

Renewable Energy

What the Future Holds

Ask anyone to describe renewable energy, and nine times out of 10 they will include either wind or solar power in their answer. The two have become iconic symbols of “green electricity,” and rightfully so.

Wind energy has been harnessed and used to improve quality of life for thousands of years. Solar power is unique in that it taps the most basic yet fundamental generation source available: the sun.

A recent survey conducted by Bisconti Research, Inc., asked Americans where they think most of our nation’s electricity will come from in 15 years. The vast majority—72 percent—answered solar as number one, followed by wind energy. Actually, solar is expected to generate a mere 0.2 percent of our nation’s electricity by 2030; wind will generate just 2.4 percent. We will continue to rely on fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas, as well as nuclear power and hydropower, to produce most of our electricity needs.

But this doesn’t mean we’ll be hearing less about renewable energy in coming years. In fact, the opposite is true. Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia have already passed laws creating renewable portfolio standards, often called RPS for short, which require electric utilities and other retail suppliers of electricity to add a specific percentage of renewable energy to their power supply mix by a certain date. More states are expected to follow this trend, and a federal mandate could be passed by Congress this year.

In meeting these requirements as well as adding renewables as part of a diversified, cost-effective generation

portfolio, electric cooperatives will draw on the innovation they’ve been known for since their humble beginnings 75 years ago. Electric co-ops span our nation from coast to coast, serving in 80 percent of all counties. Of course, in some locations, the wind may not always blow and the sun may not always shine. Where wind and solar power can be generated, transmission lines to move the electricity where power is needed may not currently exist.

But wood chips and slash from timber operations, switchgrass, and even peanut shells can all be burned to boil water, create steam, and turn an electric turbine. Methane rising from decomposing landfills and mounds of chicken, cattle, or hog waste can be captured and burned as well. Pipes can be sunk in the ground to capture the natural heat and steam created under the earth’s surface. A river’s steady current can be diverted and used to manufacture power without the aid of a dam. Even the constant bobbing of offshore buoys from ocean waves or the movement of tides can be harnessed to generate an electric current.

Clark Electric’s wholesale electricity supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, is committed to providing a balanced energy supply that is reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible. As such, Dairyland has actively sought opportunities to expand its renewable energy program, launched in 1998.

Energy consumers have embraced renewable energy programs throughout the country. Members of the Dairyland Power Cooperative system are equally enthusiastic about Dairyland’s initiatives in pursuing a strong and reliable renewable energy program.

Dairyland’s renewable portfolio includes 43 MW of wind energy, 14 MW of landfill gas-to-energy, and 2-plus MW of animal waste-to-energy. Dairyland also supplies renewable energy to member cooperatives from our 24 MW Flambeau Hydro Station near Ladysmith. In the years to come, Dairyland will be working with its member cooperatives to invest more in renewables to meet the requirements set forth by the states, and to meet the desires of our members to be efficient and to be green while supplying energy.



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2009 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to this year's winners of the Clark Electric Cooperative Federated Youth Scholarships. This year Clark Electric Cooperative gave away 13 \$1,000 scholarships to local graduating students. These students represented schools within our service area.

The scholarships are provided by the unclaimed capital credits from former cooperative members. The

unclaimed money is then held in the Federated Youth Scholarship Program.

Over the years, Clark Electric Cooperative has provided this important community program. Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principals; furthering the education of all is another. Clark Electric is proud to help these fine young people meet their educational goals. ■



*Rachel Schindler
Abbotsford
High School*



*Jenna Schier
Granton High School*



*Jason Hansen
Greenwood
High School*



*Jesse Hoff
Gilman High School*



*Matthew Stiemann
Home School*



*Devon O'Konski
Owen-Withee
High School*



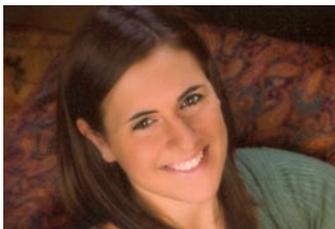
*Kelli Eslinger
Stanley-Boyd
High School*



*Aaron Becker
Spencer High School*



*Jason Mattsen
Loyal High School*



*Lauren Lieders
Colby High School*



*Katie Thoma
Neillsville High School*



*Wendy Pongratz
Pittsville High School*



*Jeni Luzinski
Thorpe High School*

Clark Electric is Taking Bids



2000 Chevy 3/4 ton 4 X2 pickup, reg. cab, 8' box, 132,436 miles



Vehicle/equipment may be inspected during normal business hours.

If bidding on more than one item, a separate sealed envelope is required for each item. On the envelope please mark either "2000 Chevy Pickup" or "1996 Enclosed Trailer." Enclose bid amount in the sealed envelope. Bids are due in the cooperative office by 5 p.m. Friday, June 12, 2009, or post-marked by that date. All bids must be returned to Mike Ruff, Director of Operations, Clark Electric Cooperative, 124 N. Main St., P.O. Box 190, Greenwood, WI 54437. Clark Electric reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Vehicle/equipment is being sold "as is," with no implied warranty. ■



1996 Avenger enclosed trailer, 14' X 7' tandem axle with partition in the middle, front portion 8' X 7', back portion 5'5" X 7'



Need Help With Summer Cooling Costs?

To help reduce the electric demand during the summer season, Clark Electric Cooperative is now offering an \$8.00/month credit to those members who choose to participate in our new air conditioner load management program. During the summer cooling months of June, July, and August, members who sign up will receive this credit on their electric bill. A minimum of 400 kwh/month of usage is required; other restrictions may apply.

The air conditioning program will work just like our water heater load management program. During a high usage day, when the system demand for electricity is high, Dairyland Power Cooperative will cycle the air conditioners to relieve the demand on the electric system.

Members who participate will be helping tremendously in keeping costs down. When Dairyland Power has to purchase additional power to meet members' needs during times of peak demand, the extra power is very expensive. This program helps reduce the need to purchase this expensive electricity.

Call Clark Electric's office to sign up for this program; certain restrictions apply. Once you're signed up, a Clark Electric employee will come out to your home and install a control device on the outside air conditioner. The device operates just like the water heater controls, only it's about half the size. The device will allow for the air conditioner to be cycled on and off during the high demand days of summer. ■



\$8.00/month credit on your electric bill during the summer season

Youth Leadership Congress

It's All About Having Fun

Understanding the cooperative difference and identifying traits of leaders are just two of the topics to highlight the 46th WECA Youth Leadership Congress (YLC).

Clark Electric Cooperative offers the opportunity to participate in the YLC to high school students throughout the state. The conference, co-sponsored by Wisconsin's electric cooperatives and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, is scheduled for July 15-17, 2009, on the UW-River Falls campus. Contact your FFA or FBLA advisor and ask to go. If school is out, contact Clark Electric directly and ask for Tracy to see if your school is represented yet. Clark Electric will also be sponsor-

ing two home-schooled students to attend this summer.

Through a mix of workshop sessions, hands-on activities, and team-building experiences, participants will be exposed to a variety of real-life issues and will be given the opportunity to identify and explore their leadership potential. Top-notch professional speakers, teen peers, and exceptional cooperative employees will provide participants with information and tools to deal with the weighty issues high school students face every day.

Featured at this year's YLC will be nationally acclaimed speaker Craig Hillier. As a part of his dynamic presentation, Hillier will enlighten students about being leaders, stretching their creativity, and discovering the value of cooperation.

The YLC is a fun, educational, and unique event that is planned by and for



teens. Six students will be selected to serve on the WECA Youth Board. The Youth Board then plans and conducts next year's program. Youth Board members are also eligible to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour held in Washington, D.C., in June.

Students are sponsored by Clark Electric Cooperative. More information and registration materials are available through Clark Electric.

For 46 years, Wisconsin electric cooperatives and UW-River Falls have co-sponsored this event to demonstrate to high school students the basics of cooperatives and how they can apply the ideals and philosophies of cooperation directly to their lives. ■



Our Energy, Our Future

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For those members interested in going green and wanting to invest in renewable energy, Clark Electric offers the *Evergreen* program. Members can voluntarily support renewable energy projects through this program, with only a slight increase in their monthly electric bill.

If you would like more information on how to participate in the *Evergreen* renewable energy program, you can contact Clark Electric or check Clark's website, www.cecoop.com. ■



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