Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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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.

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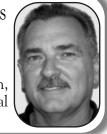
The ability to generate electricity from coal-fired generating plants comes with a mandate for air quality, and the fact remains that the greatest percentage of generating units that provide today's electricity are coal fired. As a state, West Virginia's economy is driven by fossil fuels like coal and 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, memberowned 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

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.

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 benfits 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 Coop 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 \div 1,000 = 394 kWh/year

Then, calculate the annual cost to run an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by your coop'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.

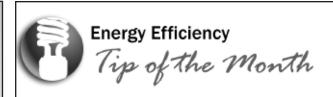
A drapery's ability to reduce heat loss and gain depends on several factors, including fabric type (closed or open weave) and color. Although it's difficult to generalize about energy performance, when drawn during cold weather most conventional draperies can

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 (Continued on page 24)

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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

Smart solutions for our energy future

A Dialogue With America

The dust has settled from the fall election, and this month we turn our eyes to Washington, D.C., as Barack Obama takes office as the 44th president of the United States. The economic crisis will remain a major focus for elected officials through the coming years, and the Obama Administration

also promises an increased focus on energy policy.

As all of us paying electric bills every month can attest to, the two go hand-in-hand. It is crucial that any energy policy discussed in Washington comes with

a price tag that won't leave consumers in the dark.

Through the nationwide grassroots awareness campaign called Our Energy, Our FutureTM, co-op consumers have contacted their elected officials with three critical energy policy questions focused on capacity, technology and affordability. With a new president and a new Congress taking office, electric cooperatives will need to continue pressing for answers.

These answers won't be clear-cut. Day to day, Harrison REA works hard to provide you with safe, affordable and reliable electricity. When you come home at night you can count on a well-lit home; and should outages occur, we're on the job to restore power quickly.

Although electricity use across the United States is steadily climbing, relatively high costs for construction materials and uncertainty about climate change goals, which could place strict limits on carbon dioxide emitted by power plants, have stalled development of new baseload generation — the large, efficient stations that provide dependable and affordable electric power year-round.

So here's the important question: how can we keep power flowing and electric bills affordable? There's simply no single answer, and electric co-ops know from experience that it will take a variety of new generation resources and technologies to ensure reliable and affordable

electricity in the coming years. We must invest in renewable energy, clean coal technology, nuclear power, an updated transmission grid and improvements in energy efficiency across the board.

Of course, implementing all of this on a large

scale will require a massive investment of government resources and leadership — similar to putting a man on the moon. As consumer advocates and industry leaders, electric co-ops can provide lawmakers with expertise on what programs are affordable, sustainable and technologically feasible.

All of this must be grounded in goals and public policy that puts consumers first. This is no time for policymakers to ignore our needs with a wink and a nod to special-interest groups. Now, more than ever, Main Street must come before Wall Street.

You can help in this effort and make a real impact by telling members of Congress your story — why affordable electricity is important to you and your family. Tens of thousands of electric co-op members have done so already, and as a result we've sent more than 1.5 million messages to Congress, calling attention to our nation's impending electricity crisis.

Please visit <u>www.ourenergy.coop</u> today. Make your voice heard and help guide policymakers toward a smart, affordable energy future.

Keeping warm with window treatments

(—continued from page 23)

center. Such snug window treatments can reduce heat loss by up to 25 percent.

An inexpensive insulating window panel or pop-in shutter, typically made of a core of rigid foam insulation, also reduces heat loss. The panels are made so that their edges seal tightly against the window frame, and they can be pushed or clipped into the interior of a window. No hardware, such as hinges or latches, is required.

Of course, window treatments aren't effective at reducing air leakage or infiltration — caulk and weatherstrip around windows to reduce drafts. Also, draperies work best for winter weather. Window blinds are more effective at reducing summer heat gain than winter heat loss.

For more information, visit eere.energy.gov

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy