

Electric Cooperatives

Seek a Cap on Cap-and-Trade

A Message From Glenn English, CEO National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Climate change legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and now under consideration by the U.S. Senate aims to curb emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants, vehicles, refineries, and factories through a system called cap-and-trade. Electric cooperatives argue that cap-and-trade will unfairly burden consumers with increased electric bills **unless affordability is made a priority**; initial federal estimates say otherwise.

“Official government projections show cost impacts to be on the low side,” says Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. “We say to Congress: Put it in the bill. Set it in stone. If you think costs will be low, guarantee it.” English points to an “economic safety valve” as an option, an economic term used to describe how possibly skyrocketing electric bills could be prevented to protect consumers. If costs resulting from the cap-and-trade system spike, a safety valve would prevent them from wreaking havoc on the economy as a whole, essentially placing a cap on the cap-and-trade system.

“The whole purpose of a safety valve is to ensure that co-ops and businesses know what worst-case, maximum costs could be in any given year,” says English. “It provides economic certainty, allowing for the fact that at some point these costs could rise to levels more than our economy can bear.”

English stresses that now is the time for consumers to voice their concerns about how climate change legislation could impact their electric bills. The Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots campaign provides a way to send messages to Congress through the web site at www.ourenergy.coop.

“Call your senators,” English says. “Send them a letter or an e-mail from the Our Energy, Our Future Web site. They need to hear from co-op members — their constituents — before making these decisions that will affect us all.” ■

For more information, you can go to www.ourenergy.coop.

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Member Appreciation Day 2009

Good weather led to a wonderful morning on Saturday, September 26, for the Annual Member Appreciation Day. This year a pancake breakfast was served to the membership. Plenty of activities for all members young and old were available that day. Giant inflatables, face painting, and pumpkin painting were the activities for the kids. A hot line demonstration was also performed for all of those in attendance.

Greenwood Fire & EMS were on hand with equipment and blood pressure checks. Focus on Energy had energy-efficiency information for the members. Memorial Medical Center presented information on sleep disorders and other health issues.

Clark Appliance & Satellite also had energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment on display, with information on how you can save money this year and down the road. If you weren't there, you can always stop into their office to get information on how you can save money and be comfortable in your home. ■



Pancakes were the beginning of a great day. Above: Pancakes are being prepared quickly! Right: A hungry youth is having to work for his pancakes; he catches them all... breakfast is served. Below: Members enjoy a great breakfast and some good neighborly times with old and new friends.



Put a Shine on Savings

Use LEDs This Holiday Season

Did you ever wonder what it costs to light up your home, business, or facility with that colorful cascade of twinkling holiday lights? Are you looking for ways to save money without sacrificing the spirit of the season? One bright and easy idea is to replace traditional holiday lights with high-efficiency LED (Light Emitting Diodes) lights.

“Compared to traditional light strands, LEDs are up to 10 times more efficient, reducing energy consumption by as much as 90 percent,” according to John Knox, director of member service. “As LEDs go into wider use during the holidays, they have the potential to make a significant dent in the electricity consumed for lighting, which helps ease pressure on both the pocketbook and the environment.”

Traditional screw socket bulbs use either 5 or 7 watts per bulb, so that a 25-light string consumes between 125 to 175 watts, of which less than 10 percent is used to create light. The rest is wasted and lost as heat. Conversely, LEDs produce very little heat, which contributes to their efficiency and reduces the risk of fire, making them safer to use.

Even though LED light strands may cost a bit more, the energy savings and increased life expectancy can really pay off. Since LEDs last about eight times longer than incandescent bulbs — burning brightly for up to 50,000 hours — you’ll replace your light strands less frequently. Constructed of weatherproof materials and lacking fragile filaments, they’re impervious to moisture and not easily broken or damaged.

In addition to working to get the word out, Clark Electric Cooperative is providing members with more than the promise of energy savings this holiday season, but also a cash incentive for the purchase of LED light strands. Why? Because we believe that working together we really can save money, energy, and the environment. ■

2009 Rebate Coupon

How to apply:

1. Must purchase LED Christmas lights by **November 30, 2009**.
2. Cut out and submit the entire proof of purchase (UPC) label from the product box. **No photocopies will be accepted.**
3. Complete and submit this form to your cooperative by Jan. 10, 2010 along with your UPC label and a **copy of the sales receipt.**

Customer information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Account Number: _____

Rebate: \$2 per string. (Limit of 12 strings.)

of strings: _____ X \$2.00 = _____



Clark Electric Cooperative

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TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

CHECK YOUR TIME CLOCKS

Save Money by Being on the Right Time

Do you have a time clock controlling your water heater or other equipment because you’re on our Time-of-Day Rate? You must make sure those clocks are also turned back one hour to be correct.

It is important that these changes are made or you could end up having a higher-than-normal electric bill due to on-peak usage increases. ■

Dual Fuel Test Date

Wednesday, November 18, 2008

Winter testing of the Dual Fuel interruptible heating controls will be taking place soon. Control will start around 5:00 p.m., with all heating loads restored by 11:15 p.m.

Please make sure your backup heating system is operational and working for this test. ■

Additional Photos of a Great Day



Member Appreciation Day (clockwise, starting upper left): Lineman Scott Bailen performs a hot line demo; a young member gets her face decorated; Greenwood EMS Department shows equipment and takes blood pressures; Memorial Medical Center staff presents information on respiratory care; and kids play on the giant Spiderman.



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