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Your Touchstone Energy® Partners 

www.harrisonrea.com

When energy-savings-tips are provided by utility companies, do they really mean it?

With costs spiraling out of control everywhere, it might be appropriate if your member-owned electric utility provided some bare facts to its members.

First, your utility company does provide several services to its members, and the one service that is the most recognizable — electricity. Consequently, we do promote the use of energy, but we also offer as many ways possible to conserve its use through practical means.

Secondly, the concept of a member-owned Cooperative is to provide products and services at their least possible pricing.

Third, with all the “hoopla” in the news about energy shortages, it only makes good sense that we all become energy-conscious citizens. That includes your utility company.

Finally, with these three thoughts in mind, although I can't

speak for other utilities, we feel it is our duty to provide as many cost-saving initiatives to our members as we can.

I would like to spend the remainder of this article on some energy -savings-tips that will provide you with some ways to conserve electricity in your homes and businesses.

A flat screen monitor for your computer uses 38 watts of electricity, while a cathode tube model uses 240 watts. You can take a big step toward energy efficiency if you purchase appliances that meet the Energy Star® criteria. These appliances can cut power use up to 50 percent. The purchase price usually is higher for these models, but a major appliance usually is around a long time and will use up the money you saved on buying a cheaper model.

Most of us are aware that it takes energy to have our products available for our use even before we need them; consequently, that comes at a price. Most televisions will draw five or six watts of energy even when they're off. This adds up to 120 to 144 watthours per day even if you never turn it on. That's just one television. How many do you have?

With a dimmer switch, less is more — more savings that is. When you dim your lights by a quarter, you increase your energy savings by 20 percent; dim them by half, and you increase your savings 40 percent. You also extend the life expectancy of the bulb up to 20 times when you dim a light.

Manager's Corner

By
Gary Jackson,
CEO/General
Manager



While we're on the subject of lighting, the least-utilized cost saver available today is the compact fluorescent light (CFL). They now are available in sizes that fit most lighting fixtures. The good news is they use 66 to 75 percent less energy than a traditional incandescent light bulb.

An average compact fluorescent bulb can save \$30 over its lifetime. It's estimated that an average household uses 20 percent of its energy providing lighting, so that adds up to a big savings when you use CFLs.

An easy rule of thumb for figuring energy costs is to figure that 10 100-watt incandescent light bulbs burning for one hour cost you approximately 8 cents to operate. That may seem like a small number for that much light, but think about that much light on for a day with a cost of \$1.92. Multiply that for a month, and the cost now becomes \$57.60. Now, consider the other appliances that use much more energy than the simple 100-watt incandescent light bulb!

This is just the tip of the iceberg for the many cost-saving ideas that are available. Please conserve energy, because “nobody really knows when the well might run dry!”

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Co-op kids participate in 4-H

The 4-H Beef Program helps to show young people that not only is raising a beef animal fun, it also helps them to undergo personal growth and learn skills which help them to become responsible citizens. The program gives children the opportunity to grow in the following areas: animal care and ownership; honesty and sportsmanship; animal health and biosecurity; quality assurance; human health and ethics and conduct.

Ben and Jocelyn Stout, children of office manager Terry Stout and his wife, Carol, competed in the 2006 Harrison County 4-H Livestock Show held at the WVU Jackson's Mill Livestock Barn at Jackson's Mill. Ben and Jocelyn both earned ribbons for their first-year feeder heifers.

Their calves were born last winter at the Stout farm on Stout's Run. Both were Hereford/Angus mix.



Ben's calf, Sniggelfritz, had some problems and refused to nurse from her mother, so Ben had to bottle feed her right from the start. After the livestock show she was sold, but "Sugar" still remains at the farm, and Ben probably will show her again next year in a different category. Jocelyn will get a new calf.

This project required a lot of work from Ben and Jocie. They had to be sure their calves were fed, watered, bathed, trimmed and, of course, they had to clean out the barn after them. Cattle farming is not an easy job, and

both of these kids know first-hand the commitment it takes to be successful.

Ben is 16 years old and is a sophomore at Bridgeport High School. Jocelyn is 10 and attends Norwood Elementary School where she is in the fifth grade.

Electricity remains a good value

Believe it or not, the national cost of electricity today, when adjusted for inflation, is less than what it was in 1980.

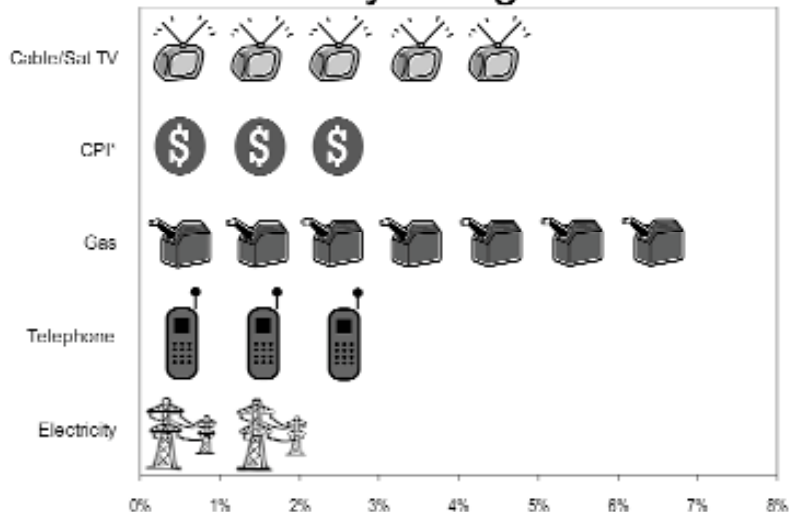
Very few commodities have remained such a good value. Compared to other consumer products and services, electricity is a bargain.

In our high-tech society, electric Cooperatives focus on innovation and new technologies to improve service and reliability. Cooperatives promote energy efficiency and encourage conservation.

As the demand for energy continues to rise and the costs of fuels increase, your electric Cooperative is committed to providing safe and affordable electricity at the lowest possible cost: a value we all can fit into our budgets.

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Electricity is a good value



CPI* - overall Consumer Price Index for the U.S., urban areas
Source: NRECA & Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1985-2005
Annual cost increases: 10-year annual compound growth rate

affordable electricity at the lowest possible cost.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Prioritizing home efficiency improvements

by CHRIS DORSI

Homeowners across America are struggling to meet the increasing cost of utilities. The best way to lower your energy consumption is to improve the efficiency of your home. But what should you do first?

Your choice of energy improvement projects should be based upon the type and condition of your home. Consider these questions as you craft a personal energy plan:

What is the condition of the exterior of your home? Repair any broken windows, loose siding, or missing trim before you do anything else. You'll spend extra money on energy each month if outdoor air is whistling through your home. Don't worry about caulking small holes and cracks.

How much insulation do you have in your attic? Attic insulation keeps your home warm in winter and cool in summer. More insulation is always better — install at least 10 to 12 inches (R-30) in temperate climates, and 15 to 20 inches (R-50) in cold climates.

Has your furnace or air conditioner been serviced lately? These hard-working appliances are the largest consumers of energy in most homes. Periodic

Should you install arc-fault circuit interrupters?

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) urges consumers to install arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to protect circuits throughout the home. Just as ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are installed to prevent electrical shock, arc-fault circuit interrupters are electrical safety devices designed to prevent fires caused by dangerous electrical arcs. Arc faults are one of the major causes of the 73,500 residential electrical fires that occur each year. Use of new AFCI technology could prevent between 50 to 75 percent of these fires, saving hundreds of lives, reducing thousands of injuries and nearly \$1 billion in property damage annually.

AFCIs recognize the unique signature of harmful arcs — and shut off the circuit to prevent a fire hazard. Arcs can occur along the circuit in residential electrical systems and at outlets and switches behind walls. Hidden electrical fires can spread rapidly, delaying detection by smoke alarms, reducing the chances of survival. Conditions that trigger arc-faults include:

- Damaged wires from nails driven into walls;
- Cracked insulation on wires due to aging or stress;
- Frayed wires at stress points;
- Loose or improper connections, faulty electrical equipment; and overheated electrical wires.

ESFI recommends having AFCIs installed on all general-purpose circuits throughout the home, particularly in older homes where arcing hazards could have developed over several years. Visit ESFI at <http://esfi.org/esfilib/gfciposter.pdf> for examples of the different types of AFCIs or GFCIs.

service can improve their efficiency and extend their lifespans. If you hire a professional technician, ask about simple maintenance tasks you can perform yourself.

How many old-fashioned incandescent lights do you have? These traditional bulbs use three times more electricity than modern compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Buy and install CFLs in any light fixtures you use more than a few hours a day.

How old is your refrigerator? The newest refrigerators take advantage of technology that cuts their consumption to one-quarter that of older units. Shop for an ENERGY STAR-rated refrigerator to get the most efficient models. Buy a smaller refrigerator than you currently have for added savings.

You can learn more about home efficiency on the ENERGY STAR website: www.energystar.gov.

Chris Dorsi is a nationally-recognized energy expert for Saturn Resource Management, Inc. For more free energy-saving tips, visit the Saturn website at www.srmi.biz.

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sophomores and juniors...
Enter to win a trip!**



2007 Youth Tour to Washington, DC

June 8 to 14

See the treasures in our nation's capital. You can enjoy an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC June 8 to 14 as part of the electric Cooperatives' Youth Tour. Visit the Capitol, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Vietnam Memorial, Mount Vernon, cruise on the Potomac and see many other fascinating places.

You will meet and have a chance to talk with your congressional representative. Best of all, you'll meet other students your age from all across the United States.

Your local electric Cooperative will sponsor one or two students on this trip. To be eligible to compete, you must be a high school sophomore or junior.

For information on how you can be part of this trip, complete the form here and mail it to your electric Cooperative today.

Yes! I am interested in hearing how I can be part of the trip to Washington, DC this summer.

Name _____

Address _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Sophomore Junior - Male Female

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