



*Alissa Becker*  
Spencer High School



*Tim Gelhaus*  
Owen-Withee High School



*Kelsey J. Guenther*  
Greenwood High School



*Dessa Karl*  
Neillsville High School



*Monica Kunze*  
Colby High School



*Elizabeth Meinders*  
Columbus Catholic High School



*Erik Polsean*  
Granton High School



*Brandon Sather*  
Thorp High School



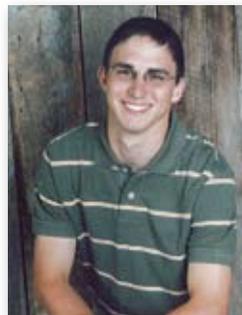
*Amy Schindler*  
Abbotsford High School



*Ryan Schwanebeck*  
Pittsville High School



*Jayme Soeller*  
Stanley-Boyd High School



*Steven Weyer*  
Loyal High School



*Joseph Worzella*  
Marshfield High School

## Congratulations to our **2011** SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We congratulate 13 area students who are each being awarded a \$1,000 scholarship through Clark Electric Cooperative's Federated Youth Scholarship Program. Each year scholarships are offered to high school students who reside in homes served by our electric cooperative and attend schools within our service area.

These scholarships are financed through the Federated Youth Foundation Scholarship

Program, which is funded from unclaimed capital credits. Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) is a non-profit charitable foundation serving cooperatives across Wisconsin.

Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principals; furthering the education of our area youth is another. Clark Electric Cooperative is proud to help these fine young people meet their educational goals. ■

# Restoring Electrical Service After a Storm

While not all power outages can be avoided—such as when Mother Nature decides to intervene—the impact can be diminished. As we all know, storms in Wisconsin can be especially severe and cause brief outages. So, you may wonder how power is restored.

The short answer is, as a member of Clark Electric Cooperative (CEC), your power is extremely reliable. This is something we are very proud of because day in and day out, we work hard to maintain exceptional levels of reliability. There are no shortcuts to achieving reliable power.

It's labor, time, and capital-intensive... and it's an area of our business in which we can't afford to cut corners or expect anything less than near perfection.

Restoring electric service is a logical process. The diagram below shows a simplified version of a large-area outage. Our linemen start from the substation out onto the main feeder lines. It would be useless to repair a pole if the main lines were not energized. Once there is power at the substation and the feeder lines have been repaired, the

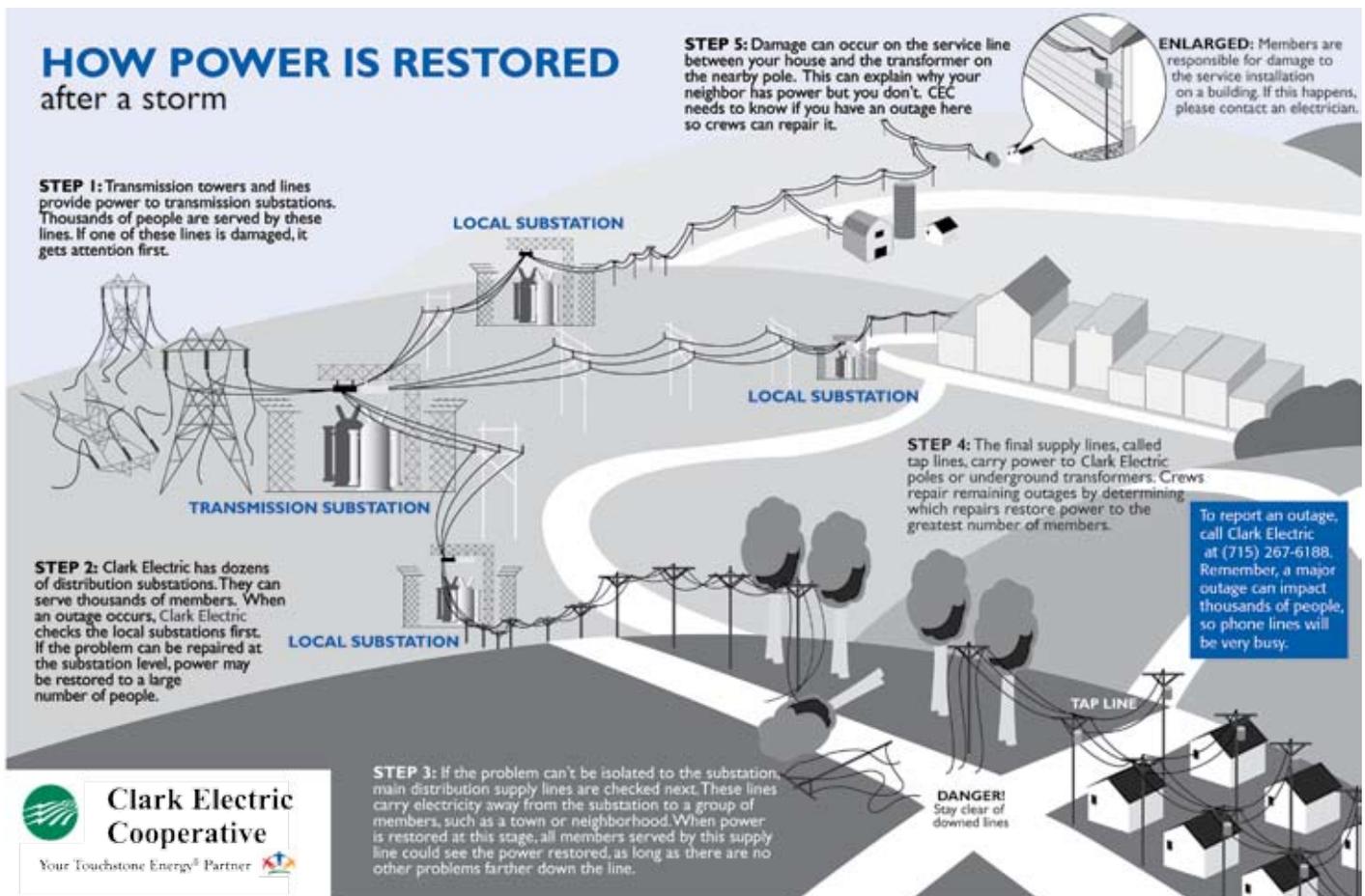
next lines to be repaired are the tap lines off the three-phase feeder lines. The last lines to be repaired are the single-service outages. Simply stated, in general the lines that will get the most services energized in that particular area are repaired first.

## How the Process Starts

Clark Electric Cooperative utilizes the services of the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) to answer our telephones after normal business hours and/or during very high-volume telephone traffic. CRC is best equipped to handle the large amount of calls that will be received during a large-scale outage. Members may be greeted by an automated attendant that will prompt you through the steps necessary to report your outage condition.

By allowing CRC to answer incoming calls, we are able to concentrate on getting service restored as quickly as possible.

*(Continued on page 28 ►)*



## Tips for Beating High Summer Electric Bills

Don't let warmer weather turn into "summertime blues" when your monthly electric bill arrives. Here are some energy-saving tips from Clark Electric Cooperative.



**Adjust the thermostat.** As TogetherWeSave.com demonstrates, lowering a thermostat in winter can save as much as \$85 per year. During warmer months, raising the thermostat a few degrees can save money, too. Set the temperature between 78-80 degrees Fahrenheit, and you could save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.

Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering four pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year. Contact Clark Electric Cooperative to learn more.

**Be a "fan-atic."** While they don't replace air conditioners or heat pumps, fans move air and help you feel more comfortable. On milder days, fans can save as much as 60 percent on electric bills. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

**Regular maintenance is essential.** Clark Electric Cooperative recommends that members have their HVAC systems serviced annually by a NATE (North American Technician Excellence)-certified technician. This HVAC professional will check your entire system to make sure it runs efficiently. This will help to extend life of the system and save money.

**Look for ENERGY STAR equipment.** When it's time to replace your cooling system, TogetherWeSave.com

recommends replacing it with an ENERGY STAR-qualified model. Doing so could reduce your energy costs by as much as 30 percent. Tax credits and rebates on qualifying

ENERGY STAR appliances may be available so check with Clark Electric Cooperative for more information.

**Bigger isn't always better.** Too often, cooling equipment isn't sized properly and leads to higher electric bills. A unit that's too large for your home will not cool evenly and might produce higher humidity indoors. Instead of getting burned this summer by high energy bills, visit our web page at [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com) and click on the Links Tab to find links to [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov) OR Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives energy-saving website, [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com), for more money-saving ideas. ■



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Consider using solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge each day.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## Restoring Power (Continued from page 5)

### What Happens in the Event of Extreme Outages?

Clark Electric Cooperative has executed a mutual aid agreement with other electric cooperatives throughout the country. You may recall that in September and October 2005, our crews, along with approximately 1,000 other line crews, helped restore power to Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative in Louisiana. More recently, we helped cooperatives right here in Wisconsin restore power after severe storms affected much of their service territory. So, while we can't prevent all power outages, we stand ready to respond as needed, when needed. ■

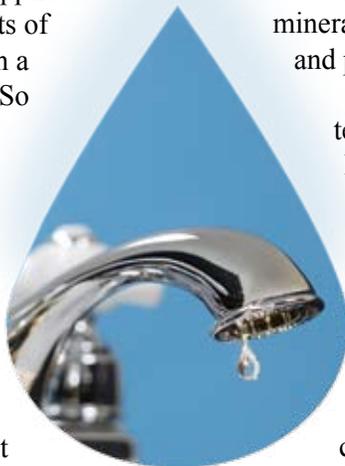
# Keep Electricity from Going Down the Drain

Water use and electricity go hand in hand. Heating water can account for 14 percent to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home. What's more, systems used to clean public water supplies and deliver it to homes require large amounts of electricity. If your home receives water from a well or spring, the pump also draws power. So when we use water, hot or cold, we're also using energy.

## Many Ideas are Very Simple

Techniques for trimming water use in your home are surprisingly simple. For one, you can significantly reduce hot water consumption by simply repairing leaks in fixtures—faucets and showerheads—or pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.

You can also reduce water heating costs in a



matter of seconds by lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater. For each 10 degrees F reduction in temperature, you can save between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs. Reducing the setting also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Although some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees F, most households usually only require them set at 120 degrees F. However, if you have a dishwasher without a booster heater, you may require water temperature within a range of 130 to 140 degrees F for optimum cleaning.

## Adding Insulation Helps!

Adding insulation to your water heater can save around 4 percent to 9 percent in costs.

To determine if you need to insulate your water heater, touch it. A tank that's warm to the touch needs additional insulation.

Insulating your water heater tank is fairly simple and inexpensive, and will pay for itself in about a year. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$10 to \$20. Choose one with an insulating value of at least R-8. In addition, don't set the thermostat above 130 degrees F on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket—the wiring may overheat.

Installing insulation on gas- and oil-fired water heaters is more difficult. For these appliances, it's best to have a qualified plumbing and heating contractor perform the work.

For more tips on trimming water use in your home, including pipe and water heater insulation techniques, visit [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).—Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, H2O Conserve.org ■



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