

Future Energy Concerns

Electric Wholesale Power Costs Increasing in 2009

As we begin a new year, many Americans are very concerned about a number of issues, including the economy, affordable health care, the environment and related energy issues. In addressing energy concerns, our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, is working hard to ensure members have a long-term, reliable, and affordable electricity supply. Unfortunately, Dairyland is facing a number of challenges that are increasing the cost of energy for their cooperative members, including Clark Electric Cooperative.

As we enter 2009, Dairyland's wholesale power cost, which accounts for approximately 70.15 percent of Clark Electric Cooperative's total cost of providing electric service, is facing tremendous upward pressure. The most significant increases are due to:

- A general tightening of coal markets with increases in prices for both the fuel and its shipping, coinciding with large global demand for U.S. coal exports.
- Scheduled major periodic maintenance outages at two large generators in 2009.
- Significant investments in environmental controls, renewable energy resources, and conservation programs.

These factors, combined with other essential projects, will cause an increase in Dairyland's 2009 average wholesale rate of about 9.8 percent over the 2008 rate. Clark Electric Cooperative's base rates are not anticipated to change in 2009. The last adjustment to Clark Electric Cooperative's base rates occurred in 2007. However, as

wholesale power costs increase, the power cost adjustment will track those changes and be applied on the bills.

While Dairyland is facing financial obstacles in the coming year, it is essential that our wholesale power provider continues to maintain a strong financial position and invests in projects to meet our future energy needs. Dairyland's 30 percent ownership of the new 525 MW Weston 4 power plant is a very good investment that will help meet the long-term energy needs of Dairyland's members.

Dairyland continues to expand its renewable energy portfolio with ongoing additions, such as the recent 20 MW of wind generation in Winnebago County, Iowa, as well as its commitment to purchase 40 MW of biomass-produced energy at the DTE Energy Services' Cassville plant beginning in 2010. In addition to these initiatives, Dairyland continues to develop additional biomass projects, enhance landfill gas operations, and expand wind energy and manure digesters.

Dairyland is taking a leadership role in a new national cooperative to develop renewable resources for all electric cooperatives across the nation. These expansions of Dairyland's renewable resources, as well as investments in energy conservation programs, are good for our environment and will help Dairyland meet future regulatory requirements. However, they also increase the overall cost to provide members with electricity.

Clark Electric Cooperative and Dairyland will continue to work hard to stabilize costs and provide members with a reliable, competitively priced energy supply. ■

Tim Stewart
CEO / General manager



Tips For Saving Energy and Money

With energy prices expected to hit record highs this winter, more and more Wisconsin homeowners are looking for ways to control costs. Energy efficiency is an important part of the solution.

The following tips can help you save money on your energy consumption at home while maintaining your comfort and protecting the environment.

Use an ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostat.

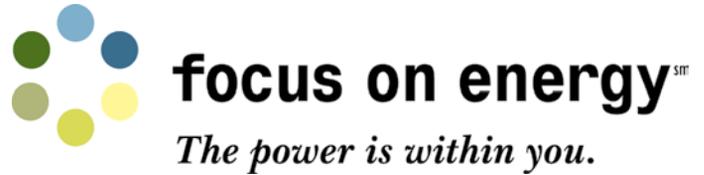
Inexpensive and easy to install, programmable thermostats automatically turn down the heat while you are asleep or away, saving you as much as \$100 per year.

Close storm windows.

Make sure storm windows are closed completely so no air leaks in or out.

Maintain or replace your heating system.

Just like a car, your heating system needs periodic maintenance to keep it running efficiently. Schedule yearly maintenance with a qualified contractor, and replace furnace filters monthly or according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Make sure that all supply and return registers are clear of obstructions.



Change to energy-efficient lighting.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs use 75 percent less energy than standard light bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. By changing the five most-used incandescent bulbs in your home to ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs, you can save about \$35 each year.

Close the chimney damper.

For homes with fireplaces, it's important to close the damper when not in use. This prevents cold air from entering the house through the chimney.

Seal air leaks.

Hidden air leaks through cracks, gaps, and holes in the building envelope let warm air out of your home and often add up to the equivalent of an open window. Sealing these leaks helps you maintain a comfortable temperature throughout your home and control your heating costs. To maximize savings and comfort, it's important to seal the cracks, gaps, and holes before you insulate.

(Continued on page 28 ►)



The Adler-Clark Electric Community Commitment Foundation recently awarded \$15,000 to 24 different community-based projects located throughout the Clark Electric Cooperative service area.

Tim Stewart, chief executive officer of Clark Electric Cooperative and one of the trustees of the Adler-Clark Electric Community Commitment Foundation, said, "The purpose of the ACE-Community Commitment Foundation is to support programs and events which enrich the lives of people of Clark

County and the surrounding area communities. Our mission is to invest in the future of the Clark County area by helping create opportunity for philanthropy and community enrichment. We are pleased to be a part of these community enrichment programs."

The ACE-Community Commitment Foundation was established in 2004 by Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite Inc. to strengthen local communities by aiding not-for-profit and community organizations in funding projects that will enhance the quality of life of local residents. To date, the Foundation has awarded \$118,500 for community enrichment projects.

Clark Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit electric utility that serves 7,900 members in Clark, Chippewa, Jackson, Marathon, Taylor, and Wood counties. ■

Conservation Tips

(Continued from page 5)

Conserve hot water.

Lower the thermostat of your water heater to no more than 120 degrees F. With every 10-degree reduction in water temperature, you can save 3 percent to 5 percent in water-heating cost. Water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators can reduce your hot water use by 50 percent.

Change the direction of your ceiling fan.

Ceiling fans aren't just for cooling. Most models have a button on the base that changes the direction of the blades. In winter, set the blades to rotate clockwise to produce a gentle updraft, which moves warm air from the ceiling and distributes it evenly throughout the room.

Choose ENERGY STAR qualified appliances and electronics.

Look for the ENERGY STAR when replacing appliances and electronic devices, from clothes washers, refrigerators, and water heaters to televisions, stereos, DVD players, and even the new digital-to-analog converter boxes for older TVs. ENERGY STAR qualified equipment uses up to 60 percent less energy than standard models.

Unplug household appliances and electronics when not in use.

Devices such as TVs, VCRs, stereos, microwaves, and coffee makers use energy even when turned off to power features such as clock displays and remote controls. Unplug these devices when not in use to save



energy. For convenience, plug multiple devices into a power strip and turn the strip off when they're not in use.

With Clark Electric's partnership with Focus on Energy, you can't go wrong. For incentives and rebates for various products, you can go to our web site and see what is offered, www.cecoop.com. For more helpful tips and information about how to save energy and money at home, please call 800-762-7077 or go to our web site and click on the link to Focus on Energy. ■

Take Charge of Your Electric Consumption

With Kill-A-Watt

Take charge of your electric use with a Kill-A-Watt electricity consumption monitor. It's a unit that you plug directly into the wall. Then you plug your 120-volt appliance into it. The monitor will help show you which appliances and equipment are consuming more power and draining more dollars. You can calculate your electricity expenses by the day, week, month, or year. Start making decisions about your lifestyle and save on your energy bill.

Clark Electric Cooperative has some of these units in stock that you can purchase at the cooperative office for \$32. This is a great way to see where you can save! ■



LATE WINTER STORMS

Are You Prepared...

Winter can play all kinds of tricks on us at any time, so we need to be prepared. Your cooperative is. If there is an outage, do you know what to do? Please call the office during regular business hours at 715-267-6188 or 800-272-6188 to report an outage. If it's after hours, please call 800-927-5707; our cooperative partner, the Cooperative Response Center (CRC), is waiting for your call.

Please call us if you are out of power; do not rely on your neighbors to call. The more information we have regarding an outage, the quicker we can restore power to all members. If there are downed power lines, stay away and keep others away. Be careful if you use or have a generator — make sure a professional correctly connects it. It's a good idea to have some extra batter-

ies, a flashlight, and a radio handy to get updated information.

Remember that your cooperative employees will be there for you, no matter what the conditions are. But safety is first — for us, for you, and together for everyone.

Safety Ideas

- ✓ Be careful when running a generator. It must be hooked up properly to ensure that it will not backfeed and possibly hurt someone.
- ✓ If you're using kerosene heaters or lamps, make sure you have the proper ventilation to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Do not use a gas stove to provide heat; it is very dangerous and can cause a fire.
- ✓ Be neighborly. Check on your neighbors and make sure they are okay. ■



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CLARK ELECTRIC FEDERATED YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS ARE DUE

Scholarships available for graduating seniors

Applications Must Be at the Cooperative's office by:
March 3, 2009



Applications are available at your school guidance office or online at www.cecoop.com