



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partners



[www.harrisonrea.com](http://www.harrisonrea.com)

## Our future energy needs and the economy

We're embarking on another new year, and we're finding that several new challenges that are facing us date back to the Depression Era. The cost of buying groceries, heating fuels, gasoline and just about every other commodity we use has risen to higher levels. The conclusion that most of us soon realize is that, as individuals, there is little that we can do to control our destiny.

Likewise, electric cooperatives are facing huge challenges in trying to meet the nation's growing appetite for energy. Experts say that our growing electricity needs soon will go well beyond what wind, solar, conservation and higher efficiency apparatuses can provide. Additionally, with legislation for a cleaner environment looming on the horizon, we find even further challenges facing us in the future.

The ability to generate electricity from coal-fired generating plants comes with a mandate for air quality, and the fact remains that the greatest percentage of generating units that provide today's electricity are coal fired. As a state, West Virginia's economy is driven by fossil fuels like coal and gas. The question is how can we balance our energy needs and environmental goals during these uncertain times?

Furthermore, how much can we expect electric rates to increase, and what can the cooperative do to mitigate these new challenges? As the sole electric cooperative with headquarters in the state of West Virginia, HREA stands alongside 900-plus other electric cooperatives working together to address these issues. HREA's partnership with National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) provides us with a network of cooperatives all working to provide support for our organization.

Harrison Rural Electric Cooperative, as a nonprofit, member-owned electric utility, has two primary purposes: to keep the price of electricity reasonable and the reliability of service at the highest level possible.

While utilities have the ability to provide reliable service, it comes at a very high price. Consequently, it is this cooperative's goal to see that a reasonable level of reliability is accomplished with a conservative budget. However,

### Manager's Corner

By  
Gary Jackson,  
CEO/General  
Manager



when it comes to the generation of electricity, HREA has little clout to dictate a reasonable price for our energy needs and minimal control on environmental issues.

One of the many ways we, as members, can help is to belong to an organization called Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE). This organization is funded by members like you. ACRE members work together to address issues such as clean air, global warming and other problems facing the utility industry. The cost of membership in this organization is \$25 a year. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact the local office of HREA.

Other ways of reducing your electric bill is through conservation. Many new appliances today are manufactured with higher efficiency ratings that reduce energy costs. If you intend to replace a major appliance in the near future, look for these ratings before you purchase.

Additionally, compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs can reduce energy use by up to 75 percent.

During the next couple of months, HREA will be giving out three CFL bulbs to each member who visits the office on Sun Valley Road with a copy of their bill.

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# Marissa Stephenson — Little Miss Bulldog

Marissa Stephenson, daughter of Missie Stephenson, HREA billing clerk, was awarded

the title of “Little Miss Bulldog” for 2008.

The bulldog is the mascot for Doddridge County High School, and each year the varsity cheerleaders sponsor boys and girls to compete for the title of Little Miss and Mr. Bulldog. The children collect money at a penny a vote, and the one who is most successful wins the title. The money raised benefits the cheerleading program.

Varsity cheerleader Holly Curtis chose to sponsor Marissa, and since Marissa worked hard and collected the most money, she was chosen to be 2008’s Little Miss Bulldog.

Marissa rode in the Doddridge County Veterans’ Day Parade and is scheduled to ride in the Christmas Parade. She really captured the hearts of everyone who saw her riding along, tossing candy to the crowd and waving.

Marissa is a second grader at Doddridge County Elementary School, and she likes to play basketball and softball. She twirls a baton and recently started taking cheerleading lessons.

Congratulations, Marissa! We’re very proud of you.



## Your co-op is helping you save money

For months now, we here at Harrison Rural Electric have been trying to come up with ways to help our members save money. We first offered the Co-op Connections® Card that has the potential to save our members money on travel, medicine, etc. In the future, we also are going to try to localize those savings with participation from local businesses, as well as those nationwide participants.

As you know, most of this newsletter has been dedicated to conservation as a way to decrease your electric use and we will continue to share any viable energy-saving tips.

To take that commitment a step further, your cooperative is offering three CFL bulbs to each member who stops by the office with a copy of their bill. Compact fluorescent light bulbs use about 75 percent less electricity than regular incandescent bulbs, and they can last as long as 5 to 7 years before needing to be replaced. When a CFL does burn out, it can be recycled at the local Home Depot store.

We would like to thank Michael Reeves, senior sales representative for Sylvania, and Dave Lunsford, outside sales representative for Tolley Electric, for helping us with this program. Without them, we would not have been able to supply the bulbs to our members.

We also would like to thank Dave for supplying us with the comparison model we have on display in the lobby. Members who visit the office can quickly see from the display that a CFL burns just as brightly as the comparable incandescent and uses much less electricity.

If you haven’t already, stop by the office on Sun Valley Road and pick up your light bulbs. They really do make a difference.



# Estimating appliance and home electronic energy use

If you're trying to decide whether to invest in a more energy-efficient appliance or you'd like to determine your electricity loads, you may want to estimate appliance energy consumption.

*You can use this formula to estimate an appliance's energy use:*

Wattage X Hours used per day X Days used per year ÷ 1,000 = Kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumption per year

*For example:*

Personal computer (120 Watts) and monitor (150 Watts):

(120 Watts + 150 Watts) X 4 hours per day x 365 days per year ÷ 1,000 = 394 kWh/year

Then, calculate the annual cost to run an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by your cop's rate per kWh consumed.

394 kWh X \$0.104 (current national average) = \$40.98 per year

You usually can find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance, or on its nameplate. The wattage listed is the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Since many appliances have a range of settings (hair dry-

ers), the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time.

Here are some examples of the range of nameplate wattages for various household appliances:

Clothes washer = 350–500 Watts

Clothes dryer = 1,800–5,000 Watts

Dishwasher = 1,200–2,400 Watts (heat drying feature increases energy use)

Hair dryer = 1,200–1,875 Watts

Microwave oven = 750–1,100 Watts

Personal computer

• CPU — awake / asleep = 120 / 30 or less

• Monitor — awake / asleep = 150 / 30 or less

• Laptop = 50 Watts

Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet) = 725

Watts

Televisions

• 27" = 113 Watts

• 36" = 133 Watts

• 53"–61" Projection = 170 Watts

• Flat screen = 120 Watts

Water heater (40 gallon) = 4,500–5,500 Watts

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy — Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*

## Keeping warm with window treatments

Window treatments and coverings aren't just for decoration — they also can go a long way in saving energy. Some carefully selected window treatments, such as draperies and insulating panels, can keep heat from escaping through windowpanes in winter.

A drapery's ability to reduce heat loss and gain depends on several factors, including fabric type (closed or open weave) and color. Although it's difficult to generalize about energy performance, when drawn during cold weather most conventional draperies can

reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10 percent. In winter, you should keep draperies that don't receive direct sunlight closed during the day, and close all draperies at night.

Draperies should be hung as close to windows as possible to reduce heat exchange and should fall onto a windowsill or floor. For maximum effectiveness, install a cornice at the top of a drapery, or place the drapery against the ceiling. Then seal the drapery at both sides with Velcro or magnetic tape, and overlap it in the

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### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

To trim high heating costs, open draperies and shades on south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to enter your home. Close them at night to reduce the chill of cold windows.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



