



Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
www.harrisonrea.com

2011 Highlights for HREA

Each year we review budgets for operating and maintaining the distribution system with a focus on meeting our members' need for reliable electric service. Due to cost reduction efforts made by the cooperative's board and management, Harrison Rural Electrification Association is pleased to announce that there will not be a distribution rate increase in 2011.

One member of HREA's board, President Mike Cross, has completed the Board Leadership Program and was recognized at the district meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Along with C.B. Sharp and James Stuart, this gives the current board a total of three credentialed directors. The training includes several courses that help board members make crucial decisions on the cooperative's busi-

ness activities.

Two new employees were hired recently — Jason Manear and James Cain. Both men will be working in the line department. They bring to HREA a combined experience of more than 14 years in the utility industry.

Each year, Strategic Marketing and Research, Inc., randomly surveys at least 300 of HREA's member/owners. The phone and Internet survey allows the cooperative to gauge trends in customer satisfaction levels and possible shifts in the makeup of the membership. For those of you who have received calls, or those of you who may receive calls in the future, we welcome your input. This year, Strategic Marketing stated that "external factors from a continued weak economy are putting extra pressure on members."

As you can probably guess, weather-related events cause the majority of power outages for electric cooperatives — a whopping 19 percent, according to a survey by our national service organization. Vegetation, like trees, shrubs and brush that grow too close to power lines, leads to about 15 percent of power interruptions. To "cut back" on potential tree-related problems, HREA operates an aggressive tree trimming program. The current

Manager's Corner

by
Gary Jackson,
CEO/General
Manager



2011 budget includes approximately \$638,000 for trimming and vegetation control applications. This figure amounts to approximately 8 percent of our total yearly expenses.

Several members have called to ask about those "energy saver" boxes that are being promoted in the area, often by a sales pitch delivered at a free dinner meeting. Members want to know if these devices really work. The short answer is "no." The sales pitch for these devices is compelling because these boxes actually do perform as advertised. These devices are supposed to improve a low power factor (PF), which they can do, but the improvement in PF for residential accounts won't lower your home's electric bills. That is because HREA doesn't use electric meters that record PF for residential accounts. Your electric meter has no idea what your home's PF is; consequently, you're not billed for a poor PF.

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 Stuart.....Dist. 4
Glenn Cox Jr.....Dist. 3 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.

How to Clean Up a Broken Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb (CFL)



A CFL's glass tubing contains about 4 milligrams of mercury. While this isn't much (classic thermometers contained 500 milligrams) consumers should still take precautions if a CFL breaks.

-  1 Ventilate the room, then wait 5 to 10 minutes.
-  2 Scoop up powder and glass fragments using stiff paper or cardboard. Seal in a plastic bag.
-  3 Use duct tape to pick up any fragments or powder.
-  4 Immediately place all materials used to clean up and the plastic bag in an outdoor trash container. Remember to wash your hands.
-  5 Not all recycling centers accept broken CFLs. Check with your local and/or state waste authority for disposal requirements, or visit Earth911.com.

To learn more, visit epa.gov/cflcleanup.

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency*

HREA welcomes new employee

We are pleased to introduce the newest member and lineman to our co-op family, Jason Manear.

Jason comes to us as a journeyman lineman from Front Royal, Va, where he worked for a small municipality there. He replaces Paul Siders, who retired in January after 41 years of service. Jason will be partnered with Rob Davis, and although he will not work exclusively with Robbie, he will work with him most of the time.

Jason is originally from West Virginia and is temporarily living with his mother in Folsom. He and his wife, Jennifer, have one son, four-year-old Riley.

We would like to welcome Jason back to West Virginia, and we would like to welcome him and his family to Harrison Rural Electric and our co-op family.



Meet your new director

After serving several terms as your director in District 3, Glenn Cox is retiring from your board of directors. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Glenn for his years of service to the cooperative.

Running unopposed, Kent Vance is now your director for District 3. Kent is not new to the cooperative. He previously served on our board of directors from 1998 to 2002, and has lived on co-op lines since 1995.

Kent graduated from Shinnston High School and now lives on Tetrick Road with his 18-year-old daughter, Misty. He is retired from the construction business and spends his time restoring antique cars, and he enjoys boating.

Kent takes his duties as a board member very seriously, and we would like to welcome him back.



NEW CONTRACT FINALIZED

After several months of negotiations, an agreement was reached between management, the board of directors and union personnel from IBEW Local 596. The new contract went into effect March 1 and will remain in effect for the next 34 months.

Saving more than souls at church

Since most houses of worship rely on small or non-existent budgets for capital projects, low- or no-cost measures that reduce energy consumption generally produce the best results. Some simple steps involve changing the way congregants and staff use the building. Big-ticket items, such as replacing heating and cooling systems with more energy-efficient units, may not be practical until existing equipment reaches the end of its useful life.

A comprehensive energy audit remains the best way to identify cost-effective efficiency improvements in a church. Below are some suggestions for reducing energy consumption:

- Turn off the lights when not in use. While occupancy sensors can be cost-effective, posting reminders to ensure that the lights are turned off often does the trick. Timers are useful in lobbies, entries and vestibules to ensure that lights stay off during daylight hours.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- Control “plug loads,” such as microwaves, computers and televisions that continue to draw power even when turned off. Unplug these appliances when finished using or before leaving the building.
- Heat and cool during occupied hours only. Make sure that heating and cooling controls are set at minimum levels or are switched off during periods of no use.
- Turn down water heater thermostats. Bathrooms and kitchens used primarily during worship services are good targets for lowering water temperatures.
- Change filters. Filters should be changed on a monthly basis — more often if the congregation is located next to a highway or construction site.

Please join us for dinner — RSVP

We will be serving a meal at the annual meeting prepared and served by the Harrison County 4-H Interstate Exchange Teens. The menu consists of penne pasta and meatballs, salad, bread and butter, dessert, tea and lemonade. Please take a moment and give us a call at 304-624-6365 if you plan to attend, so we can get an idea of how much food needs to be prepared. Registration begins at 6 pm, and the meal will be served from 6 to 7:15 pm with the business meeting following immediately afterwards. Please plan on attending. You'll see old friends, have a good meal and have the opportunity to discuss your concerns with your board of directors. See you there!



- Clean condenser coils. Condenser coils should be washed thoroughly at the beginning and end of the cooling season.

- Check cabinet panels. Ensure that panels to rooftop air-conditioning units are attached with all screws in place, and make sure gaskets are intact to prevent air leaks. This check should be performed on a quarterly basis.

- Direct airflow. Close registers in any unused rooms to direct air where it is needed. If some rooms overheat while others are too cool, call a qualified heating and cooling contractor.

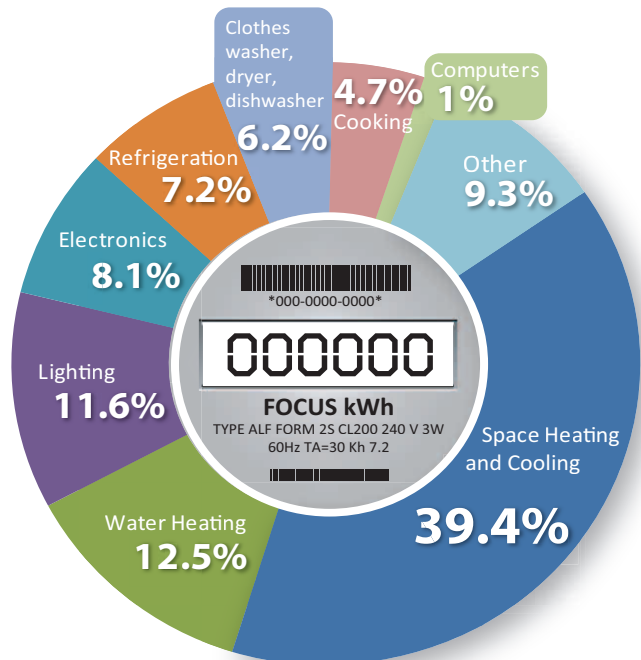
- Close vents. In place of air conditioning, many older buildings have natural ventilation systems to remove hot air in the summer. Be sure to close these vents in the winter.

- Seal gaps. Use caulk and weatherstripping to seal gaps around windows, doors, chimneys and other structural elements, including the foundation.

- Insulate hot water pipes with pipe insulation. Fix leaky faucets, showerheads, pipes and toilets.

Sources: *E Source*, *Energy Star*, U.S. Dept. of Energy

How Your Home Uses Electricity



Source: 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book, U.S. Department of Energy, Table 21.5. Represents an all-electric home. Updated February 2011.

Tune in to TV energy savings



So you've bought an ENERGY STAR-qualified TV to save energy. But there's even more you can do to boost your TV's efficiency. Here's a tip from HREA that can help you save energy — and money.

TVs are bigger than they used to be. And some of the largest ones can use as much electricity each year as a new, conventional refrigerator. But ENERGY STAR-qualified TVs use roughly 40 percent less energy than standard models.

Of course, if the set is left on when no one is watching, that costs money. But in some cases, even if you hit the "off" button, "energy vampires" might go to work, meaning your TV could still consume power.

Here are a couple of things you can do to stop that drain. Many high-definition TVs come with a quick start option. By turning it off, you'll save energy and add only a few seconds to start-up times. And to stop energy vampires, use a power strip as a central "turn-off" point. When you're not watching TV and not planning to record a program later, simply flip the strip's "off" button.

For other tips on how to save energy — and money — visit Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives' energy-saving website, www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Our outage crew never takes a holiday

Our offices will be closed Friday, April 22, in observance of Good Friday and will reopen Monday, April 25, at 7:30 am. That does not mean, however, that if your power goes out over the weekend, you have to wait until Monday morning to have it restored. Simply call the regular office number at 304-624-6365 or

1-800-540-4732, and our answering service will contact our outage crew. Outage crews respond immediately to power interruptions. For Easter weekend, your on-call crew is Lineman Scott Wyckoff and Apprentice Lineman Jimmy Cain.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Check your HVAC system's air filter monthly. If it looks dirty, change it. A dirty filter makes your system work harder.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Planting trees in the right spot can save energy

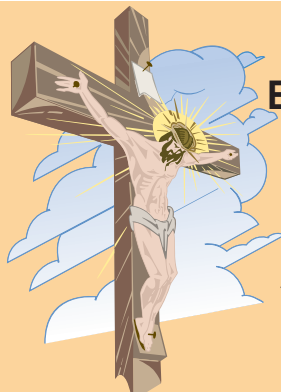
Arbor Day is coming up at the end of the month.

If you were thinking about planting a tree or doing some landscaping in honor of the April 29th event, take a few moments to consider energy efficiency when choosing your plants and their locations.

That's right, energy can be saved by choosing the right plants and putting them in the right spots.

The U.S. Department of Energy has a section on its www.energysavers.gov website that can help in determining what and where to plant.

Also, don't forget to consider the locations of overhead utility lines when planting.



Harrison Rural Electric Association will be closed April 22 in observance of Good Friday.

Should an emergency arise, call the outage number, 304-624-6365.