



Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
www.harrisonrea.com

What is HREA doing to cut costs?

In this period of rising energy prices, it is imperative that we work harder than ever to keep our cost of doing business as low as possible without sacrificing service. That is why I want to share with you a summary of some of the main things your co-operative has been doing to cut costs:

Wholesale power supply

Through the American Electric Power Company, we have been able to secure a near fixed wholesale rate of power covering our energy needs through 2013. The negotiated price combines a number of expenses that have potential escalators included in that pricing. One of those factors is congestion, the cost of moving the energy of transmission lines. Wholesale power makes up approximately 60 percent of our costs.

Loan conversions

With the recent downturn in interest rates, we have been able to convert some of our long-term loans to lower interest rates, saving nearly \$900,000 over the life of the loans.

Competitive bid process

While much of the work we do is done in-house, most major line conversions are done by contractors; consequently, with a downturn in the economy and a competitive bid process, we've been able to ensure that we get the best deal for our dollar.

Right-of-way maintenance

In 2010, we lowered, by a small percentage, the costs involved with clearing right-of-way vegetation, the goal being to reduce our operating expenses. However, in 2011, we intend to return to our previous level of trimming to maintain reliability on our electrical system. The good news is that the extreme summer temperatures and the lack of rainfall lowered growth rates during the year.

Bill payments

Several options are now available to our members for paying their electric bills. First, you can do online bill payments through our website, www.harrisonrea.com. Second, you can call the office and use a major credit card to pay your bill. Third, you can use the drop box

Manager's Corner

by
Gary Jackson,
CEO/General
Manager



at the Sun Valley operations center. Fourth, you can send your payment through the mail, which is the payment method of choice for most of our members. Last, if you wish to pay your bill by cash, you can do that at our business office, located at 600 Market Place, Suite 104, Charles Pointe.

Budget reduction

A number of items were eliminated in the 2010 budget. Many employee-related activities were eliminated, along with several cutbacks at our annual meeting, which was held in April. Many internal expenses were curtailed or reduced to keep expenses to their minimum.

Productivity

In 1980, we had 16 full-time employees. In 2010, we have just 18 employees. Those above figures average out to approximately 366 members per employee, which is a far higher ratio than most electric companies across the United States.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish all of our member/owners a very blessed holiday season.

Board of Directors

Michael Cross, Dist. 7.....President
C.B. Sharp, Dist. 1.....Vice President
Darrell Powell, Dist. 6.....Secy.-Treas.
Greg Robertson.....Dist. 2 James StuartDist. 4
Glenn Cox Jr.....Dist. 3 Ron WatsonDist. 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.

(mini) Home Energy Audit

Clip this list and check each area of your home to see if you're using energy efficiently. Every nook and cranny holds potential inefficiencies, so it pays to be thorough! Visit www.energysavers.gov for more information on what's listed below.



INSULATION and DUCTWORK



Attic

- Insulation spread evenly
- Insulation in good condition
- Attic vents are unblocked by insulation
- Attic access doors properly insulated and sealed

R-Value indicates an insulation's resistance to heat flow (the higher the better). Insulation should meet R-values recommended for your specific climate.

Walls and floors

- Minimum R-value of 19 for perimeter walls
- Minimum R-value of 25 for under-floor insulation

Basement

- Ductwork insulated and sealed
- Hot water pipes insulated
- Water heater insulated, if in unconditioned space

HEATING and COOLING



- Air supply vents are unblocked by furniture or curtains
- Return air registers are unblocked by furniture
- Return air handler filters are clean
- HVAC system has had annual maintenance check-up
- Programmable thermostat installed and programmed

AIR INFILTRATION



Windows and Doors

- Windows close and lock properly
- Window gaskets in good condition
- Window trim sealed and painted
- Doors properly weather stripped
- Doors close and latch properly

Exterior Penetrations

- Plumbing and wire openings sealed:
- Kitchen cabinets
 - Bathroom cabinets
 - Utility room
- Fireplace damper sealed tightly

APPLIANCES and LIGHTING



- Refrigerator condenser coils clean
- Refrigerator door gasket tight
- Unused refrigerators and freezers unplugged
- Water heater set to 120 degrees or below
- Dishwasher energy-saving feature turned on
- Washing machine loads run with cold water when possible



Well Pump

- Operating properly
- Good pressure
- No leaks

Lighting

- Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) used
- Outdoor lighting automatically triggered by motion or dark

Director petitions due December 10

In 2011, **GLENN COX** from District 3 and **JIM STUART** from District 4 are up for re-election to HREA's board of directors. Voting District No. 3 comprises Clay and Eagle Magisterial Districts of Harrison County and members residing in Marion County. Voting District No. 4 consists of Elk Magisterial District of Harrison County and members residing in Barbour and Upshur counties.

Any member living in District 3 or 4 wishing to run for election to the HREA board may do so by delivering a petition nomination to the CEO by Dec. 10.

A member nomination petition must list the name, address and account number of the member nominee; must indicate the director position for which the nominee will run; and must contain the printed names, addresses, phone numbers, account numbers and original signatures of at least 15 members. Husbands and wives holding a joint membership cannot sign the same nominating petition; however, members are not limited in the number of petitions they may sign. All nominees must submit a statement release for background check information; a signed director oath of office; a signed statement that the nominee has reviewed the qualifications and is eligible to be elected as director; and biographical background of the nominee.

Qualifications: Nominee must presently reside in the area served by the co-op. The nominee must not be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business engaged in selling electric energy or supplies, or constructing or maintaining electrical facilities. "Financially interested" means employment or contracted employment of the prospective director or any member of his or her immediate family. Any prospective director or member of his or her immediate family cannot receive in excess of \$4,000 in any year excluding pensions, royalties or 401ks in the most recent five years or during any future year during the director's tenure from any competing enterprise. The nominee must have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts and cannot have ever been convicted of a felony.

So, get involved with your cooperative and run for election to the board of directors. For further information, please contact the office and ask to speak to CEO Gary Jackson or Manager of Office Services Terry Stout.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

How to have a good morning

At some point you may have been asked, “What side of the bed did you wake up on this morning?” Of course, the intent in the sarcasm is to highlight an irritable or ornery mood; most folks have them from time to time.

Sometimes the morning includes dealing with difficult people or the stress of a long commute. No matter what the circumstances, there is value in starting your day on the right foot. A good morning can positively affect your productivity and interactions with others throughout the day. Consider adjusting your nighttime and morning routines to increase your sense of peacefulness and optimism. Here are some tips to keep your mornings good!

Prepare in advance. The foundation of a good morning starts the night before. Establish a nighttime routine that includes preparation for the morning, such as choosing what clothes to wear, what to eat for breakfast and what route to take to work.

Get adequate sleep. Stop working at any task an hour before bedtime to calm mental activity. According to the National Sleep Foundation, one in three Americans has daytime sleepiness that interferes with daily activities on a regular basis.

Wake up early. Although it is not an easy habit to get into, getting up early to enjoy some time to yourself can be rewarding. You might spend this time reading something inspirational or listening to music that promotes relaxation and creativity.

Establish rituals such as making your bed. A simple thing to do, it helps some people bring order to the start of the day.

Get some exercise. It is beneficial to exercise in the morning. Whether it's yoga, hitting the gym or a short series of stretches, morning exercise is a rewarding habit.

Eat a regular, healthy breakfast. Too many people skip or skimp on breakfast and suffer the consequences. According to the Mayo Clinic, a healthy

breakfast that includes whole grains, low-fat protein, low-fat dairy, and fruits and vegetables promotes better concentration and productivity throughout the day.

Connect with your loved ones before you leave the house. Kiss all the people you love in your house, as well as the dog and cat, before you leave. Connecting with your family can help to soothe stress and refocus on what's most important to you.

Ease the aggravation of your commute. The principles of time management and stress management are the keys. Allow enough time to comfortably get from Point A to Point B. Find ways to accept and productively cope with the stress. This might include listening to a book on tape, breathing deeply or mentally organizing your day.

Commit to a positive attitude. Attitude influences your satisfaction. As you encounter others at work, your positive attitude will help to strengthen your interactions.

Make a to-do list for the day. Organize your tasks based on what must be done, what might be able to wait, and what you can either do or not do without consequence. This step helps you transition from your peaceful morning to your workday in an organized fashion.

Sources: The National Sleep Foundation, the Mayo Clinic, LifeWork Strategies, Inc., and Washington and Shady Grove Adventist Hospitals. This health tip is for educational purposes only. For additional information, consult your physician.

Did you know ...

You can save energy with LED Christmas lights. While a top-selling strand of mini-lights will last about 3,000 hours, a premium strand of LED lights will last about 200,000 hours and use approximately 90 percent less energy.

Harrison Rural Electrification Association wishes you and your family a wonderful Christmas holiday.

As a reminder, our office will be closed December 23 & 24 to allow our employees to enjoy the holiday with their families.

We will be open December 31.



Cool off your winter bill

You've budgeted for holiday gifts, meals, maybe a vacation — and with money tight, that doesn't leave much room for home energy efficiency upgrades. Does that mean you're powerless to lower your electric bill? Not at all. Keep your energy bill cool this winter with these tips and tricks.

Drape Delivery: Are you using your curtains to capture heat? Make sure drapes and shades are open to catch free solar heat during the day. Close them at night to keep the heat inside.



Thermostat: Set your thermostat to 68°F (or lower if comfortable).

Got Tape? Though not as durable as foam, rubber or vinyl, you can use non-porous tape (first aid cloth tape, for example) to keep cold air from squeezing into your home. Tape is good for blocking corners and irregular cracks, and can be used at the top and bottom of a window sash, door frames, attic hatches and inoperable windows. Reinforce with staples if needed.

Fan It Up: Run ceiling paddle fans on low and reverse the rotation to blow air up in winter. This keeps warm air circulating without cooling you.

Free Vents: Your HVAC system will have to work twice as hard if your air registers and vents are blocked by rugs, furniture or drapes. Keep them clear to allow air to flow freely.

Garage Drain: Leave your garage door down. A warmer garage in winter will save energy.

Rug Relief: Have a spare rug? Use it to cover bare floors for added insulation.

Cool Food: Don't make your fridge work

too hard. Clean coils every year, and set the temperature between 34° and 37° F; leave the freezer between 0° and 5° F. Keep the freezer full — frozen food helps your freezer stay cool. When cooking, keep lids on pots, and let hot food cool off before placing it in the refrigerator.

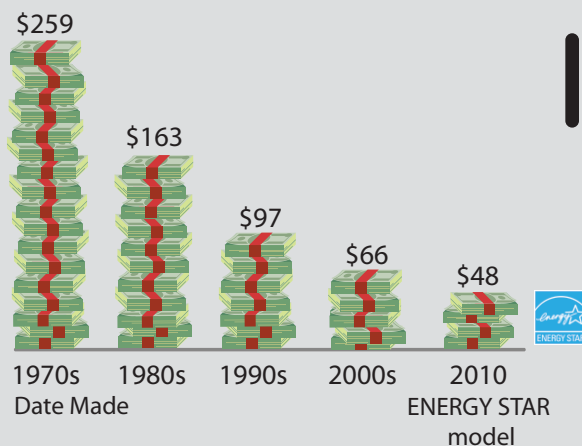
Hot Savings: Heating water accounts for 12 percent of your home's energy use. Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120°F. For households with only one or two members, 115°F works.

There are other ways to conserve energy, too. Remember, you don't pay for what you don't use. When you're not watching TV or using lights, computers and other electronics, turn them off. Lower your room temperatures a bit and wear a sweater to stay warm, or place an extra blanket on the bed at night. Find more ways to save at www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: *TogetherWeSave.com*, *Alliance to Save Energy*, *EnergySavers.gov*

The cost of cool food

If your fridge dates from the 1980s, you could save more than \$100 each year by replacing it with an ENERGY STAR qualified model. Compare the average annual electricity costs for refrigerators manufactured in the following years:



Source: *U.S. Department of Energy*