



Tim Stewart,
CEO / General Manager

Help Keep Electric Bills Affordable

School's out, vacations are under way, and the heat of summer seems as if it will never end. This is also the time of year when our elected officials return home for a visit. Members of Congress will be traveling throughout our area and state, asking for your thoughts on various pieces of legislation being considered in our nation's capital.

One major concern for electric co-ops—energy and climate change policy—has returned to the front burner. Legislation on this subject was introduced in the U.S. Senate in April. At the same time, unelected bureaucrats at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are moving ahead with efforts to regulate emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from power plants using the federal Clean Air Act—something the law was never designed to do. One of the main authors of the Clean Air Act, U.S. Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), has warned that applying the measure to establish federal oversight of

carbon dioxide—which goes against the original intent of Congress—will result in a “glorious mess.”

It's too early to know for certain if Congress will take up this issue—very few legislative days are still scheduled for this session. The bottom line is that any decision made by Congress—even the decision of taking no action and allowing EPA to proceed on its regulatory path—will have some impact on your electric bills. And this impact comes on top of other escalating cost pressures from our power supplier, such as increased fuel and transportation costs, material costs, and environmental upgrades to our power supplier's generating facilities.

During the congressional break this summer, I urge you to talk to your U.S. representative and senators about your electric bill. Make sure they understand what higher bills will do to your family's budget, especially at a time when our economy has been hit so hard. Our position is clear. We need legislation that is fair, affordable, and achievable. If you would like to learn more about this issue, just visit our web site at www.cecoop.com and look for the Our Energy, Our Future box. ■



**Mark Your
Calendars!**

**Clark Electric Cooperative's
Member Appreciation Day**

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Saturday, October 2, 2010
7-11 a.m.**

CECO Building, west of Greenwood

Keep watching for details!



**SAFETY
FIRST!**

Dairy Farm Rewiring Loan and Grant Program

Clark Electric Cooperative, along with other electric cooperatives in Wisconsin, offer dairy farmers the Safety First! Farm Rewiring Program. The purpose of this program is to assist dairy farmers with the cost of rewiring projects and to promote safety.

This loan/grant combination is available up to \$25,000. Grants are available for 20 percent of the project cost, up to \$5,000; low-interest loans may be available for 80 percent of the project cost, up to \$20,000. Only existing structures are eligible for this grant and /or loan.

A pre-wiring inspection, paid for by Clark Electric Cooperative, is required to identify wiring deficiencies; the farmstead wiring must pass a post-wiring inspection to receive funding.

Requirements of the program are:

- Dairy farms only
- Existing farmstead
- Pre-program inspection
- Master electrician or Certified Farm Wiring Electrician's estimate
- Service agreement for length of loan
- Credit eligibility requirements
- Other restrictions may apply

Contact Clark Electric Cooperative's Operations Department for more information, or visit our web site, www.cecoop.com. ■



Underground Enclosure Inspections Underway

Every year Clark Electric Cooperative inspects approximately a third of the system's underground enclosures to ensure public safety and reliability to its members.

Jeff Selk with Utility Inspection Services visually inspects the underground enclosure to ensure that the cabinet is in good overall condition and all the warning labels are in place. Once he is done inspecting the outside of the cabinet, he then opens it up to look over the wires, check all connections, and make sure no unwanted critters have moved in.

Please remember that our crews need room to work on these devices. Keep all trees and shrubs at least 12 feet away from the front cover of the enclosure (the side with the lock) and at least 4 feet from the sides.

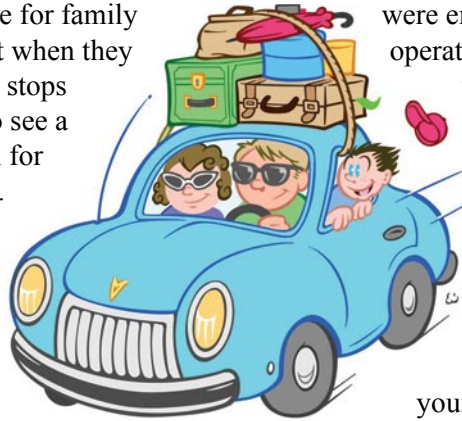
Remember to always call Diggers Hotline at least three working days before you do any digging. ■

Your Meter Doesn't Take a Vacation

It's summertime, and that means time for family vacations! Some people believe that when they leave for vacation, their electric meter stops until they return home. They expect to see a significant decrease in their power bill for the time during which they were gone. However, this is rarely the case.

We typically make sure that things like television and lights are turned off when we leave home, but there are plenty of other appliances and equipment that we usually don't think about.

Keep in mind that major appliances like your water heater, freezer, refrigerator, heating/cooling system, and well pump will continue to use kwh. Few people turn their water heater off when they leave for vacation. If left energized, a water heater will operate even though no water is being used. Unless the refrigerator and freezer



were emptied and unplugged, they will continue to operate. Other electrical appliances you might not think of keep running while you are on vacation even if you aren't there to use them — clocks, attic fans, and power ventilators are some of the appliances that continue to operate even if you're not home.

If you are determined that no electricity is to be used during your vacation, you can turn off your main breaker or pull the main disconnect. But remember, your refrigerator and freezer will defrost, your electric water heater will not have hot water ready, and your home may be uncomfortably warm or cold when you walk in the door—it may not be the homecoming you might have in mind. ■



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Living alone can be an uneasy situation, especially for elderly individuals living with medical difficulties. FIRSTCALL Medical Monitoring service is a simple, cost-effective solution that allows individuals the satisfaction of independent living with the peace-of-mind that comes in knowing there's always someone to help.



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1-866-279-6544

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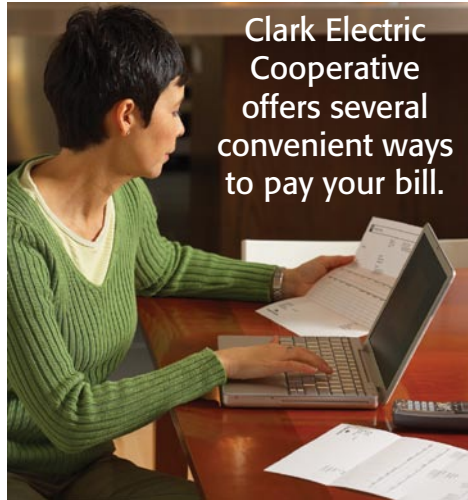
Fast, Convenient, Secure Ways to Pay Your Electric Bill

U.S. Mail: A return envelope is enclosed with your bill. A portion of your bill (noted on your statement) should be sent along with your payment to ensure credit on the correct account. Payments sent through the mail should be made with a check or money order.

In Person: You may bring your payment into the cooperative office in Greenwood. Our hours are listed on the Contact Us page on our website at www.cecoop.com, and they are also listed on the back of the billing statement. We also have a payment deposit box at the office, which may be used at any time.

Pay Station: You can pay your bill at one of 20 pay stations located throughout our service area. To locate a pay station in your area, visit our website at www.cecoop.com and click on the Billing/Payment Tab and then click on Pay Stations. They are also listed on the back of your billing statement.

Automatic Payment Plan – ACH: Having your payment deducted automatically from your checking or savings account is easy, reliable, and it can help you save



time and money. There are no checks, stamps, or trips to the office. We offer this service FREE of charge. To sign up, go to our website, www.cecoop.com, click on the Billing/Payment Tab, and then click on the Paying Your Electric Bill link. Complete the form and return it (along with a voided check if you choose to have it deducted from your checking account) to our office for processing.

E-Bill: This option alerts you by e-mail when your bill is available online. You can access your account information by clicking a link in the e-mail notification or by clicking the link on our website, www.cecoop.com, which takes you to a secure site. Then by simply submitting your e-mail address and password, you can view current and historical billing information, payment history, and usage history graphs.

E-bill allows you, the member, to decide how and when you would like your payments processed. Payments can be withdrawn from your checking or savings account or charged to your American Express, Discover, Visa, or MasterCard account online. When you sign up for E-Bill, you still receive a paper bill in the mail for your records.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the options available to pay your bill, contact our electric billing office at 715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188. ■



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Consider using ceiling and other fans during the cooling season. They provide additional cooling and better circulation so you can raise the thermostat and cut down on air conditioning costs. ENERGY STAR-certified ceiling fans do even better, especially those that include compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy



Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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