

LINK meters connect you with convenience, privacy and speedy outage response

West Florida Electric Cooperative now offers an electric meter that can report outages and monitor power quality, in addition to recording energy use. The LINK meter, which connects to a telephone line, speeds power restoration by automatically alerting the Co-op of an outage, even when you're not at home.

For instance, if an outage occurs while you're out of town, the LINK can be programmed to notify WFEC of the outage, and you won't have to return home to a refrigerator full of spoiled food. The meters' outage reporting features also make them ideal for camp houses or vacation homes that aren't occupied all the time.

In fact, the LINK can contact WFEC about an outage even more efficiently than you can. The meter not only responds within seconds after an outage occurs, but also provides the Co-op's service center with an exact location, so you don't have to provide all the necessary information. The meter can be programmed to notify WFEC when your power has been restored, as well.

In addition to outage reporting, the LINK provides automated monthly meter readings of total energy consumption. With instant, accurate reporting capabilities, the LINK is well-suited for locations that are inaccessible due to locked gates, animals or impassable terrain. It also allows you greater privacy because it doesn't require monthly visits from a meter reader, just an occasional check to ensure the equipment is operating properly.

When the LINK calls in a monthly energy consumption reading, it generates a voltage report that can be used to monitor power quality, as well. The meter can be programmed to relay the date, time and voltage measurements when under- or over-voltage conditions occur, and can identify potential trouble areas by detecting blinks or voltage sags.

With the LINK, WFEC can conduct a "real time" test to diagnose fluctuations in your home's voltage. If you notify WFEC of a possible voltage problem, the Co-op will telephone you, and you'll enter a series of codes on the phone's keypad. When you've replaced the receiver to activate the LINK meter's testing mode, it will begin providing current voltage readings every three seconds.

The LINK meter installs quickly and easily between an existing meter and meter base, without the need for any special modifications to the meter. The only other equipment necessary for this service is a telephone line; however, the meter won't

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interfere with your telephone or Internet use on that line. When the LINK begins to transmit a report to the Co-op, it checks the phone line to see if it's free. If the line already is in use, the meter won't seize the line, but will delay sending its report.

Call or visit WFEC's offices for additional information about the LINK's capabilities or to request a LINK lease agreement form. The meters lease for \$4.75 a month, with a \$10 one-time fee for a standard installation.



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