



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

HREA ANNUAL MEETING

Come for a steak dinner, special guest, and business update April 19

This year's annual meeting will once again be held at Liberty High School on Thursday, April 19, 2018. The doors will open at 6 p.m. with a baked steak dinner beginning at 6:05 p.m. Entertainment will start around 6:15 p.m., and the business meeting will be called to order and presided over by Board President Glenn Cox around 7:30 p.m.

We anticipate having a special guest this year, as National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) CEO Jim Matheson is tentatively scheduled to attend. Following a few brief reports, we will conclude with Operations Manager Sam Satterfield conducting the prize drawing giveaway.

If you are planning on attending the meeting, please call the ladies in the office at 304-624-6365, and let them know how many will be attending by April 13, 2017.

C.B. Sharp and Greg Robertson ran unopposed for the director positions representing District 1 and District 2 respectfully. There are no proposed By-Law changes, so the business meeting should not take too long. We hope to have a few demonstrations available in the cafeteria.

Our main focus remains on lowering long-term debt while improving reliability and not having to increase rates. Luckily, some things have fallen into place, which allowed us to make gains in each of those areas under our current rates — which have been the

same since 2010. In 2017, we were able to retire over \$1,500,000 in capital credits and instituted a formal retirement plan to follow in future years. While we can never be totally debt-free, we hope to reach our target debt in the next few years.



Terry Stout
CEO/General Manager

We have also been able to continue our aggressive vegetation management program started about three years ago. We were aiming for a six-year cycle but are hoping to reduce that a little more if things go as expected. We continually update an infrastructure upgrade plan that already has more projects on it than we can accomplish in a year. Our plan is to shift dollars saved by reducing long-term debt to infrastructure upgrades, plus adding additional 138-kilovolt (kV) substations.

We keep an eye on renewable energy sources to see if they ever come in at a cost less than or equal to current costs. We have also firmed up our base power cost by extending our current power contract with American Electric Power (AEP) until May of 2026.







To learn about all of this and more, please consider attending our annual meeting. We hope to see you there.





Tips for better time management

Are you busy? Would you like ideas on better time management to do more with what little time you have? Let's stop wasting time and get to it.

- 1 Eliminate time-wasters and distractions. 
- 2 Plan ahead. 
- 3 Prioritize and set goals. 
- 4 Track your time. 
- 5 Don't multitask. 
- 6 Delegate or outsource. 

EARTH DAY

APRIL 22

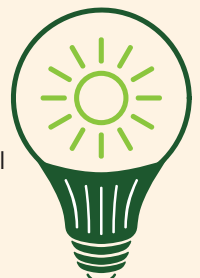
Celebrate Mother Nature with your local electric cooperative by making a small decision to support the environment on April 22 for Earth Day.

Whether you reuse a cloth grocery tote instead of plastic throw-away bags, recycle that box from your online order, or stop to pick up litter on your way home from work, you can make a difference!

Protecting our planet starts with you.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper (so half is in and half is out). If you can easily pull the piece of paper out, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch may need to be adjusted.

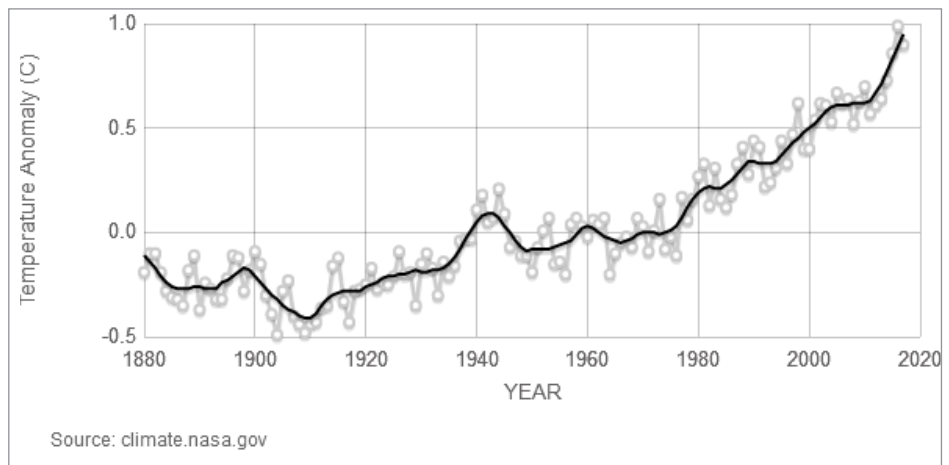




Is it warm in here, or is it just me?



Michael Griffith
GIS SPECIALIST



Enjoying the spring weather yet? I am. However, in honor of Earth Day, I'm talking about climate change. But instead of carbon-shaming you all, let's go over some easy changes you can make to reduce your overall carbon footprint — and maybe lower your electric bill as well.

First, let's review the data I've been studying from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Above, you see a graph of annual global surface temperature over time. As you can see, there is an upward trend beginning around 1910 that keeps climbing. The year 2016 was the warmest on record with 2017 being the second warmest. It might only be one degree Celsius, but that one degree isn't insignificant in the scheme of our global weather systems.

You might be thinking that it doesn't matter because we still have snow and cold winters, or it's too large of a solution for a few people to fix. However, if we all make some small changes, we can limit our carbon footprint (carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas; greenhouse gases are the number one cause for climate change). Here are some tips to help you along in your journey:

- **Install LED lightbulbs, effective insulation, a programmable thermostat, and energy-efficient appliances for your home.** You will notice a decent savings in your electric bill, and you're reducing your carbon footprint — it's a win-win!

- **Buy foods from local farmers markets or grow your own.** Farmers markets are a great way to help your local economy, and you get to know exactly where your food is from. Though it won't make a huge impact, it's better than driving a long way to the grocery store.

- **Drive less (if possible).** I understand it's easier said than done in a rural area, but try to get everything done in a single trip rather than making multiple trips to town. Cutting down on driving is one of the biggest factors in reducing our carbon footprint next to slashing energy usage and waste.

- **Recycle and compost your food waste.** I know a lot of rural areas don't offer recycling pickup, but you can take it yourself to a local drop bin. And composting is great, too. I've seen and heard great results from people who have used compost in their gardens and flower beds.

To do your part in reducing your impact on Earth, these are just a few easy things you can do. Since Earth Day is this month, you should also plant a tree (because they thrive on carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas). I want to see our planet in good shape for many generations to come...don't you? We only have one Earth, so let's try not to break it!

Get your hands dirty, plant a tree, and compost your food waste. This has been your Mapping Minute.

MICHAEL GRIFFITH is the geographic information systems (GIS) specialist at Harrison REA.



HARRISON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION LOCAL PAGES

Lineworker Appreciation Day April 9, 2018



Remember to #ThankALineworker

HARRISON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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