



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner   
[www.harrisonrea.com](http://www.harrisonrea.com)

## Shut that icebox, ma! The light bill's too high!

Ice box. Reel-to-reel tape. The milk man. The "light bill." These terms are part of a history lesson for today's youth, but part of living history for many members of rural electric cooperatives.

Today's "light bill" is a much different animal. Most people today live in homes with multiple TVs, probably at least one of the big screen varieties, and a myriad of other entertainment options such as Xbox, Wii or Playstation. They have chargers plugged in around the house to keep their cell phone, iPod and laptops in business, as well as a desktop computer or two, complete with modems and printers. There's a refrigerator in the kitchen, and probably one in the basement or garage, as well as a stand-a-lone freezer. And let's not forget the incidentals like heating

and cooling equipment, washers and dryers and other appliances.

We've been taught to turn off lights when we leave the room in order to conserve electricity or replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs to be more efficient. Many people complain that they have implemented these kinds of conservation efforts but don't see the reduction in their bill that should naturally follow.

The problem is that we're still not connecting the dots between what we do and how that impacts the electric bill. We've become very comfortable with the conveniences that surround us, but we don't connect those with our electric consumption and bill. But I'll bet if you look closely at these conveniences, you find an electric cord.

There are places in our world where electricity is still considered a luxury. Consider the country of Lebanon, where they schedule the availability of electricity. Candles are widely available in hotel rooms and common areas to provide for basic lighting needs, and people just plan accordingly.

We have it good here, friends. While we have to contend with occasional outages, planned or otherwise, our electricity is generally available 24/7, giving us immediate access to everything we need

### Manager's Corner

by  
Gary Jackson,  
CEO/General  
Manager



for comfort, entertainment and conveniences. Unfortunately, our collective mind-set seems to be that once a luxury is deemed a necessity, its value is only apparent when it is not there. So, ironically, the more reliable the service, the less we appreciate the true value.

It's easy to blame the utility for what we consider outrageous costs for electricity, but it's time we each recognize the role we play in our monthly bill. I've said before that power supply prices will continue to increase, so controlling the bill ultimately rests with each user.

So the next time you get the monthly "light bill," I want you to consider what you might give up if electricity was a luxury. Look beyond the total kilowatt-hour consumption and focus on what those kilowatt-hours provide to you. I want you to understand that you are not paying for electrons, but rather what those electrons do for you in terms of your comfort, entertainment and convenience. Learn to recognize the role you play in the total, and decide for yourself if the cost is worth it.

### Board of Directors

C.B. Sharp, Dist. 1.....President  
James Stuart, Dist. 4.....Vice President  
Darrell Powell, Dist. 6.....Secy.-Treas.  
Greg Robertson.....Dist. 2    Kent Vance.....Dist. 3  
Ron Watson.....Dist. 5    Michael Cross.....Dist. 7

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.

## It's director nomination time!

Your directors from districts 1 (C.B. Sharp) and 2 (Greg Robertson) are up for re-election to Harrison Rural Electric's Board of Directors. Voting District No. 1 consists of Clark and Union Magisterial District of Harrison County, and Voting District No. 2 consists of Coal and Simpson Magisterial Districts of Harrison County, as well as members residing in Taylor County.

If you would like to be involved with the operation of your electric cooperative and think you can make a difference, why not become a candidate for election to the board?

According to the bylaws of

Harrison Rural Electrification Association, all directors shall be elected by a secret mail-in ballot at each annual meeting of the members. Members make Member Petition Nominations by delivering the petitions to the CEO of the cooperative by Friday, Dec. 9. A petition for the member nominated must list the name, address and account number of the member nominee, indicating the director position for which the member nominee will run, and must contain the printed names, phone numbers, account numbers and original signatures of at least 15 members. Husbands and wives holding a joint membership shall not sign the same nominating petition; however, members shall not be limited in the number of petitions they sign. Petitions for director shall be available at the principal office of

the cooperative. (In this case, please come to the Charles Pointe office located in Bridgeport off of I-79 at the Jerry Dove Drive exit.)

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 a biographical background of the nominee. The qualifications are listed in article IV, section 3, of the bylaws and are available for review at the cooperative office.

Please address any further questions to the office, and someone there will be happy to assist you.

**REMEMBER, PETITIONS MUST BE IN THE OFFICE BY DECEMBER 9, 2011, to be eligible for consideration.**

### Learn About Co-ops

## Sunkist Growers

Citrus Marketing Cooperative **Sunkist**

Roughly 3,500 California and Arizona citrus growers are Sunkist members. The co-op markets oranges, grapefruit, and citrus products internationally. [www.sunkist.com](http://www.sunkist.com)

### DID YOU KNOW?

- A 1908 *Des Moines Register* ad marks the first time a perishable food product was ever advertised.
- The 1916 "Drink an Orange" orange juice campaign increased consumption from half an orange per serving to 2-3 oranges per serving.

### CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY:

Sunkist has awarded more than 450 scholarships to students with a background in CA or AZ agriculture.

Sunkist is a registered trademark of Sunkist Growers, Inc.

**Cooperative Enterprises  
Build a Better World**

*A message from America's Electric Cooperatives*



*Happy Thanksgiving from Harrison Rural Electrification!  
We will be closed Thursday and Friday,  
Nov. 24 and 25, so our employees may enjoy  
the holiday with their families.*

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



# Leave the pole alone

*Placing a sign on a utility pole could endanger a life*

What do yard sale signs, basketball hoops, deer stands, satellite dishes and birdhouses have in common? They're often found illegally attached to utility poles. But this isn't only a crime of inconvenience. Safety issues caused by unapproved pole attachments place the lives of lineworkers and the public in peril.

It may seem innocent, but a small nail partially driven into a pole can have deadly results around high-voltage electricity.

Your local electric co-op line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst of conditions. Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards for our line personnel. Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples or barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution.

Lineworkers with electric co-ops have reported poles used as community bulletin boards, satellite mounts and even support legs for deer stands, lights and carports. Not only do these attachments put line crews at risk, but

anyone illegally placing these items on poles comes dangerously close to energized power lines with thousands of volts of energy pulsing overhead. It's always wise to keep any structure at least 10 feet away from utility poles.

Unauthorized pole attachments violate the National Electrical Safety Code, the accepted manual containing guidelines for safe electrical engineering standards. Utilities strictly follow this code, which includes a section that reads, "Signs, posters, notices and other attachments shall not be placed on supporting structures without concurrence of the owner (the utility is the owner of the pole). Supporting structures should be kept free from other climbing hazards such as tacks, nails, vines and through bolts not properly trimmed."

Please help us keep our linemen — and our community — safe. Don't attach any of these unauthorized and dangerous items to utility poles. Fixtures not belonging to the cooperative or another utility will be removed by co-op line personnel; the co-op is



**Satellite dishes and other unauthorized attachments must be removed to protect lineworkers.**

**Source: Crawford Electric Cooperative/Genifer Cape**

not responsible for any losses if an item is damaged or destroyed during removal.



**Energy Efficiency**

*Tip of the Month*


Use motion sensors on your lights to save on your electric bill. These sensors turn on lights automatically when someone enters a room and turns them off after a person leaves.

**Source: U.S. Department of Energy**



*We won't ask you to vote a certain way on Nov. 8, but we will ask you to vote.*

**A reminder from  
Harrison Rural Electrification Association**

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# Giving efficiency

BY KELLY TRAPNELL

With the holiday rush starting earlier and earlier every year, get a jump-start on your shopping wish list with some great green gifts. Using the tips below, you can have everything wrapped up before the ho, ho, ho turns into go, go, go!

## Why give efficiency?

Green giving is thoughtful on many levels. The person receiving the gift has a new gadget to use that keeps their long-term electric costs low



Think green when wrapping gifts by using reusable or recyclable wrap like a newspaper sports page and twine.

Look for any mention of energy ratings on large appliances and televisions, or select unplugged gifts. Think solar, reusable and recyclable. Even something as small as the packaging and wrapping can make a difference.”

Look for items with lightweight packaging. And think about wrapping your gift in something like a fabric bag that can be reused or even an accessory like a scarf to tie things up.

## Green gift ideas

• **For decorators:** LED Christmas lights (\$15–\$35) — These energy-efficient lights are becoming easier to find. They save on high holiday electric bills and stay cool to the touch. For a festive complete package, wrap in a decorative stocking.

• **For gardeners:** Solar garden lights (\$15–\$50) — Available in endless colors, styles and sizes, solar garden lights can be a lovely addition to your favorite green thumb’s garden. To up the green quotient, wrap in a burlap bag.

year-round.

“Choosing a green gift can be easy,” says Brian Sloboda, senior program manager for the Cooperative Research Network (CRN). “Be aware of energy use.

• **For cooks:** Toaster oven (\$60–\$140) — Especially great for the empty nester or those only cooking for one or two, toaster ovens are a good choice to save energy as an alternative to heating a large standard oven.

• **For movie buffs or sports fans:** ENERGY STAR-rated TV (price based on size) — Televisions are getting bigger and better. But before you give something that uses as much electricity as a refrigerator, look for the ENERGY STAR label. It will offer the smallest impact on your electric bills possible.

• **For techies:** — Smart strip (\$20–\$40) — This new cutting-edge technology is great for plugging in electronic gadgets. Not your average power strip, smart strips sport designated outlets that make it easy to power down certain devices to save energy while not affecting others plugged into the same strip.

— Solar cell phone charger (\$55–\$100+) — Help unplug energy-sucking chargers from the wall; solar chargers can be placed in a window to charge a cell phone or other devices like a GPS unit or even MP3 players anywhere the sun shines, even in a car on-the-go!

There are many options when you start looking for green gifts. Get creative, and remember that what you give impacts future electric bills. So give the green light for energy-smart gifts this year!

*Kelly Trapnell writes on safety and energy efficiency issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*



Give useful, energy-smart gifts like a toaster oven. It requires less energy to heat than a standard oven.