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Your Touchstone Energy® Partners



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Balancing renewable energy with affordability

When you ask most people to describe renewable energy, the majority will include wind and/or solar in their answer. Hardly a day goes by without reading an article in newspapers or seeing a reference on the television about “green” energy. Wind energy has been harnessed for thousands of years to improve the quality of life. Windmills dotted the American countryside to pump water before electricity was extended to rural areas. Solar power taps the most basic generation source available, the sun.

A recent survey conducted by Bisconti Research, Inc., asked Americans where they think most of our nation’s electricity will come from in 15 years. The vast majority—72 percent—answered solar as number one, followed by wind energy. In actuality, solar is expected to generate a mere 0.2 percent of our nation’s electricity

by 2030; wind will generate just 2.4 percent. We will continue to rely on fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas, as well as nuclear power and hydropower, to produce most of our electricity needs.


This doesn’t mean we’ll be hearing less about renewable energy in coming years. The fact is, the opposite is true. Already, 28 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws creating renewable portfolio standards, often called RPS for short, which require electric utilities and other retail suppliers of electricity to add a specific percentage of renewable energy to their power supply mix by a certain date. More states are expected to follow the trend, and a federal mandate could be passed by Congress this year.

While renewable energy often is embraced as the answer to America’s energy crisis, the price tag associated with its development—and how reliably renewable projects operate—often leave a lot to be desired. It’s clear that developing power generation resources like solar, wind and biomass to meet government renewable energy mandates will impact electric bills for everyone, including our cooperative member/consumers. The amount of this increase may depend on how closely Congress is willing to work with electric cooperatives.

Locally owned-and-controlled not-for-profit electric cooperatives are offering Congress our experi-

Manager’s
Corner

by
Gary Jackson,
CEO/General
Manager



ence on how to make the right choices on behalf of our members/consumers when it comes to meeting our nation’s energy challenges.

Through the *Our Energy, Our Future™* grassroots campaign, hundreds of thousands of electric cooperative members like you have sent more than 1.5 million messages to Congress, asking lawmakers to focus on issues related to generation capacity, new technologies and keeping electric bills affordable when developing energy and climate change policy.

If you haven’t already done so, get involved in the campaign by asking your representative on Capitol Hill this important question: “Are you willing to work with electric cooperatives like Harrison Rural Electrification Association to ensure our nation has reliable power at a price consumers can afford?”

To learn how to begin a dialogue with your elected officials, visit www.ourenergy.coop today. Let them know we need reliable electrical energy and affordable, renewable energy is possible if we work together.

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Kayla Yerkey completes basic training

Kayla Yerkey, daughter of lineman Ron Yerkey and bookkeeper Debbie Yerkey, recently completed W.Va. Army National Guard basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

During her nine weeks of training, PFC Yerkey studied the Army mission and received instruction on drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, Army history and traditions along with special training in human relations. While stationed at Fort Jackson, Kayla was appointed squad leader, and she also qualified as marksman on the rifle range.

After completing her basic training, PFC Yerkey completed her advanced individual training in cooking at Fort Lee, Va. She was trained in small



garrison cooking and field branch cooking.

During her training at both Fort Jackson and Fort Lee, Kayla met many new people and made a lot of friends. She said it was an experience she loved and one that she will never forget.

Kayla is a 2005 graduate of Doddridge County High School and attended Fairmont State University for three years. Her future plans are to complete her college education and continue serving her country through the W.Va. Army National Guard.

Congratulations, Kayla, from all of us at HREA. We're very proud of you.

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Remind your kids about 'Stranger Danger'

When school starts this fall, your children may be minding their own business while walking to or from classes when a person in a car pulls up and asks for directions. While most strangers wouldn't do anything to hurt kids, some can be dangerous.

The Nemours Foundation Center for Children's Health Media reminds parents to provide these instructions to their children:

- Always take a buddy when walking to school, biking around the park or going to the store.
- Know some safe spots. If you ever feel threatened, go to the home of someone you know, a store or a restaurant. Other safe places include police stations, libraries and fire departments.
- If a stranger approaches and asks for help finding something he or she has lost—like a puppy or money—don't answer. Run the other way immediately

and find an adult you know, or go to one of your safe spots.

- If a stranger on foot or in a car offers you a toy, some candy or anything else, don't accept it and run the other way.
- If a stranger comes to pick you up from school, don't get in the car. Run back into the school and tell a teacher or aide.
- If a stranger ever tries to grab you, yell things like "Hey! I don't know you!" or "Help! This isn't my parent!"
- If you feel afraid around anyone, pay attention to your feelings and get away as soon as possible or start to yell.

Source: Today's Supervisor published by the National Safety Council



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keeping your tires properly inflated improves gas mileage for the average vehicle by around 3 percent, saving up to 20 gallons of gasoline per year.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

Use heaters wisely

Fall weather brings with it early blasts of cool weather.

When operating a space heater, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., reminds everyone to operate those devices in a safe manner.

Anything flammable should be kept at least three feet away, supervise small children when a heater is in use and use only extension cords rated for the needed wattage.

Post no bills

Attaching signs to utility poles presents safety hazards

Although seemingly innocent enough, putting signs or other items on utility poles creates serious safety hazards. Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs—as well as the signs themselves—pose dangers to Harrison Rural Electric lineworkers who must climb poles when either restoring power following storms or while performing routine maintenance to ensure system reliability.

Posters or other objects (birdhouses, balloons, flags and even basketball nets) can create dangerous obstacles. Also, the nails and tacks left behind from signs can snag utility workers' boots or puncture safety clothing, making lineworkers vulnerable to slipping or even electrocution.

Harrison Rural Electric encourages co-op consumers to contact local zoning officers to inquire about where signage can be posted legally.



Labor safely while completing fall chores

Late summer and early fall often finds many of us working outdoors before the weather turns cooler, but these outdoor chores require caution, especially around electricity. Faulty extension cords are a common source of injury, as are metal ladders coming into contact with overhead power lines.

Here are a few safety tips to follow:

Extension cords and power tools:

Check power tools and electrical cords to make sure they are in good repair, and only use power tools outside that are designed for outdoor use.

Extension cords also should be designed for outdoor use. They are thicker and more durable and have features for preventing moisture damage.

Use three-wire extension cords with three-pronged plugs.

Check the amperage rating of the extension cord to make sure it's large enough to meet the power demand of the tool.

Do not plug one extension cord into another. Use the proper length for the job.

Unplug extension cords when you are finished using them. Never leave an open extension cord plugged into an outlet.

Ladders:

Use fiberglass or wooden ladders when working around overhead wires or other electrical sources. Metal ladders conduct electricity and can kill anyone who is touching the ladder if it comes into contact with electricity.

If you must use a metal ladder, carefully check the location of all overhead power lines to avoid contacting the wire or touching the ladder to something that touches the electrical source, such as a tree branch.

Lower a ladder before carrying or moving it.

Never work on a windy day, because a gust of wind could shift a ladder into an overhead power line.

When placing a ladder on the ground, make sure the distance to the nearest overhead power line is at least twice the length of the ladder.

Make sure to place a ladder on solid level ground to prevent sliding.

Sources: *Consumer Product Safety Commission*, www.cpsc.gov; *Central Alabama Electric Cooperative*, www.caec.com

Happy Labor Day!

It was more than 125 years ago when the Central Labor Union in New York City celebrated the first Labor Day on Sept. 5, 1882.

The day to celebrate and honor those who were helping the country grow and prosper soon was adopted in other cities and states and became a national holiday in 1894.

While the parades and picnics of those early years may not be as prevalent as they once were, America still pauses on the first Monday of September each year to honor those who work hard to make this country great.

Harrison REA will be honoring all those who strive to bring you reliable electric service at a reasonable rate as we close our office Monday, Sept. 7, to give our laborers a day to relax with friends and family.

Source: *Department of Labor*



