

My HOMETOWN POWER

Summer 2011



MED leading region in electric car technology

There is a new vehicle on the roadways of Murfreesboro, and it is sign of things to come in the transportation and electric utility industries.

Residents of Murfreesboro have no doubt noticed the white Nissan Leaf with the Murfreesboro Electric Department logo on the sides. Below the logo and large graphic of a power cord are the words "Electric Vehicle." Part of the MED fleet, the vehicle is helping the utility play a lead role in discovering how electric vehicle technology will impact the region.

"A new era in personal transportation has begun, and power distribution

systems like MED will be significantly affected," says Steve Sax, general manager of the power distribution system. "Consumers are growing increasingly concerned about issues such as energy efficiency, clean air and our dependence on foreign oil — and the electric vehicle addresses all those concerns."

Indeed, the first mass produced electric vehicles in the nation began delivery in December 2010 with the Chevy Volt (a plug-in hybrid) and the Nissan Leaf (an electric battery vehicle). Further, a July report by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) says most major vehicle manufacturers have

announced plans to build some type of electric vehicle in the near future.

Sax believes these and other issues will continue to drive consumer demand for affordable electric vehicles. And as more of these vehicles hit the road, electric utilities will need the



MED's Tanner Gore charges the Nissan Leaf at the utility's headquarters.

knowledge and ability to integrate them into their existing system.

"There are many unanswered questions regarding how electric vehicles will fit into our energy mix," says Sax. "Our staff studied this issue, then went to our board with a plan to research how to implement the changes, how to supply loads in an adequate way, and how to educate our consumers and employees on the technology. An important step in the process was to purchase an electric vehicle and put it to work as part of our existing fleet."



STEVE SAX, general manager of MED, believes TVA should ultimately create a new rate class to manage the adoption of electric vehicles across the Valley.

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How energy efficient is your home?

During the hot months of summer, we use more electricity to keep our homes cool and comfortable. Did you know there are things you can do around your home to reduce the amount of power you consume — without sacrificing your family's comfort?

An airtight home with a high efficiency heat pump can keep your family comfortable all year long for a reasonable cost.

Think of all the places air can pass through your home — through tiny gaps around windows, through inadequate insulation in your attic, around doors, and even around light switches and outlet covers. If you add all these small gaps together, they can have the equal effect of cutting a hole the size of a dinner plate or larger in your front door! That's quite a hole for your conditioned air to be escaping through, and for outside air to be entering into your home.

As the heat of summer gives way to the pleasant temperatures of fall, don't forget that winter will be here before you know it. Take the time now to improve the energy efficiency of your home. Visit our website for more information, or visit energyright.com and click on the link to take the online energy evaluation. It will help you save money on your power bill while enjoying a more comfortable home. ♦

Steve Sax, General Manager
Murfreesboro Electric Department

FOCUSED ON RELIABILITY National organization recognizes MED for power system reliability

Murfreesboro Electric Department has earned a distinguished designation from the American Public Power Association (APPA). The Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) recognition was bestowed at the APPA's Engineering & Operations Technical Conference in March.

Of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities, only 82 have earned the honor, which recognizes utilities for providing consumers with the highest degree of reliable and safe electric service.

The RP3 program recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety,

workforce development and system improvement. Criteria within each category are based on sound business practices and represent a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

"This is a real honor for our utility," says Steve Sax, general manager of MED. "A lot of hard work has gone into receiving this designation, and, in the end, our customers are the real winners." ♦



Steve Sax (second from right) accepts the RP3 recognition on behalf of Murfreesboro Electric Department. The designation was presented by Paul Allen, chair of APPA's RP3 Review Panel, at an APPA conference in March. Also pictured are MED's Jackie Whitaker, Mark Kimbell and Chris Barns.

99.9876%
reliability
rating



The mission of Murfreesboro Electric Department has many components, from providing outstanding customer service to creating a safe work environment for employees. All these goals are important parts of the overall mission — to be the reliable energy source that powers the lives of Murfreesboro citizens and businesses.

"Everything we do at this utility centers around that one goal — keeping the lights on," says MED General Manager Steve Sax. "A reliable source of affordable power is vital to the continued growth of our city."

MED recently completed an analysis of its distribution system's performance. The study revealed a reliability rating of 99.9876 percent.

"We are very pleased with our findings," says Sax, "but we will never stop working to deliver the most reliable electric service of any utility in the nation." ♦

MED brings home awards, reinforces training & safety at Lineman Rodeo



Corey Harrell, MED apprentice lineman, participates in a hurt man rescue at the Lineman Rodeo.

For the fourth consecutive year, Murfreesboro Electric Department's linemen have proven they are among the best in this part of the country.

The Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo was held in June in Sevierville, Tenn. This annual event brings linemen together from throughout the Tennessee Valley region to test their skills at everything from changing out equipment to rescuing a co-worker atop a power pole. MED's men earned numerous awards.

"It's a competition, but more than anything it's about safety and training," says Jim Fuller, MED safety director.

Fuller, who has served the people of Murfreesboro for almost 30 years at MED, says the event has provided greater opportunities for employees to work together, and "has made a great deal of difference in morale."

Workers depend on their fellow linemen from various utilities for help during times of major outages. Another benefit of the rodeo, says Fuller, is that it provides linemen an opportunity to work together and fellowship under non-emergency circumstances.

"This is a great program for our linemen," says Steve Sax, MED general manager. "It's educational, it helps improve their skills, and their many awards show what we already knew around here — that some of the region's best linemen are right here at MED." ♦

MED WINNERS

Apprentice Division

• MICHAEL FARLESS

1st Place - B-I Tie-In

2nd Place - High Overall

3rd Place - 100-amp Cutout Replacement

• COREY HARRELL

3rd Place - Hurt Man Rescue

Journeyman Lineman Division

• SHANNON DeBERRY

2nd Place - High Overall

3rd Place - Arrestor Changeout

• JIM FULLER

2nd Place - Arrestor Changeout

3rd Place - Hurt Man Rescue

Senior Lineman Division

• JIM FULLER

1st Place - High Overall

1st Place - Hurt Man Rescue

1st Place - Alley Arm Insulator Replacement

2nd Place - 100-amp Cutout Replacement

Celebrate Public Power Week at MED

October 10 – 14 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon • 205 North Walnut Street

Stop by our lobby during Public Power Week and receive valuable information on programs such as the In-Home Energy Evaluation and other ways to save energy.



PUBLIC POWER

AN AMERICAN TRADITION THAT WORKS

Money-saving tips for fall & winter:

- Make sure your dryer vent seals tightly when the dryer is not in use.
- Check your ducts. Leaky ductwork often accounts for 10-30% of your total heating and cooling costs.
- Caulk and weather-strip around doors and window frames.
- Make the switch from incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescents. They use 75% less energy and last up to ten times longer.

Visit murfreesborelectric.com for more ideas

CAR

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The decision to purchase a Nissan Leaf was an easy one. Not only is Nissan retooling its Rutherford County plant to build an electric car, but the company is also building a plant in the county to produce batteries for electric vehicles.

“Nissan is a major employer and has a tremendous impact on the economy of Middle Tennessee,” says Sax. “It makes good sense to support them.”

The primary function of MED’s electric vehicle at the moment is public education. “We wanted to demonstrate that electric vehicles are available now, to raise people’s awareness of the technology,” Sax says. “It’s working. People ask about it everywhere we go. I’ve even had people roll down their window at an intersection and ask about it.”

One of the main questions MED’s staff hears is ‘How much electricity does it take to charge the battery?’ When MED’s electric vehicle tripped 600 miles, the meter dedicated to the car’s charging station showed it had used approximately \$14 worth of electricity. “Think about how that compares to a gas-powered vehicle,” Sax says. “There are some real economics at work here.”

Beyond the public education aspect, MED is studying the effect electric cars



An electric vehicle charging station is available for use by the public at the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce building in Murfreesboro.

will have on how the utility engineers its system to meet future demand. Part of its approach in dealing with electric car owners will be to install a separate meter at the customer’s home that will allow them to monitor exactly how much power their charging station is using.

“From a bigger picture standpoint, we’re also looking at finance and rate issues,” explains Sax. “Should electric vehicles be charged the same residential rate as people pay for running their homes? Are public charging stations going to buy power from MED and then resell that power to the end customer? Does our contract with TVA allow that?”

These questions and others are being studied by the Technology Applications Committee of the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA), on

which Sax serves. Sax believes part of the answer is to propose to TVA a new rate class specifically for electric vehicles.

As the electric vehicle industry evolves, Murfreesboro will be at the center of research through MED’s active role. The utility is already filling many of the roles spelled out in the July EPRI report ‘Transportation Electrification: A Technology Overview’ (visit epri.com to download the full report).

MED’s electric vehicle program was also featured earlier this year on the cover of *TVPPA News*, published by TVPPA. In the accompanying feature story, Sax summed up the issue by saying, “It’s time for all (utilities) to figure out how we’re going to deal with (electric vehicles) when they come — because they’re coming.” ♦



To report a power outage, please call (615) 893-5515

- ♦ **Phone** (for customer service)
(615) 893-5514
- ♦ **Email**
customerservice@murfreesboroelectric.com
- ♦ **Mail**
P.O. Box 9
Murfreesboro, TN 37133-0009
- ♦ **Walk-In or Drive-Thru**
205 North Walnut Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

PAYING YOUR BILL:

You may pay your Murfreesboro Electric bill through the mail, at our office, by phone, or on our website at www.MurfreesboroElectric.com.