

AmerenUE implements new charge

BY ELIZABETH KOCH
Staff Reporter

AmerenUE's recent power and Fuel Adjustment Charge will increase customers' electric bills in AmerenUE's entire Missouri service area.

The total adjustment will cost approximately \$71.2 million or \$2.37 per residential customer per month, AmerenUE Spokesperson Tim Fox said. The adjustment charge can be changed up to three times per year, he said. This current charge will appear on bills until the adjustment is reviewed, which probably will occur approximately every three months.

The FAC is not a change in rate — it's an additional charge or credit that is calculated based on the fuel costs and off-system revenue between February and May, he said. The adjustment was implemented Sept. 23.

The Missouri Public Service Commission, which reviews AmerenUE's costs and revenues, approved the fuel and power adjustment by a 3-2 vote, Fox said.

This adjustment charge is a result of lower off-system sales revenue resulting from the state of the economy and lower power prices, he said.

"Wholesale power is [at] the market price for power, so the price that [AmerenUE] is able to sell that power for in the market has been depressed," Fox said. "There's a difference between a drop in sales and a drop in revenue, because what we've experienced is a drop in revenue, because the power prices have been low with the weak economy."

The first FAC adjustment was made last October. Customers received a credit because enough power was sold to cover fuel costs, he said. The average FAC credit is approximately 40 cents.

Physical Plant Director Karl Schneider said he isn't sure how the recent FAC charge will affect Truman's electric bill because he hasn't seen any numbers yet, but it probably won't be a large amount because it isn't as substantial as a rate increase.

"When utility costs increase, that means that you really don't have much of a choice about that spending," he said. "If you want to stay in operation, you have to spend that money."

Schneider said money is budgeted for utilities each year, and extra is added if an increase is predicted.

Schneider said Truman used approximately 35 mega-watt hours of electricity in the last fiscal year, July 2009 to June 2010, costing approximately \$1.7 million.

Schneider said Truman is using more energy than in the past in some buildings, such as Magruder Hall. The air ventilation systems in the labs use 100 percent outside air to disperse chemical fumes, so the air has to constantly circulate, he said. The heating and cooling in residence halls also has affected energy usage.

During renovations, the companies involved are asked to put in the most efficient systems to lower energy costs, he said. For example, Ryle Hall's cooling system uses chilled water to cool the building instead of air blowing across a refrigerate coil. Schneider said water is better at cooling than air because it's denser. Blanton-Nason-Brewer Hall and Dobson Hall also use a chilled water cooling system.

Michael Kelrick, director of Interdisciplinary Studies, is a member of the Presidential Sustainability Action Committee. Kelrick said he didn't know

Facts about the AmerenUE Fuel Adjustment Charge

- The adjustment will cost approximately \$2.37 per residential customer per month
- The adjustment rate can be changed up to three times a year
- It is not a change in rate. It is an additional cost or credit on customer's bills
- It is a result of lower off-system sales revenue resulting from lower prices and the state of the economy

much about the FAC charge, but any increase raises awareness about energy conservation and is a reason to plan energy conservation projects.

The committee might attempt to work with an energy service company, which provides workers, infrastructure and supplies and also funds the project they come up with. If the projected result is less than predicted, the company makes up the difference, Kelrick said. The energy service company then is paid back through a portion of the energy savings. He said a big project like this would take a substantial amount of time because the Board of Governors would have to approve the project.

He said the committee will plan projects that directly involve students to help educate them and raise awareness for environmental sustainability. There is also a student on the committee, he said. Kelrick said it's a possibility the committee eventually could award internships with environmentally friendly projects to students, depending on the budget.

"[Conserving energy] benefits everybody, and going into the future, it's just simply wise and

sustainable practice to utilize energy," Kelrick said. "It's also wise and sustainable practice to use less energy that is generated by fossil fuels because we're contributing to change in our atmosphere chemistry, which I feel is pretty clear and responsible for climate change."

Hidden Treasures owner Sherry Stacey said she's aware of the FAC charge but isn't sure about the amount yet.

"[FAC charge] doesn't really matter — that sounds silly, but really, there's nothing I can do," Stacey said.

Stacey said Hidden Treasures' energy bills have been steady in the past, averaging \$850 to \$1,000 per month.

Stacey said she's obliged to pay the FAC charge but doesn't think the adjustment will have a major impact based on the \$2.47 increase for residential customers. But, if additional charges begin to increase, she said she would have to make adjustments.

"I just have to make adjustments as they come," Stacey said. "I'm not going to be frozen in fear over possibilities — I'll just wait until it's put on my plate."

NEWS | In Brief

Art festival decorates the Square

The Red Barn Arts & Crafts Festival will take place from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday on the downtown Square. The event is in its 36th year and will present work from visual artists, performing artists and crafters. The Kirksville Arts Association hosts the annual festival, and proceeds from sponsorships, exhibitor fees and soda booths go to the arts association to offset costs of its programs throughout the year. Food also will be available for purchase, and musical performances are scheduled throughout the day.

Family Day to take place Saturday

Truman's annual Family Day is Saturday. Several events are planned for the day, including tours, the Annual Festival Centennial and a barbecue in Red Barn Park for \$8 for those without meal plans. Meal plans will be accepted. A variety of sports events and musical performances also will take place Friday and Sunday. See about.truman.edu/family.asp for a full list of events, times and prices.

Improv group to perform in Baldwin

The musical improv comedy group Baby Want Candy will perform 4 p.m. Saturday in Baldwin Auditorium. The event is free for Truman students with IDs, \$3 for general admission tickets and \$5 for two general admission tickets. The critically acclaimed Chicago-based group will act out an entirely improvised musical show. The event is sponsored by SAB as part of the Family Day events.

Peace Corps to hold meeting

Members of the Peace Corps will discuss their experiences and provide information about the Peace Corps program from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday in the SUB Alumni Room.

Oktoberfest to take place on the Mall

The Office of Residence Life Fun & Spirit Committee is sponsoring Oktoberfest, which will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday on the Mall. The celebration will include \$1 all-you-can-drink root beer, food and prizes.

Fraternity hosts political debate

Alpha Phi Alpha will host a political debate from 7 to 8:30 tonight in the SUB Hub for College Democrats, Republicans and Libertarians. The organizations will debate political issues from their party positions.

Career Week begins Monday

The Career Week Kickoff event will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday in the SUB Georgian Room. The event is meant to prepare interested students for the Career Expo on Wednesday and will include booths providing résumé critiques, mock interviews and stress management. President Paino will officially kick off the event at 4:30 p.m. and a panel of employers will give advice and their expertise starting at 5 p.m.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$500 for membership to the National Student Government Association.
- Student Senate passed a resolution adopting the 2010-11 Senate budget.
- Student Senate appointed senior John Nolan to the position of Environmental Affairs Chair.
- Student Senate appointed sophomore Tess Coyman to the position of Organizational Representative for Alpha Sigma Alpha.
- Student Senate appointed junior John Ruesch to the Organizational Activities Fee Review Committee.
- Student Senate appointed junior Breanna Daniels to the Organizational Activities Fee Review Committee.

Crime | Reports

9/22 A burglary of between \$500 and \$25,000 and property damage was reported in a classroom in Baldwin Hall.

9/22 A theft of under \$500 was reported in the Student Union Building.

9/25 Senior John Hussung was charged with Public Drinking and Littering.

9/26 Freshman Tabitha Hylton was issued a Missouri Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants and charged with resisting/interfering with arrest.

Class plans new roof for Bike Co-op

BY REBECCA SMITH
Staff Reporter

The Grassroots Environmentalism class and the Bike Co-op are collaborating to improve the environment — one roof at a time.

Students in the Grassroots Environmentalism class have planned a new, environmentally-friendly storage shed with a "green" roof, for the Bike Co-op this semester in an as-of-yet undetermined location to replace the storage shed demolished this past summer, said senior John Messina, who is enrolled in the class and involved with the project.

A green roof is an addition to a structure's roof that includes vegetation, a level of soil and a membrane to protect the roof from the roots of the vegetation above it, Messina said. This structure would be installed on top of the proposed shed's roof and provides benefits to both the building and the environment surrounding it.

Senior Katherine Gaddie said a green roof could sustain the life of a roof up to three times longer because it acts as a buffer between the roof and the weather. She said this type of roof structure can produce enough oxygen for one person for one year.

"It is like giving the grass and area that the building takes up back to the environment," Gaddie said. "It also takes pollutants out of the air and provides other great benefits."

The Bike Co-op's storage shelter was scheduled to be demolished this summer, and with-

out this storage facility, the Co-op is having difficulty operating and selling or renting bikes, said sophomore Samuel Kost, a mechanic for the Bike Co-op.

Kost said as many as 30 bikes — 10 functional — and many bike parts were lost due to the demolition.

"With a new storage shed, we could have bikes on hand to sell or rent, be able to store parts and it would make us look better because we wouldn't have to stack bikes on one another," Kost said. "Right now we can only store around 10 bikes, whereas a new shed could store more like 100."

The students planning this new storage shed — Messina, Gaddie and senior Sarah Payne — are still in a preliminary stage of the project, writing a proposal to present to the President's Sustainability Action Committee and figuring out how to fund the project.

"The green roof, a 14' by 14' section alone will cost nearly \$2,000, and that is if the company allows us to install the roof, both membrane and vegetation, by ourselves," Messina said.

Messina said the group is looking to get funds from the University, Student Senate and donations and grants from businesses in the Kirksville area.

The structural integrity of the proposed building is also being discussed because the green roof would weigh more per square foot — approximately 17 pounds saturated — than a typical roof.

"We are attempting to discover what types

of structures are appropriate and how much they will cost," Messina said. "We are uncertain if some of lower costs sheds are structurally sufficient."

Alternative building methods, such as a Cob structure, are being looked into. This method involves building a light wood frame and stuffing it with light straw-clay, with plywood on the outside, Messina said.

Michael Kelrick, professor of biology and director of interdisciplinary studies, is acting as adviser to the student project and participant in the Grassroots Environmentalism class.

Kelrick said there are members of the extended Kirksville community who are experts in alternative building methods and the organizers of the shed hope community members will aid in the construction of the new storage shed.

"This is all symbolic of what the Bike Co-op stands for, sustainability in general and what the Grassroots Environmentalism aims for — a serving, learning project that involved the community," Kelrick said.

The group is hoping to have the project approved, funds raised and construction begin this spring semester, Kelrick said.

"We will never get something remarkable like this achieved unless we have a well-crafted plan for how it could be done," Kelrick said. "We have to do research, get the ideas together and make it a plan that is feasible and satisfies the concerns of those who have them."

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