



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Clarksburg, WV 26301-0502

**304-624-6365**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partners



www.harrisonrea.com

## Your money stays here

Who do you think owns the electric company that serves your property? If you're a member of Harrison Rural Electrification Association (HREA), you can find the answer by looking in a mirror.

At HREA, like any of the other 900-plus electric cooperatives situated around the country, you, the members, are the owners.

This follows Cooperative Principle No. 3: Members' Economic Participation. Being an owner, however, doesn't mean that you can drive to your neighborhood substation and take home a transformer or chop down a pole that carries electricity to you or your neighbor's home. These assets are owned collectively by all of us.

### Board of Directors

Michael Cross, Dist. 7 .....President  
Greg Robertson, Dist. 2 .....Vice President  
Darrell Powell, Dist. 6 .....Secy.-Treas.  
C.B. Sharp .....Dist. 1  
Glenn Cox, Jr. ....Dist. 3  
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Ron Watson.....Dist. 5

Gary L. Jackson, General Manager  
Terry Stout .....Office Manager  
Alan Cox .....Operations Manager  
Richard L. Fox.....Staking Engineer  
Nada McNemar .....Editor

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. - Fri.

A portion of the bill you pay each month goes into building the infrastructure — the poles, wires and the substations that bring you a steady supply of electricity.

Your cooperative does business locally. The investments we make in infrastructure don't benefit someone in an area far away from our co-op. The benefit stays right here in our communities which include members spread out across seven counties. We also provide services such as high-speed Internet (WildBlue) that uses a satellite-based communication link. We presently serve approximately 250 accounts across West Virginia.

Your payments also do more than build lines, buy equipment and pay for wholesale electricity. They also pay the salaries of our hard-working employees who live right here in the community. They, in turn, spend their salaries at local businesses spreading that money around and helping our economy stay healthy.

If excess funds are left over after bills and salaries have been paid, infrastructure built, emergency funds established, etc., these funds go into each member's capital credit account. Then, at a time when our board

### Manager's Corner

By  
Gary Jackson,  
CEO/General  
Manager



of directors deems prudent, the capital credits can be paid out in the form of a check or a bill credit in an amount based on your electricity use. Capital credit refunds are to our members what dividends are to stockholders in for-profit companies. Only we don't aim to make a profit. Our goal is to provide you with electricity at a price that is as close to cost as possible. That way, more of your money stays in your pocket. There's another way your money benefits local communities, such as through charitable programs and other service-oriented endeavors.

You are not just paying your electric bill to a big, for-profit utility company. You are receiving a vital resource, electricity, and you are getting it from a business where your friends and neighbors are working to provide you with the highest level of service they can while keeping your costs as low as possible.

And that, in a nutshell, is the cooperative difference!

# Frequently asked questions about compact fluorescent light bulbs

**Q.** What is a compact fluorescent light bulb?

**A.** *A compact fluorescent light bulb, or CFL, is an energy-efficient bulb that can replace many standard incandescent bulbs. They last 10 times longer, use 75 percent less energy, and will save you money on your electric bill.*

**Q.** Where can I use them?

**A.** *You can use CFLs to replace many of your incandescent bulbs in your home. CFLs come with standard screw-in bases, as well as candelabra bases for many decorative models. There are a variety of shapes, sizes and wattages to meet your needs and tastes.*

**Q.** Are they dimmable?

**A.** *Unless it specifically states on the package that it is dimmable, then the answer is NO!*

**Q.** I don't like the color of light that comes out of CFLs. What are my options?

**A.** *CFLs come in a variety of color temperatures, ranging from 2700K to 3500K. The lower the temperature, the "warmer" the color (e.g. yellow). The higher the temperature, the "cooler" the color (e.g. blue).*

**Q.** Can they be used in ceiling fans?

**A.** *There are specific CFLs for ceiling fans, and we recommend using those designed for this application.*

**Q.** Can I use them outside?

**A.** *You can use them in enclosed fixtures outside, but CFLs should not be used in exposed fixtures outdoors.*

**Q.** I heard there's mercury in the compact fluorescent light bulbs I'm being encouraged to use. Is that true?

**A.** *Yes, CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. Mercury is an essential element in CFLs and is what allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. There is currently no substitute for mercury in CFLs.*

**Q.** How much mercury (Hg) is in a CFL?

**A.** *. <see that dot? That is how much mercury is in a CFL. In fact, manufacturers have set voluntary limits of 5 mg per bulb. By comparison, older home thermometers contain 500 mg to 1,000 mg of mercury, and many thermostats contain up to 3,000 mg.*

**Q.** If they have mercury, how are they better for the environment?

**A.** *Utility power plants burn fossil fuels to generate electricity needed to run things in your home like light bulbs. Fossil fuels — primarily coal — contain mercury, which is released into the air when they are burned. Coal-fired power generation accounts for roughly 40 percent of the mercury emissions in the United States. Using light bulbs that are more energy-efficient, like CFLs, requires less electricity to be generated by power plants, thereby reducing the plants' mercury emissions. A coal-fired power plant will emit close to 15 milligrams of mercury to produce the electricity required to run an incandescent light bulb, compared to less than 5 for a CFL.*

*Airborne mercury poses a very low risk of exposure. However, when mercury emissions deposit into lakes and oceans, they can transform into a highly toxic form that builds up in fish, which is the most common pathway to human exposure to mercury.*

**Q.** Will mercury get into my home?

**A.** *Not unless the bulb is broken. The mercury is contained within the glass tube and will not be released unless the bulb is broken.*

**Q.** What happens if I break one in my home?

**A.** *The Energy Star program recommends the following:*

*Sweep up — don't vacuum — all of the glass fragments and fine particles.*

*Place broken pieces in a sealed plastic bag and wipe the area with a damp paper towel to pick up any stray shards of glass or fine particles. Put the used towel in the plastic bag as well.*

*If weather permits, open windows to allow the room to ventilate.*

*Wash your hands.*

*Because there is such a small amount of mercury in CFLs, your greatest risk if a bulb breaks is getting cut from glass shards.*

**Q.** Can CFLs be recycled?

**A.** *Sylvania has joined forces with Veolia Environmental Services to provide environmentally responsible recycling alternatives. The Consumer RECYCLEPAK CFL and Mixed Lamps kit holds up to 15 small compact fluorescent lamps and 6-8 medium to large compact fluorescent lamps. Consumers can purchase these for \$15 on [SYLVANIA.com](http://SYLVANIA.com).*

*Source: Sylvania*

# The Energy Saver

This month's energy-saving tips comes from board member Glenn Cox. Glenn is your director from District 3 where he and his wife, Sue, live on Upper Lambert's Run.

Glenn, like the rest of us, is feeling the pinch of high gas prices and rising costs on just about every other commodity. When it comes to his electric bill, however, Glenn took some measures to lower it somewhat.

Last year, Sue purchased heavy drapes to hang on the south-facing windows. Keeping those drapes closed in the summer really can help with air conditioning costs, and keeping them open in the daytime in the winter can help your heat source to not work as hard.

Unfortunately, the Coxes had to replace three major appliances in one year, so they chose to buy only energy-efficient Energy Star® products that would give them the best service for their electric dollar. The initial investment is higher than another type of appliance, but the money saved on utilities soon makes the purchase worthwhile.

Glenn also replaced incandescent bulbs as they burnt out with compact fluorescent lighting (CFLs). He says that probably 75 percent of the savings they have incurred is due to the changeout of these light bulbs.

Glenn also unplugged the deep freeze they weren't really using, and that saves them approximately \$15 a month. He estimates that all these measures have curtailed their electric use by about 20 percent.

When asked what advice he would give to our members on how to save energy dollars, Glen said, "If you have an appliance that you don't need to use, unplug it."

Thank you, Mr. Cox, for your input. If any of you, our members, have an energy-saving tip, please share it with us. We'll be happy to publish it in the monthly newsletter so that all of our members may benefit from it.

## CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD

Last month we mailed out approximately 5,000 Co-op Connections® cards to our members. This card offers valuable discounts at participating local and national businesses.

The latest benefit of the card offers further proof that being a member of an electric cooperative has its advantages.

Added one year ago, the pharmacy discount offers 10 to 60 percent savings on most prescriptions at more than 48,000 independent pharmacies and national chains, including CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Target and more.

Simply present your Co-op Connections card at a participating pharmacy with your prescription and receive a discount at the time of purchase. To find out what pharmacies are participating in your area, check out [www.locateproviders.com](http://www.locateproviders.com) and to look up the discount prescription price, co-op members can visit [www.rxpricequotes.com](http://www.rxpricequotes.com).

## Maintain energy efficiency behind the wheel

As increasing gasoline prices cause consumers to reach deeper into their wallets, buying an electric-gasoline hybrid vehicle, like a Toyota Prius or a Ford Escape SUV, has become a new craze. But if buying a more fuel-efficient hybrid to reduce your "pain at the pump" (and carbon footprint) isn't in your budget, here are some steps that can trim gas consumption and improve vehicle mileage:

- Observe the speed limit — While each vehicle reaches its optimal fuel economy at a different speed (or range of speeds), gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph, in fact, becomes the equivalent of spending an extra 30 cents per gallon for gas.
- Remove excess weight — Avoid keeping unnecessary items in your vehicle, especially heavy ones. An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your miles per gallon by up to 2 percent. The reduction is based on the percentage of extra

- weight relative to the vehicle's weight and affects smaller vehicles more than larger ones.
- Avoid excessive idling — Cars with larger engines typically waste more gas at idle than cars with smaller engines.
- Use cruise control — Using cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, will save gas.
- Use overdrive gears — When you use overdrive gearing, your car's engine speed goes down. This saves gas and reduces engine wear.
- Drive sensibly — Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gasoline. It can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town. In addition, sensible driving makes things safer for you and others.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy and  
[www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)*

# Keep Halloween a safe night

With witches, goblins and superheroes descending on neighborhoods across America, the American Red Cross offers parents some safety tips to help prepare their children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday. Halloween should be filled with surprise and enjoyment, and following some common-sense practices can keep events safer and more fun.

- Walk, slither and sneak on sidewalks, not in the street.
- Look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks and low-flying brooms. Cross the street only at corners.



- Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars.
- Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you are more visible. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards and brooms, too!)
- Plan your route and share it with your family. If possible, have an adult go with you.
- Carry a flashlight to light your way. Keep away from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Visit homes that have the porch light on.

## Don't be caught in the digital switch

Midnight, Feb. 17, 2009, television viewing in America is scheduled to change. All full-power television stations in the United States are converting their broadcasting from analogue to 100 percent digital. This will result in better clarity of viewing and more programming options for the public.

Individual households will be required to have a conversion box if their television sets do not already have a built-in digital tuner or are not controlled through cable, satellite or fiber optics.

From now until March 2009, consumers will be able to apply for up to two \$40 coupons per household provided by the U.S. government. The converter box is a one-time purchase and prices are expected to range between \$50 and \$70 without the coupon. Coupons expire within 90 days of the date they are mailed out to consumers. Local retailers will carry the boxes for purchase.

For more information, call 1-888-DTV-2009, or here is a list of Web sites to visit:

For coupon applications, please visit:  
[www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov)

For information on where to purchase converter boxes, please visit:  
[www.ntiadtv.gov](http://www.ntiadtv.gov)

For information on how to install a converter box, please visit:  
[www.DigitalTips.org](http://www.DigitalTips.org)

To learn more about options, please visit:  
[www.DTVTransition.org](http://www.DTVTransition.org)

- Accept your treats at the door and never go into a stranger's house.
- Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover your eyes.
- Be cautious of animals and strangers.
- Have a grownup inspect your treats before eating. And don't eat candy if the package already is opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.



### *Ownership.*

Would you trust a business more if you owned it?

Cooperative businesses are owned by more than 154.7 million Americans, including:

- 87 million who own their credit union
- 39 million who own their electric co-op
- 3 million who own their housing co-op

Maybe that's why we're more trusted than businesses owned by Wall Street investors.

### *Cooperatives.*

Owned by Our Members,  
Committed to Our Communities.



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