

Holmes- Wayne

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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The power of efficiency

Turn on the lights and TV, boot up the computer and head to the kitchen to start dinner. Arriving home after a full day at work, most of us walk through a familiar routine.

We hardly take a step that does not involve the reliable flow of electricity. And every light switch or appliance we turn on sends the electric meter outside spinning a little faster and the monthly bill a little higher.

Meanwhile, it's hard to escape the media coverage surrounding climate change as evening news reporters drone on about global warming.

We watch with concern and ask, "Is there anything one person can do to make a difference?" The answer is an emphatic, "Yes." It starts with learning all we can about energy conservation and efficiency. While they are not the same thing, they are close relatives.

Conservation occurs when we reduce total consumption of electricity, often achieved by simply turning off anything that consumes electricity when not needed.

Energy efficiency occurs when we replace or upgrade the essentials in our lives (e.g., appliances, lighting, insulation), allowing us to realize the same benefit with less electricity.

If you want to help, log on to our Web site at www.hwecoop.com and complete your own personalized home energy audit to assess how much energy your home consumes and evaluate what measures you can take to make your residence more energy efficient. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact one of our customer service representatives and they can walk you through the audit and mail you the results.

Then, with audit results in hand, take action. The cumulative effect of such small steps in homes and businesses will have a direct impact on our nation's entire electric grid — reducing demand during peak periods, cutting emissions of greenhouse gases and lowering overall costs to Co-ops and consumer-members. Not to mention energy efficiency helps manage load growth and delays the need to build new electric generation facilities.

Additionally, review our conservation corner each month in this publication for energy efficiency tips. As well as join us at the Ohio State Wooster Campus for the first annual Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair on April 22 (details on page 27).

America's electric Co-ops are working with public officials at all levels to identify and adopt achievable and balanced solutions to climate change. One of quickest remedies involves embracing conservation and efficiency and making them part of our daily routine. Although energy consumption will continue to increase, by using electricity more efficiently, we can slow the overall demand for more power.

President's Report

By
Glenn Miller



Conservation Corner

When to turn off personal computers

If you're wondering when to turn off personal computers for energy savings, here are some general guidelines:

While a small surge in energy consumption occurs when a computer starts up, this hardly compares to the amount used when a computer runs for a long time. For energy savings and convenience, consider turning off the monitor if you aren't going to use your PC for more than 20 minutes, and switch off both the CPU and monitor if you're not going to use your PC for more than two hours.

Make sure monitors, printers and other accessories are plugged in to a power strip/surge protector. When not using equipment for extended periods, turn off the switch on the power strip to prevent any power drain. If you don't use a power strip, unplug extra equipment when it's not in use.

Most PCs today reach the end of their useful life due to advances in technology long before any negative effects of being switched on and off multiple times can be seen. But as a general rule

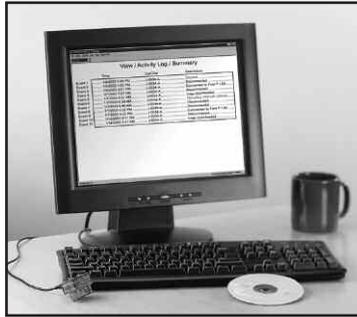
of thumb, the less time a PC is on, the longer it will "last." PCs also produce heat, so turning them off reduces the need for air conditioning.

Power-down or sleep mode features

Many PCs come with a power-down or sleep mode feature for the CPU and monitor. ENERGY STAR® computers consume 15 watts or less in this mode — around 70 percent less electricity than a computer without power management features. ENERGY STAR monitors also have the capability to power-down into two successive sleep modes, first to 15 watts and then to 8 watts — less than 10 percent of its operating power consumption.

Keep in mind that screen savers are not energy savers. Using a screen saver may in fact require more energy than not using one, and your power-down feature may not work if you have a screen saver activated. In fact, modern LCD color monitors do not need screen savers.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



Cooperative staff furthering education

Congratulations to Brian Spencer (right) and Tim Vickers for completing the Hi-Line Engineering training on electrical staking. Both Brian and Tim received their Staking Technician certifications this winter. Staking is a key aspect of our engineering and operations department at Holmes-Wayne Electric. Without qualified staff, all new line or replacement line construction staking procedures would have to be outsourced to third-party contractors. Their training will allow more flexibility for the Cooperative to manage projects both internally and externally.



Reminder — mark your calendar

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 26, 2008

West Holmes High School

Warning

If you recently received an envelope in the mail stating “Important News For Rural Cooperative Members” “Finally — An Affordable Individual Health Insurance Plan,” you may think the letter regarding health insurance is from Holmes-Wayne Electric. **It is not!!**

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative has no affiliation with this company and does not endorse, promote, advertise, sell or offer to sell any type of insurance product.

Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair

Ohio State University — Wooster Campus

April 22 — 1-7 p.m.

The Ohio State University will host Wooster's first annual Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair on Tuesday, April 22 — Earth Day.

Organized by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) and the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute (Ohio State ATI), the event aims to celebrate, educate and demonstrate that it's “easy being green.”

Patterned after Scarlet, Gray and Green fairs previously held on Ohio State's Columbus campus, the free public programs will showcase eco-oriented exhibits,

demonstrations, companies, artisans, speakers, entertainers and food vendors, all in one place in OARDC's Selby Hall parking lot, 1680 Madison Ave.

The goal is “to educate and inform ourselves and our community about green ideas we can immediately use,” said steering committee co-chair Joe Kovach, an integrated pest management expert who holds joint appointments with OARDC and OSU Extension.

“In the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Ohio State, we have many programs that are aimed at sustainability and environmental compatibility, but we can't do it all,” he said. “There are many companies and organizations in the community that are

doing good things in this area, and we wanted them to have the opportunity to showcase their ‘green-ness’ as well.

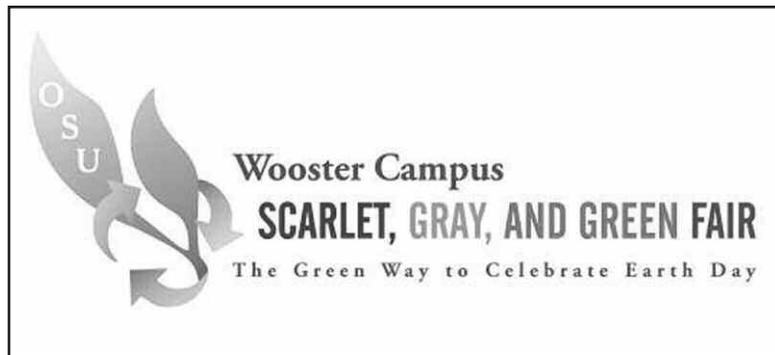
“We're also inviting businesses and organizations that are trying to be greener in their own operations to be exhibitors and to share with their own employees as well as the community attendees information about these practices,”

said steering committee co-chair Allen Zimmerman, a professor of engineering technology and technical physics with ATI.

Featured, among other things, will be the

all-electric ZENN car, the benefits of bicycling, biodiesel and how it works, planting a rain garden, building a rain barrel, recycling yard waste, organic fertilizer and pest-control methods, enviroscaping, the benefits of trees, how to turn trash into attractive handicrafts, estimating one's carbon footprint, a green-campus design competition for grades nine through 12, and an environmental stewardship essay competition open to all, a “KILOWATT OURS” energy challenge, and Earth Day poster, display skit, poem and video competitions.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is a proud sponsor of the event and is looking forward to participating in this educational event. We hope to see you there!



The importance of energy efficiency

By JENNIFER TAYLOR

Not since the energy crises of the 1970s and early 1980s have efficiency and conservation received so much attention. In today's technology-driven world, everything relies on electricity — computers, plasma televisions, DVR systems, cell phone chargers, laptops, video games. Consumers' demand for electricity continues to increase while the supply of electricity is becoming more and more scarce.

According to a February article in *The Washington Post*, utility and government officials warned that the metropolitan area surrounding our nation's capital must come to grip with a simple fact: "In a little more than three years, lights could flicker off in rolling blackouts." For its part, the Maryland Public Service Commission found that the Free State might face such outages as early as 2011 or 2012.

And it's not just large cities dealing with power supply concerns. It's a nationwide challenge that includes California, the Rocky Mountain states, New England, Texas, the Southwest and Midwest.

The Electric Power Research Institute, (EPRI), a nonprofit, utility-sponsored organization whose members include electric Cooperatives, sees energy efficiency as the most cost-effective, near-term option for managing electricity use, which helps reduce the need to build new power plants, and lowering emissions of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, blamed for contributing to climate change.

Electric Cooperatives are recognized industry leaders in promoting energy efficiency to help consumer-members reduce electricity consumption and save money. Virtually all electric Co-ops provide energy efficiency education to their members, while more than 40 percent offer services such as high-efficiency lighting systems, geothermal and air-source heat pumps, energy audits, insulation and Energy Star appliances.

In addition, electric Co-ops are tops in reducing power consumption — and keeping the lid on wholesale generation costs — by controlling when electricity gets used. Spearheading this effort are programs known by various names — load management, demand-side response or peak load shifting/shaving.

"Load management essentially works like a 'power plant in reverse.' In fact, local electric Co-ops working with their wholesale power suppliers shaved demand last year by 2,200 MW (comparable to a commercial nuclear power plant,) saving \$50 million in fuel costs and offsetting

more than 2,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

Co-ops also are taking advantage of recent technology advancements to increase system efficiency too: 72 percent are upgrading power lines, 56 percent are replacing older transformers, 50 percent use advanced technology to control voltage fluctuations and 40 percent have deployed advanced metering devices.

But the biggest bang from energy efficiency involves easing pressure on constructing new power plants. Based on EPRI's framework for reducing carbon dioxide emissions, the overall impact of energy efficiency measures — even simple ones like replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights — directly reduces the amount of power needed and defers the need to build as much new generation.

"Energy efficiency measures can help electric Co-ops head off the need for new generation and curb greenhouse gas emissions," observes John Holt, NRECA senior principal for generation and fuel.

Since the early 1970s, U.S. energy consumption has climbed more than 30 percent, but thanks to efficiency measures taken and technological advancements made during that period, the nation now uses half as much energy per dollar of economic activity.

"To run today's economy without the energy efficiency improvements that have taken place since 1973, we would need 43 percent more energy supplies than we currently use — more energy than we currently generate from any single fuel source like nuclear, gas, coal or renewables," explains Jim Kerr, president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and a member of the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

"Energy efficiency remains key to how electric Co-ops will keep electricity affordable in the face of rising energy prices," concludes NRECA CEO Glenn English. "Whether it's fostering the construction of more energy-efficient buildings, promoting the development and use of more energy-efficient appliances, or accelerating the development and use of advanced electric infrastructure, Co-ops will put their energy and business knowledge to work in developing innovative member programs that help get the most out of every kilowatt."

Source: The Washington Post, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Electric Power Research Institute, and National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners