOR REBATE

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must meet all requirements of Renewable Energy Application and Contract (Interconnection Agreement), Systems that exceed 20 KW do not qualify.
- Maximum rebate not to exceed \$6,000.00
- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor
- Wind generator shall have UL certificate of compliance.
- Wind generator shall have a minimum 5 year manufacturer's warranty.
- Invoice shall include: manufacturer and model number.
- Manufacturer's installation procedures and codes shall be followed.
- Should system be removed, the member will be billed a pro-rated amount of the original rebate based on 80% after one year, 60% after two years, 40% after three years and 20% after four years. After five years there will be no penalty.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Signed Invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted.
- Renewable Energy Application and Contract (Interconnection Agreement).
- UL Certificate of Compliance

REBATE AMOUNT

\$1.00/Watt

WINDOW SOLAR SCREENS AND/OR FILM REBATE

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

REQUIREMENTS

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- Screens or Films on windows in Garages and other non-conditioned areas do not qualify.
- Screens or Films shall cover entire glass surface area for each fenestration.
- Minimum of 70% reduction of solar heat gain for solar screens and ≤ 0.40 solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC) for films.
- Invoice shall include: manufacturer's data on reflectivity or heat gain co-efficient, product identifiers, and performance rating specifications.
- Does not apply to new construction.
- All material shall be new.
- Manufacturer's installation practices and procedures shall be followed.
- State and local codes shall be followed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Signed invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted

REBATE AMOUNT

\$0.50/sq. ft. of window

Exhibit G

ELECTRIC TARIFF



SECTION IV Service Rules, Regulation and Service Agreement Forms	APPROVAL DATE 02-19-08	EFFECTIVE DATE 02-19-08	PAGE NO. 79
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RESIDENTIAL RENEWABLE GENERATING INSTALLATION

- 23.1 Residential Renewable Generating Installation** - Items 23.1 and 23.2 of this tariff apply to the interconnection and parallel operation of a single renewable generating installation that has a rated design capacity of 20kw or less. In order to qualify for this program, the Renewable Generating Installation must utilize renewable technologies (defined as wind, solar or hydro) to produce energy. The Cooperative reserves the right to determine if a Renewable Generating Installation qualifies for this program and may take in to account future renewable technologies.
- 23.2 Purchases from Producer –**
1. Rate – The Utility will pay Producer for all power purchased at the current renewable energy rate, which is calculated by taking an average of the Utility’s wholesale power costs
- 23.3 Metering** - In addition to any existing meters, a separate meter will be required to measure output of the renewable generating installation. This meter, as well as all associated wiring and switchgear up to point of interconnection with Utility, will be installed at Member’s expense.

Exhibit H



Comments from your General Manager:

Think Efficiency Beyond 2011

Darren Schauer

Over the past year, you've seen GVEC encouraging you to "Quit Feeding the Meter". The underlying message was that anything you are doing or using that is not energy efficient is adding money to your electric bill each month. As we wrap up 2011 and head into the New Year, I'd like to remind you of the many ways GVEC is here to help you reduce your energy usage and bills.

GIVE ENERGY EFFICIENT GIFTS — Don't just make a resolution to save energy yourself next year, get your friends and family in on the savings! Raise their awareness by giving energy efficient gifts over the holiday season. Get some good ideas in the Energy Efficient Gift Giving article on page 25. And remember GVEC Home stores are here with tabletop as well as large appliances in each of our three stores in Seguin, Gonzales, and La Vernia.

MAKE A RESOLUTION — The New Year brings with it new opportunities. Why not resolve to conserve more and spend less on electricity? Your costs change with the seasons due to weather conditions outside, so it's important to weatherize your home. Simple things such as caulking windows and installing weather stripping around doorways will help keep your home more comfortable and minimize fluctuations in your bill. GVEC Member Service Advisors are ready to work with you anytime with questions and recommendations for any type of home. One phone call to 800.223.4832 could save you hundreds of dollars in energy costs.

STICK WITH IT — Changing your energy habits is just like exercising. It's something we all need to do, but it's hard to get into a new habit! The good news is you're not alone and all it takes is a series of small steps to add up. Take advantage of the many free resources available from

GVEC to keep you on track. Start with our website at www.gvec.org. Check out the Home Energy Suite to view an interactive home that points out simple efficiency tips. Learn more about energy with our Home Energy Library, and see exactly where your power is being used in our Home Energy Calculator. With it you can input custom scenarios to see what kinds of changes will make a difference in your usage and costs. Don't forget about energy efficient rebates that will help you offset the cost of efficiency upgrades and improvements in your home. Join us on Facebook or Twitter for ongoing tips, community events, and major outage updates.

Our South Texas weather is somewhat unpredictable, but your energy bills do not have to be. You can make a positive impact by doing simple things from forming good habits and making efficient purchases to staying informed about your options. Every step of the way, GVEC is here to help you think efficiency beyond 2011.

Happy holidays to all with sincere blessings for a bright New Year. Contact me anytime at 800.223.4832, P.O. Box 118, Gonzales, TX 78269, or dschauer@gvec.org.

Respectfully,

gvec
Your kind of power.®

District 1
Robert J. Werner

District 2
Lewis Borgfeld,
Board President

District 3
Henry "Bubba" Schmidt, Jr.

District 4
Shawn Martinez

District 5
Morris Harvey

District 6
Emmett Engelke

District 7
Melvin E. Strey,
Board Vice President

District 8
Mark Roberts

District 9
Dr. Tom DeKunder

District 10
Don Williams,
Board Secretary/Treasurer

District 11
David Warzecha

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1.800.223.GVEC (4832) • info@gvec.org • www.gvec.org

Need a Speaker?

Would members of your community organization, civic club or church group like to know more about GVEC's energy efficiency or renewable energy programs? We'd love to talk to your group about our member services and the many ways GVEC members can reduce their energy usage and save money. Our community presentations are informative and free. To make a request, email info@gvec.org or call us at 800.223.GVEC (4832).



Happy Holidays!

All GVEC Offices will be closed on December 26, 2011, and January 2, 2012, to observe Christmas and New Year's.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



Please DONATE TO GVEC'S ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE



Drop off your nonperishable food items at any GVEC office and we'll donate them to area food pantries. Thank you for sharing your blessings with others.

Kids Korner Stocking Stuffer

Hey, kids! Here's a gift idea for mom or dad – an Energy Savings Coupon with ways you'll help save energy at home. You'll not only be conserving

the earth's resources, but you'll also be helping to save money on your home's electric bill. Parents love that!

Just fill in your name, circle the things you promise to do, cut out the coupon, fold and glue. It's a great gift that any parent would love to get.

 Cut along the dotted line.

Kids Korner

My Gift To You

From now on, I am going to help save money by using less electricity at home. I promise to:

1. Turn off the lights when I leave a room — I don't need them on if I'm not in there.
2. Turn off the TV and electronic games when I'm done — because they still use electricity, even if I'm not using them.
3. Not stand in front of the refrigerator with the door open — so the cold air stays inside and isn't wasted.
4. Take shorter showers — because I know the longer I run the water, the more money it costs to heat it.

For more energy-saving ideas and games, go to Kids Korner on www.gvec.org.

Fold in half and tape or glue the back side together.

Giving Efficiency

By Kelly Trapnell

If you're just getting started on your holiday shopping, consider "green giving" — it's thoughtful on many levels. The person receiving the gift will not only have a new gadget, but one that will help keep electric costs low year-round.

Look for any mention of energy ratings on large appliances and televisions, or select unplugged gifts. Think solar, reusable, and recyclable. And think about wrapping your gift in something like a fabric bag that can be reused or even in an accessory like a scarf to tie things up.

For Cooks: A toaster oven — especially great for the empty nester or those who cook for one or two. Toaster ovens are a good choice to save energy as an alternative to heating a large standard oven.

For Gardeners: Solar garden lights — available in endless colors, styles, and sizes, solar garden lights can be a lovely addition to your favorite green thumb's garden. To up the green quotient, wrap in a burlap bag.

For Decorators: LED Christmas lights — they save on high, holiday electric bills and stay cool to the touch. For a festive package, wrap in a decorative stocking.

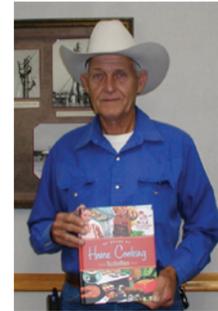
For Movie Buffs or Sports Fans: An ENERGY STAR®-rated TV. Televisions are getting bigger and better. But, before you give something that uses as much electricity as a refrigerator, look for the ENERGY STAR label. It will offer the smallest impact on your electric bill as possible.

For Techies: A smart strip — it's great for plugging in electronic gadgets. Not your average power strip, smart strips sport designated outlets that make it easy to power down certain devices to save energy, while not affecting others plugged into the same strip.

Or a solar cell phone charger — help unplug energy-sucking chargers from the wall; solar chargers can be placed in a window to charge a cell phone or other devices like a GPS unit or even MP3 players anywhere the sun shines.

Remember, what you give could impact future electric bills. So quit feeding the meter by giving the gift of energy efficiency.

Member Appreciation Day: Congratulations Winners!



Robert Ckudre Sr., Cuero

It was great to see you at our Member Appreciation Day! October was National Co-op Month, reminding us of the powerful role co-ops play in our nation. For example, did you

know electric co-ops serve nearly 42 million people in 47 states and own and maintain 42% of the nation's electric lines? That's a lot of member-owners!

As part of the celebration, GVEC members were invited to come by our offices and enter a drawing for prizes. Congratulations to these winners:

GONZALES:

Texas Co-op Power Cookbook – Socorro Perez
GVEC Goodie Basket – Elizabeth Spahn
Programmable Thermostat – Debbie Thiele

CUERO:

Texas Co-op Power Cookbook – Robert Ckudre Sr.
GVEC Goodie Basket – Gilbert Mares
Programmable Thermostat – Hector Villarreal

LA VERNIA:

Texas Co-op Power Cookbook – Wyatt Owen
GVEC Goodie Basket – Ricky Sturm
Programmable Thermostat – James Forrester

SCHERTZ:

Texas Co-op Power Cookbook – Christopher Divine
GVEC Goodie Basket – Bob Cook
Programmable Thermostat – Alonzo Andrews

SEGUIN:

Texas Co-op Power Cookbook – Virginia Hoffman
GVEC Goodie Basket – Jim Dyess
Programmable Thermostat – Donna Sosa



Photo By Kelly Trapnell

'Tis the Season to Conserve

Each holiday season Americans throw away 25 percent more trash than any other time during the year. This amounts to approximately one million extra tons of garbage per week. Just the 2.65 billion holiday cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high.

One way to conserve is to think about how you wrap your gifts. By wrapping just three gifts with re-used materials, enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields is saved. Use wrapping paper made from recycled paper. Or be creative and use old posters, newspaper or fabric.

Source: North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives and NRECA



Mother's Day Energy Boost

Nothing says 'I love you' better than a homemade card—but a great gift is also appreciated.



Whether at work or leisure, mothers tend to stay busy, expending energy—both physical and electrical—at every turn. Doing a favor, like serving breakfast in bed or checking off a chore from her to-do list, can save mom some effort this Mother's Day, but giving her an energy-saving gift can help her conserve power. Here are some ideas that combine energy-efficiency products with a treat.

Solar-powered chargers recharge many types of portable electronics, such as cell phones and MP3 players, using energy from sunlight. Couple the charger with an MP3 player or a gift card for downloadable "mom" tunes.

Copper-bottomed pots and pans can be practical cooking tools because

copper conducts energy and heat more efficiently than most materials. Drop a soup mix in the pot and offer to whip up Mother's Day dinner.

Oven calibrators allow chefs to know the true temperatures of their ovens so they can adjust. Having an accurate temperature can save energy, as an oven that runs hot and uses more energy than necessary can be scaled back. Using the precise temperature a recipe calls for could also improve baking results. Bake mom a Mother's Day cake in her newly calibrated oven.

Pressure cookers cook foods faster, saving energy—and mother's valuable time. A cookbook with recipes for the new device would round out the gift. Candles not only produce light without electricity but also create a soothing ambience and make

for a more traditional gift. Choose complementary candleholders to complete the presentation.

Throw blankets keep heat close to the body and might lessen the desire to turn up the heat during cold weather. An electric blanket, used sparingly, can also take the edge off the cold—and the electric bill.

Light-emitting diode (LED) reading lights sometimes come with clips so they can be attached to a book, eliminating the need to burn a light bulb. Partner this gift with the latest bestseller from the bookstore.

A low-flow showerhead reduces water consumption, saving electricity and hot water. Tuck one in a basket with scented soaps and a new bathrobe.



Got leaky windows, old appliances or leave lights on when you shouldn't?

Quit feeding the meter.

Put more change back in your pocket by improving your home's energy efficiency.

Get energy saving tips or see if you qualify for one of GVEC's Energy Efficiency Rebates by visiting www.gvec.org.



Facebook icon: Become a fan | Twitter icon: Follow us

Out of Sight; Out of Mind?

May is National Electrical Safety Month

If electricity weren't so well hidden behind walls, and inside cords and light bulbs, its hazardous nature might be more apparent. According to the National Fire Protection Association, the three top hazards leading to home electrical fires are: light bulbs, extension cords and electrical systems. Since May is National Electrical Safety Month, GVEC urges you to take a moment to look around your home to see if you can make it safer. How does your home stack up to these top hazards?

Incandescent light bulbs.

Did you know they can get hot enough to start a fire? Keep bare bulbs away from anything that can burn. Make sure lamps won't fall on a sofa or mattress. Never put anything over a lamp shade. And take note: wattage matters — too much wattage or the wrong type of bulb can melt fixture wires and cause a fire.

Electrical problems in homes cause more than 51,000 fires, 500 deaths, 1,400 injuries and \$1.3 billion in property damage each year.
— Electrical Safety Foundation International

Extension cords, surge protectors and power strips.

Extension cords — especially one of the older, thinner gauge ones — can get overloaded easily. Only plug in a few items and don't use extension cords as a permanent solution. They can overheat, too, so never cover them with rugs or furniture. Throw away extension cords if they look melted, frayed or the plug is separated from the cord.

Your home's electrical system.

Many fires are attributed to do-it-yourself installations and repairs. If your home exhibits any of the warning signs listed below, it may indicate a problem such as improperly installed wiring, a faulty switch or outlet, a short in the wiring, or a general overextension of your home's electrical system. You might consider calling a licensed electrical professional to help you correct any problems.

Warning Signs:

- Frequently blown fuses or a circuit breaker that keeps tripping
- Cover plates or outlets that are hot to touch or discolored
- Flashes or sparks when you flip a switch or plug in an appliance
- Hissing or buzzing sounds from your appliances or walls
- The odor of overheated plastic
- Lights that flicker or dim
- A tingly feeling when you touch an appliance

For more safety tips and checklists, visit the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website at www.cpsc.gov or www.safeelectricity.org.

GVEC honors the brave men and women who have given their lives so that we might live in a free and prosperous United States of America.



All GVEC offices will be closed Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.



Notification of 2010 Patronage Capital Allocation

Recently the GVEC Board of Directors passed a resolution authorizing the allocation of 2010 margins to members receiving electric service from GVEC during 2010. Any members wishing to know information regarding the specific amount of the patronage capital allocation to their individual capital credit accounts should call 800-223-4832. A Customer Service Representative will be happy to assist you in this matter.



Ask an Energy Expert

Clint Petras, Member Service Advisor

SAVING ENERGY While on Vacation

Q: I'm taking a summer vacation. How can I keep my home comfortable, yet as efficient as possible, while I'm away?

With just a few adjustments, you can give your meter a break and save a few dollars, too.

- **Turn up your thermostat by a minimum of two or three degrees higher than usual, but not more than 81 degrees.** That's enough to maintain the comfort conditioning of your home without causing appliances, such as your refrigerator, to run a lot more, or affecting plants and pets like fish. If you have a programmable thermostat, put it on vacation mode or "hold" at the desired temperature. For each degree raised, you can save about 3% to 5% of your home's cooling cost (not your entire electric bill, but the largest controllable portion).
- **Clean refrigerator/freezer coils.** It's worth the time to clean coils (behind or under your appliance) of lint and dirt for better air flow and more efficient operation. If your appliance doesn't have coils, but "sheds" its heat from the sides, make sure there is sufficient air space around your refrigerator/freezer for air flow. Another hint: It costs more to

- cool an empty refrigerator or freezer than one that's full. If it's empty, put jugs of water inside; the water mass helps keep in the chill — especially once you return and start opening and closing the refrigerator door.
- **Unplug electronic equipment and small appliances, especially those with "instant on" or a remote control.** Even when off, many appliances still use small amounts of electricity. This includes computers, TVs, DVDs, cable or satellite receivers, coffee pots, battery chargers, baby monitors and microwaves. Remember to unplug items in the garage and outer buildings, too.
- **Close shades and blinds to help keep your home cool.** This is most effective for windows facing west and south.
- **Turn off ceiling and other fans because they won't help lower your home's temperature.** That's because fans don't produce cool air; they only circulate air, which makes you feel cooler when you're there to enjoy it.
- **Check your lights.** If you're leaving lights on for security reasons, change the bulbs to CFLs and put lights on timers, motion sensors or photo cells.

Have you entered our recipe drawing yet?



Hillis Bass, last year's recipe drawing winner, learned to cook the old-fashioned way — from her grandmother. In fact, she still has the first recipe her grandmother gave her in 1956 during a summer visit to Tennessee. (See below.)

Since her mom worked outside the home and didn't like to cook, Hillis began cooking for her family when she was 13. She loved it, and to make sure her children would know how to cook, Hillis let them take charge of the kitchen one night a week once they turned 10. Now it's a family tradition — Hillis' young grandson is cooking, too.

Her favorite tip? She loves to collect recipes which she organizes once a year. To keep them clean and easy to find, she files them in notebooks with vinyl sheet protectors.

Enter this year's recipe contest by July 31, 2011! Get details on page 24.

Nanny's Barbecue Sauce for Chicken

- 28-ounce can tomatoes, diced
- 15-ounce bottle catsup
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 cups apple cider vinegar
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Red pepper flakes (a shake)
- 2-3 teaspoons black pepper
- 2 tablespoons Tabasco sauce
- 3 tablespoons French dressing
- ¼ lb. oleo (butter)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 large onions, diced
- 2-3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1-½ cups meat stock (bouillon)

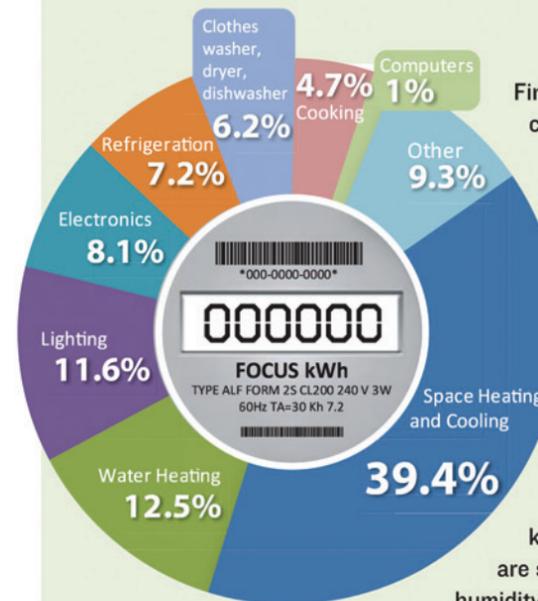
Bring all ingredients to boil. Then simmer 5 to 6 hours till thick.

TRIM THE FAT from Your Biggest Electric Expenses

Knowing which household activities consume the most electricity can help homeowners determine where they can save on electric bills.

Regulating temperature inside the home uses the most electricity. Almost 40 percent of the electric bill for an all-electric home covers the cost of cooling and space heating, according to U.S. Department of Energy data.

HOW YOUR HOME USES ELECTRICITY



In Texas during hot-weather months—when temperatures outside can reach triple digits—having an effective cooling system becomes crucial. Finding ways to increase the efficiency of an air conditioner can create a cost savings on electric bills during the summer.

To make the best use of an air conditioner, it helps to know two basic principles about how most units work: Air conditioners (1) decrease humidity; and (2) lower air temperature.

Decreasing humidity inside and increasing a unit's capacity for cooling can help keep your home comfortable. Here are some practical methods to keep humidity and temperatures down:

Humidity

- Close doors and windows to prevent humid outside air from coming in.
- Vent dryer exhaust to the outside.
- Fix plumbing leaks.
- Move houseplants with wet soil and moisture-producing leaves outside.
- Prepare meals without boiling or simmering liquids or use the exhaust fan.
- Consider investing in an energy-efficient dehumidifier.

Temperature

- Set thermostat no lower than 78 degrees.
- Clean indoor and outdoor coils of the air conditioner.
- Change air-conditioner filters.
- Block light from entering through windows with shade trees, blinds or awnings.
- Considering buying a programmable thermostat. For an overview of programmable thermostats, visit www.consumerreports.org.

Source: 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book, U.S. Department of Energy, Table 21.5. Represents an all-electric home. Updated February 2011.

See you at the library this summer!



For the past few years, GVEC has visited local libraries throughout the service territory to help support summer reading programs. It's just another way GVEC helps make learning about electrical safety fun for our community's children.

Why don't you join us this summer? We'll read a book to the children and have an electrical safety presentation. This year's book, which will be donated to the library after our visit, is *Oscar and the Bird: A Book About Electricity* by Geoff Waring.

We hope to see you there!

In June, GVEC visited the libraries in Cuero, Yorktown, Gonzales, Smiley, Waelder, Schertz and Yoakum. In July, GVEC will visit:

Shiner Public Library
July 7 at 3 p.m.

French Simpson Memorial Library-Hallettsville
July 12 at 10 a.m.

City of Seguin Library
July 18 at 11 a.m.

Marion Community Library
July 26 at 9 a.m.

Dates and times are subject to change, so call your library to confirm.



Comments from your General Manager:

Do Renewables Make Sense?

Darren Schauer

Does implementing distributive renewable generation make sense? That's a great question and one that is posed to GVEC quite a bit given the national headlines regarding the environmental impact of electric generation. The answer is simple in that it rests completely on the long-term goals of each individual.

We're all becoming increasingly aware of our carbon footprint these days. You hear stories and see ads all of the time promoting "going green" in everything from your house cleaners to your vehicle. Implementing wind and/or solar renewable alternatives in your home or business for your electric needs are also options for those who choose to invest in the technology. However, renewable energy carries with it both positives and negatives that consumers should be aware of in order to make an informed decision.

Positives

There are definitely positives to consider with regards to alternative energy. Renewable resources, especially the hot sunshine, are abundant in South Texas. Wind and sunshine are clean fuel sources that do not produce any pollutants. Though systems can be expensive up front, rebates and potential tax credits make the cost of implementing the technology more affordable than ever before. Long term, the overall choice to be more energy conscious will help in sustaining our natural resources for future generations and will offset portions of your monthly energy bill.

Negatives

Also to consider are the disadvantages of renewable energy. Because wind and sunshine are supplied solely by nature, they are unpredictable resources, requiring a constant backup source of "firm" power to meet your full needs. This means GVEC must stand by at all times with a redundant resource to supply power when you need it

and the renewable generation isn't available. Payback periods can be significantly lengthy and overall energy production is extremely sensitive to your individual location and the type of system you install. In addition, some homeowners associations or city ordinances do not allow for installation of the equipment at all and some people view it as unsightly.

As in every major purchase you make, there are pros and cons to implementing renewable energy. The key to making an informed decision is to identify your individual goals and select the combination that is right for what you want to achieve. Space, savings, investment, financial return, affordability, and environmental responsibility are all considerable elements when exploring alternative forms of energy.

If you would like more information on wind and solar generation or you're ready to invest, your hometown neighbors at GVEC Home (800.223.4832) are here to give you facts you can trust. As your partner, we look forward to helping you identify if renewable energy makes sense for your individual energy future.

Feel free to contact me at any time with questions or comments. Reach me via phone at 800.223.4832, e-mail at dschauer@gvec.org, or by mail at P.O. Box 118, Gonzales, TX 78629.

Respectfully,



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District 4
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A Little Green Goes A Long Way



Local businessman Ed Just knew a good deal when he saw it. With GVEC rebates and government tax credits on the table, he realized there was no better time to invest in a wind turbine and rooftop solar system for his home.

“The reason I became interested in renewable energy is a weird story,” says Just, owner of Alamo City Trailer Sales in Schertz and Just Store It mini storage in Seguin. “Back in 2009 I received an email about renewable energy and went to the website to learn more. The website wasn’t working so I punched in “renewable energy” and up came the GVEC website promoting their new rebates.”

Just did the research and ended up purchasing a 4 kW solar panel system and a 5 kW wind turbine which he mounted on a 60-foot mast. Now he’s producing much of his own power and is thinking of buying more solar panels.

“The turbine and solar panels are producing about 70% of my energy needs. My goal is to see if I can get a zero bill. So far my lowest bill has been about \$32,” Just says.

This is a big difference from the \$200 plus bills he was receiving previously. These results may not be typical and would depend on each individual’s situation.

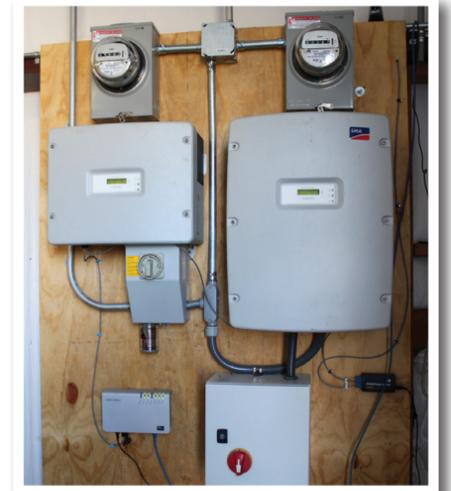
But it’s not all about the bottom line, Just says. “I’d like to believe that I am being green, and that’s something my daughter is beginning to understand. In the long run I know it will pay off in more ways than one.”

Just says that thanks to rebates and tax credits, the payback calculation is very favorable. He also appreciates the fact that GVEC is one of the few utilities in Texas that offers both a rebate and an energy buy-back program; GVEC’s tariff allows members to consume all the power produced on location and then sell back excess energy. So every kilowatt hour manufactured represents a lower electric bill and money that stays in his pocket. Just also believes adding this technology will increase his home’s value if he were to sell it.

When asked which renewable is more reliable for him, Just is quick to answer, “solar”. But he qualifies that by stating it all depends on where you live. In his

case, he receives more sunlight hours than wind. However, that changes in the winter when he has less sunlight and more wind because the leaves have fallen from surrounding trees.

“It’s definitely a good value for me,” says Just. “But the bottom line is that I feel that I am greener because of it.”



Just uses several meters installed by GVEC to monitor the amount of solar and wind power produced and sold back.

Celebrate Earth Day with Us in Seguin!

If you’d like to know more about how GVEC’s rebate program makes it more affordable to go green with energy efficient appliances and renewable energy, visit the GVEC booth at Seguin’s 2011 Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 30, in downtown Seguin. GVEC staff will also be able to answer your questions about buying and installing wind turbines and solar energy options. Bring your used CFLs too. We’ll recycle them for you! (Sorry, no long tubes allowed.)

Look for the GVEC banner. We’ll be there from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Save trees, postage and time

Sign Up for eBill and Automatic Payment!

Signing up for GVEC’s eBill and Automatic Payment option is fast and free. Plus, it will help reduce paper waste and the time you spend paying bills. Once signed up, you’ll receive your monthly electric bill online. Then we’ll automatically draft the amount you owe from your checking account, savings account, or debit card on your billing due date.

So skip stamps, missed payments and late fees with this free service. Call us at 800.223.4832 or visit www.gvec.org to make an online request.

La Vernia's Solar Lady | One member finds support, curiosity, and savings for her renewable and energy efficient home improvement investments.



Known as the “Solar Lady” in the neighborhood, GVEC member Catherine Ozer’s dedication to renewable energy has definitely peaked the curiosity of not only her neighbors, but of contractors and builders from San Antonio. Nestled atop her house lies several solar panels that help power her home. But a look inside reveals even more!

“I’m a green person,” admits Catherine, whose appreciation for recycling and conservation really took off while living in Hawaii. “Hawaii is heavy into recycling. We recycled everything. We even exchanged food with the locals as a way to conserve and avoid trips to the store.”

While Hawaii has been a trendsetter in energy efficiency and recycling efforts, it is also known for having one of the highest utility rates in the nation. It wasn’t uncommon for Catherine and her husband, who is now retired from the military, to have a \$750 bill for their family’s 4,000 square-foot home. So, making energy efficient improvements made a real difference. “When we lived in Hawaii, I changed to CFLs and saved \$50 to \$60 a month. I was a believer from then on.”

“When we moved from Hawaii, we brought a lot of what we learned about recycling, energy efficiency, and solar power to our new home in La Vernia.”

The most visible improvement Catherine made was the installation of her 5.250 kW solar PV system. “My neighbors call it my homeland security,” chuckles Catherine. “Now that we’re mostly living on one income, I wanted to keep our bills low especially in these economic times. I used to think that solar was only for the wealthy, but with an \$8,000 rebate from GVEC, it was

more affordable than I thought.” “My neighbors have been very curious about how it works and if it’s beneficial,” says Catherine. “I’ve even had builders stop by to look at the system and ask questions.” Catherine installed the system in April 2010 and has already noticed

a significant difference in her utility bill for her 2,400 square-foot home. “I’m paying about \$50 - \$60 a month for electricity, which is down from over \$200.”

Starting out with little knowledge of a solar PV system, she found the process to be very easy. “The company that I bought the system from talked me through all of my options and helped me decide on a system that would meet my needs.” After the initial visits and site surveys, the system was up and

running within a week. “I love checking my meter to see how much CO2 I prevented from being emitted. So far I’ve saved about 6,400 pounds of CO2. I like that I can see what I’m doing for the environment.”

GVEC also made the process simple. “They made it so easy to hook up to the meter and were great help in processing my rebates.”

Catherine has also made some smaller energy efficient improvements that have made a difference in her energy usage including:

- Installed a solar powered water heater
- Installed energy efficient appliances from GVEC Home™
- Switched her lights out for CFLs
- Ensured tight seals around her doors and windows
- Runs her laundry vent when washing clothes to reduce humidity build up
- Keeps her damper closed on her fireplace during the summer
- Built overhangs to shade her windows
- Uses a programmable thermostat
- Ensured radiant barrier was installed in the attic
- Installed insulation around the pipes on the water heater
- Uses a heat pump on her air conditioner
- Uses attractive, solar landscaping lights

While Catherine’s home is very energy efficient, there are still some things

she can do to make her home even tighter according to Member Service Advisor Robert Frederick who recently conducted a free energy audit of her home. “There are a few things Catherine can do to tighten up her home, but the biggest thing I found was not enough insulation in the attic.” Other things Catherine plans on doing include:

- Investing in solar screens for her front windows to reduce heat in her home
- Installing wall plate gaskets to reduce leaking air around electrical outlets especially on walls adjacent to the garage
- Installing doors on her fireplace
- Installing low-flow shower heads
- Moving objects around her freezer in the garage to create better air flow

“With GVEC’s energy efficiency incentives and easy process and great tips, I’m wasting money if I don’t do these things.” ■

“With GVEC’s energy efficiency incentives and easy process and great tips, I’m wasting money if I don’t do these things.”

Learn more about Renewable Energy Options from GVEC Home. Call today!

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Your kind of power.

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homeservices@gvec.org

GVEC Home Services, Inc. is a subsidiary of GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.



GVEC Member | Catherine Ozer | La Vernia

Exhibit I



energy hogs

By Scott Gates

Streamlining your home's energy use can make a big impact on monthly electric bills. But the key is in the details, and everyday energy hogs are sometimes easy to overlook.

One ever-present culprit lurks in your home right now. When combined with DVD players and video game consoles, television use makes up about

10 percent of an average household's annual electricity bill, according to ENERGY STAR®, a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Depending on the technology behind the TV you're watching, your monthly related energy costs can vary

From televisions and appliances to fire places and weather stripping, several energy hogs may be lurking in your home. GVEC's new Home Energy Suite can help you find them and do away with them!

dramatically. If you still have a 40-inch or less standard set that uses a cathode ray tube, it can draw roughly 73W when on — close to what a 75W incandescent light bulb uses. An average flat-screen LCD television of the same size also requires 70W, while a similar flat-screen plasma TV can really suck some power, consuming an average 246W when on. With flat screen TVs being the only

options these days, the choice between LCD and plasma can really make an impact, to almost startling levels on a national scale.

Currently, there are more than 275 million TVs in use across the country, with the average household tuning in 4.7 hours a day. It takes more than 50 billion kWh a year to keep those sets on, according to EPA, meaning it costs Americans \$5.2 billion to watch all of that TV.

TVs are getting larger, too. In fact, some of the largest, high resolution, direct view TVs (versus rear projection products) can use as much electricity each year as a new, conventional refrigerator, or roughly 500kWh, every year according to the EPA.

Of the total electricity generated in a single year, a full 1.2 percent goes toward keeping televisions glowing. As more consumers replace older televisions with flat screen technology, that number could climb to nearly 2 percent in a few years, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, a New York City-based environmental advocacy group.

The good news is that energy-efficient TVs — LCD, plasma, and otherwise — are available. Blue ENERGY STAR labels appear on all TVs that use less energy when turned on. Previously, ENERGY STAR TV labels only indicated how efficient a set was when switched off, in standby mode.

ENERGY STAR qualified televisions use about 40 percent less energy than standard units in all modes of operation including stand-by and active.

ENERGY STAR estimates that if all of the TVs sold in the United States meet the new requirements, energy savings could grow to \$1 billion a year. Related greenhouse gas emissions, meanwhile, would be reduced by the equivalent of taking about 1 million cars off the road.

If you're not in the market for a new TV, you can still cut back on the electricity your old set uses by adjusting the picture settings. The brighter the screen, the more energy it needs. Also, the small stream of electricity a TV draws while in standby mode can be eliminated by unplugging it, or by plugging it into a power strip that can be switched off.

Televisions are not the only energy hogs in your home. Look out for these energy wasters:

Poor insulation — insulation traps warm air inside so you don't have to turn up the heat. In the summer it keeps the cool air in and warm air out, reducing the amount of energy it takes to cool your home.

Open dampers — fireplaces add warmth to your home but, when not in use, hot air escapes up through the chimney. Close the damper to keep energy hogs out.

Leaking windows — caulk or weather-strip windows. Windows are one of the easiest places to lose warm or cool air and energy. Check for cracks or loose panes and repair them. Make sure you can't feel a cool or warm breeze around your windows.

These helpful hints along with other energy conservation tips can be found by going to the Energy Hog Buster Web site at www.energyhog.org. There's fun stuff for kids, too!

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Natural Resources Defense Council, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Scott Gates writes on technology and energy efficiency for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, VA-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

What's the real story behind your home's energy use?

After all, you try to conserve...switch out your light bulbs.... and those three TVs can't use much energy, can they?

Now you can find out online with GVEC's new HomeEnergyCalculator on our website at www.gvec.org. Just click on the Home Energy Suite icon.

The HomeEnergyCalculator offers residential members — like you — a complete analysis of your energy use based on information you provide about your home.

You can get a comprehensive report of your energy usage, find out where your energy dollars going, and even get recommendations on lowering your energy costs.

The calculator uses GVEC energy rates and weather data to calculate what portion of your monthly bill went for heating, cooling, water heating, lighting — and those TVs.

The calculation takes less than 10 minutes. It's free and available 24/7.

Armed with its onscreen information, you and your family can compare the energy efficiency options available. It's one more way we're working to help customers manage their energy costs.



Exhibit J

gvechome

Your kind of power.®



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Appliance Shopping for Everyone!

DID YOU KNOW OUR GVEC HOME® STORES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?

Shopping at GVEC Home gives you the style and selection you want in today's appliances. Plus, our local energy-saving experts are always on hand to help you select the product and services for your kind of lifestyle and budget.

At GVEC Home, you'll find:

- + Energy Efficient Brand Name Appliances
- + Countertop Appliances, Cookware, Bakeware and Cutlery
- + Delivery, Installation, Repair and Service
- + Air Conditioning/Heating (HVAC) Services

And the best part is, anyone can shop GVEC Home!

Call **800.223.GVEC**, visit **gvechome.com** or shop one of our three locations: **Gonzales, La Vernia, and Seguin.**

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Financing Options Available

GVEC Members: Get Instant Rebate Savings*

Come See Us at the Taste of Home Cooking School in Seguin on March 20 at the Coliseum!

* Where Applicable

Exhibit K



Exhibit L



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