

# Solutions for Our Future:



*Tim Stewart*  
CEO / General Manager

## Energy Efficiency

**E**nergy efficiency—the buzzword of the late 1970s and early '80s—has become a hot topic once again. The federal stimulus bill includes funding for making energy-efficiency improvements to your home, and there are numerous national groups dedicated to promoting the concept. But

you might not know that the energy-efficiency revolution started with a refrigerator.

In the mid-1970s, the first of a series of national refrigerator standards was created. Back then, the amount of energy each fridge used varied widely depending on the engineer who designed it and the amount of insulation built in. By setting and later boosting efficiency standards for manufacturers to follow, the U.S. Department of Energy notes the amount of energy a standard fridge consumes today has been cut by 75 percent from 1975—even though the size of the average fridge has grown from 18 cubic feet to 22 cubic feet.

As a result, the amount of energy we're saving by using current efficient commercial and residential refrigerator models (versus those from the 1970s) equals more than all of the renewable energy produced in America today, excluding hydropower. Energy efficiency isn't about

wearing sweaters or cutting back on your daily activities—it's all about being smart with the power you use. And the smarter we are about our power use right now, the less power we'll need in the future.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration stresses that because of efficiency measures, energy productivity—the impact we get from every kilowatt-hour used—is rising by 0.9 percent a year. By turning to energy efficiency to pull more productivity out of the electricity we require, the United States can reduce its demand growth from 2.1 percent each year to 0.5 percent, according to a 2009 McKinsey Global Institute study.

Clark Electric Cooperative is doing our part to help you get the most out of each kilowatt-hour you consume. We offer our members many opportunities such as time-of-use rates, efficiency incentives, and load management strategies, and we have joined the Focus on Energy program. The overall goal of these efforts is aimed at maximizing the use of our limited resources. In addition, please visit our web site for energy-savings tips as well as potential tax credits for various efficiency measures. It's part of our commitment to providing you with reliable and affordable power in an environmentally responsible fashion. ■

Cooperatively yours,

**Tim Stewart**  
CEO/General Manager

## Energy-Efficiency Tips Some Options For You

**A**s a member of Clark Electric Cooperative, you have several options to help you find answers to the energy-efficiency questions you may have. As times change, energy efficiency becomes increasingly important; efficient use of your energy is important to Clark Electric Cooperative.

Our new web site offers some great tips. Simply go to [www.ccecoop.com](http://www.ccecoop.com) and click on the energy information tab. There you will find information on

energy efficiencies, incentives, lighting efficiencies, renewable energy, and a link to Focus on Energy.

Under the links tab, you will also find a wealth of energy and other sites that offer plenty of information for you and your family. Take a look around and let us know what you think. ■

**[www.ccecoop.com](http://www.ccecoop.com)**

# Quick Tips to Save Energy

Interested in saving energy but not sure where to start? Try this list of 10 bright ideas for saving and conserving energy. Even small changes can make a big difference.



## Replace Your Light Bulbs

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL) are 70 percent more efficient than incandescent bulbs, and at about \$2 a piece, the payback is a few months.



## Insulate Your Attic

Attics can be great sources of heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. Payback will vary depending on your region, but you'll usually recover the cost within two years.



## Weatherization

Weatherizing your home means sealing where air can infiltrate, such as doors, windows, and places where pipes enter the home. The cost of this varies depending on the age and construction of your home.



## Programmable Thermostats

The average home will spend more than \$1,000 a year on heating and cooling. Programmable thermostats adjust the temperature in winter and in summer as well as during unoccupied hours.



## Maintain Your HVAC System

Your heating and cooling system equipment runs best when it's properly maintained. Change your filters on a regular basis. Having your HVAC system serviced on an annual basis will ensure that your system is not costing you more than it should, as well as increase the life of the system. Using a NATE-certified technician is recommended.



## Unplug

Check around the house to see if devices are unnecessarily plugged in. Cell phones, iPod chargers, and appliances are still drawing power when they're not in use. Be aware that plasma TVs and entertainment systems are drawing power even when they are off. Also, switch computers off or use the computer's power management settings to allow standby mode when it's not needed. A computer can use as much electricity as a new refrigerator.



## Conduct Your Own Energy Audit

Do you really need two refrigerators? Is there a fish tank with no fish? Is your house so hot in winter that you need to wear a Hawaiian shirt? Walk around your house to see if there are any large appliances you don't use or areas that are especially drafty. You might discover a lot of savings on your own.



## Replace Single-Pane Windows

Upgrading to more energy-efficient windows can help control temperature and air infiltration in your home. This is probably one of the more costly upgrades you can do, but depending on the age of your windows and climate, the payback may be just a few years.



## Save With the Stimulus Package

Homeowners can take advantage of the efficiency tax credit of up to \$1,500, or 30 percent, of the cost for new energy upgrades. This includes weatherization activities as well as installation of efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

Go to [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com), then to the energy information tab for more details on these or other energy tips. ■



### CLARK ELECTRIC MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

**FREE - LARGE PANCAKE BREAKFAST ...**  
**ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES...**  
**COMMUNITY INFORMATION AVAILABLE...**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009**  
**7 TO 11 AM AT THE CECO BUILDING, WEST OF GREENWOOD**

**HOT LINE DEMOS**  
**HEALTH SCREENING**  
**PLAY AREA FOR KIDS**  
**AND MUCH, MUCH MORE**



## Convenient and Secure

### Sign Up Today!

**E**-Billing is a fast, easy way for you to pay your monthly electric bill. Through this program, you will receive an e-mail alerting you that your bill is available online. You can access your account information by clicking a link in the e-mail notification or clicking the link on our web site, [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com), which takes you to a secure site. By submitting your e-mail address and password, you can view current and historical billing information, payment history, and usage history graphs, all of which will be viewed in real time.

You can choose which payment option best suits you and your lifestyle. Payments can be withdrawn from a checking account or savings account or charged to your American Express, Discover, VISA, or Master-

Card, which can be done online on the E-Billing site.

When you sign up for E-Billing, you will still receive a paper bill in the mail for recordkeeping purposes. ■



## Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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- If you are a new user [Click Here to sign up for online account access.](#)
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## Your Meter Doesn't Go On Vacation

**S**ome people believe that when they leave for vacation, their electric meter stops until they return home. However, this is rarely the case.

Few people turn their water heater off when they leave for vacation. If left energized, it 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 keep running while you are on vacation



— clocks, attic fans, and power ventilators, along with heating and air conditioning equipment.

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. ■

# Dairy Farm Rewiring Loan and Grant Program

## SAFETY FIRST

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,



### Safety Reminder



**To ensure your safety and the safety of our linemen, we remind you that it is against the law to post any signs or any other type of structures on a cooperative power pole.**

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's Operations Department for more information, or visit our web site, [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com). ■



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