

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Small changes add up to big savings



President's Report
Glenn Miller

Sometimes the little things in life mean a lot. Simple steps such as turning off lights when you leave a room, unplugging appliances when you're not using them and raising the temperature on your thermostat a bit as our weather warms up, when done together, can help your family rack up big energy savings.

At Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, we're always looking for ways to help you, our members. With energy costs rising due to a growing residential demand for electricity, higher power plant costs and federally mandated regulations that directly impact HWEC costs by \$3.75 million per year, energy efficiency remains a key part of our efforts to keep rates affordable. Best of all, energy efficiency—simply making the electricity you use do more—saves you money.

Because we're part of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives network, you have access to a valuable resource that not only identifies simple energy-saving tasks but also illustrates the real-dollar savings they produce, specific to your home. TogetherWeSave.com uses real savings calculations—based on our co-op's rates and climate zone—to motivate and inspire small changes in behavior.

Intrigued? Check it out on the home page of our Web site at www.hwecoop.com. You'll be asked for your ZIP code; this helps us provide accurate electricity rates for your home.

The Virtual Home Tour provides a good starting point. As you move through each of the six rooms, clicking on areas highlighted in yellow prompts you to take various interactive energy-saving measures and shows how these changes translate into savings on your electric bill.

A visit to the attic, for example, recommends adding insulation. Slide the arrow up the scale to add extra inches of insulation and watch the exciting end result. Adding nine inches saves up to \$143 a year. Add 15 inches, and that figure jumps to \$241.

Now head downstairs to the living room. Most folks enjoy watching television and playing Wii or Xbox games, but you don't need these gadgets on 24 hours a day. By unplugging entertainment center devices when they're not in use, you could save up to \$174 every year. Seems simple enough—and every small step adds up to big savings. In fact, just lowering your thermostat one degree in winter could save \$82.

The Web site uses calculations targeted for our co-op's kWh electric rate and geographic location. In short, it gives you an accurate reflection of what your potential savings could be if you implement suggested steps.

Want more in-depth information on energy efficiency? Our Web site also includes a library of short videos on various topics.

Finding ways to help you save energy dollars during tough times is important to us. Valuable tools like our Web site are just one more way we at Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative are looking out for you. Want to learn about other ways to make your home more energy efficient or schedule a home energy audit? Call our energy advisor, Kenny DePriest.

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Business hours 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

www.hwecoop.com

24 Hour Toll-free Phone:

866-674-1055 or 888-264-2694

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®





Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements

Save \$10

Holmes-Wayne is a “self-read” meter reading system. We do not employ meter readers to reduce operating costs. Each member is responsible for reading his/her meter and reporting monthly readings. You can submit a meter reading at our Web site, www.hwecoop.com, or via phone. Both services are available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

If you do not send a reading for two (2) consecutive months, we will read the meter and add a \$10 charge to your account. Also, for those months that you do not read your meter and the cooperative does not send personnel out to read the meter, the computer billing software will estimate your consumption, which could be too high or too low, creating bills that are not true to your average consumption and your expected personal budget.

Additionally, we encourage members to read their meters on or about the same day each month to avoid longer or shorter time periods, which will create significantly higher or lower bills based on your consumption period. The average HWEC residential member consumes 48 kWh a day. If you read your meter 10 days later than you had the previous month, that will impact your bill by approximately \$44 based on average residential consumption. Also, keep in mind that if your consumption is significantly higher in the winter and summer months for heating and cooling, this could have an even more dramatic impact on your bill.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Darin Stefano for completing his four-year apprenticeship training program through both Marion Technical College and the Merchant Training program. This program also requires eight thousand hours of specific on-the-job training. Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is proud to recognize Darin’s Class A Lineman accomplishment.



Thank you for changing lives in our community

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is starting its

5th year of the Operation Round Up Foundation.

This program allows members of the cooperative to have their bill rounded up to the next even dollar. The change that is donated by members each month is placed into a foundation. The foundation receives requests for assistance from individuals, families and community organizations. Funding might be used to provide shelter and clothing to a family devastated by a fire, or it might go toward helping defray the medical costs of a

neighbor with a catastrophic illness. Funds could also go to help the fire department obtain critical lifesaving equipment, or to rescue organizations, food banks, educational projects, child care programs and many, many others.

All funds distributed remain within the community.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative Operation Round Up Foundation has donated more than

\$150,000 back into our community!!!



What is the monthly consumer charge on my bill?

The cooperative has invested in the infrastructure associated with the distribution of electricity to our member/owners. Such infrastructure investments include substations, poles, lines, transformers and metering equipment necessary to provide electrical service. These costs are incurred regardless of how much electricity each member consumes; therefore, Holmes-Wayne must recover a portion of such fixed costs independently of any consumption-based charges. The monthly consumer charge helps to cover such costs.

Holmes-Wayne Electric's current charge is \$15.50 per month. "The nine-member board of trustees and HWEC staff work diligently on behalf of our members to control both fixed cost and electric rates. With each decision made at Holmes-Wayne Electric, consideration is given to the direct impact to our members," said Casey Wagner, HWEC accounting manager. "The average monthly charge among the Ohio rural cooperatives is \$21. At this time, we are significantly lower compared to other rural electric cooperatives in the state."

With more than 2,200 miles of line and approximately 45,000 poles, maintaining infrastructure comes with a large price tag for the cooperative. Just one mile of single-phase infrastructure costs \$40,000 to build today. HWEC manages the quality of our infrastructure and reliability of our service to members by inspecting equipment on a regular basis. Those components not meeting industry specific standards are replaced. General maintenance due to accidents and storms will require infrastructure replacement and are expenses covered by both the monthly consumer charge and the kWh rate revenue.

Wagner also stated, "Our revenue is produced by two billing components: the monthly consumer charge and kWh charge, which is based on the amount of energy consumed by the member. Combined, those two components are utilized by the cooperative to cover the cost of purchasing the electricity from our generation supplier, to pay transmission of that energy to our substations and to fund the business operations of HWEC as an electric distribution utility."



**3rd Annual
Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair**
Ohio State University, Wooster Campus
Tuesday, April 20th
11:30 a.m.–7 p.m.
OARDC Campus

Join us at the third annual OSU Wooster Campus Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair on April 20 and see what it means to say, "Green is for Life!"

There again will be exhibits featuring sustainable products, services and techniques that you can use to help green your life, home and community. A special feature this year will be a Recycling Station. Organizers are planning a creative and educational center to help you to think beyond curbside pickup, recycling bins and hazardous waste collection. You will be inspired to bring reducing, reusing and recycling into your everyday life and your community.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is a proud sponsor of the fair again this year and is looking forward to participating in this educational event. We again will have displays on green energy, energy-efficient light bulbs, electric safety, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and—new this year—an energy efficiency wall. We hope to see you there! Admission is free and open to all. Further detailed information is available at www.wcsen.org/WCSGGF.

Helping you manage your bill

Do you ever ask the question, "How do I consume so much electricity?" We can help you answer that question.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is offering free rental of Kill A Watt™ electric consumption monitors. The Kill A Watt electric monitor will measure your home energy use. You can plug in any 120-volt appliance and it will monitor the consumption of kilowatt-hours



(kWh). These monitors can help consumers reduce energy costs by identifying energy-wasting appliances as well as consumption habits that you may want to change to reduce your electric bill.

Kill A Watt electric monitors are available at both our Millersburg and West Salem locations and are available for a one-month free rental. If interested, please contact the office toll-free at 866-674-1055.

Reminder

In order for HWEC to provide account information to an individual, the individual contacting the office must have their name on the account. If you are a spouse or family member who may pay the account or request information on the account, please make sure that your name has been added to the account.

Also, if you rent from a landowner whose electric account is in the landowner's name, please contact the cooperative toll-free at 866-674-1055 to receive a renter's agreement to have your name added to the account to receive information. Additional contact and renter forms are also located on our Web site at www.hwecoop.com.

Spring Farm Safety

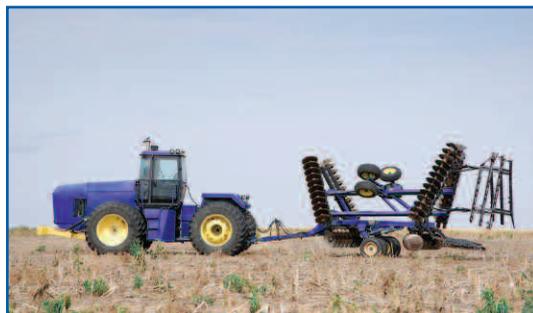
by CHRIS GRAMMES

Those who live on a farm know that not only is it hard work, but it can be dangerous, too. Each year, farmers are electrocuted when large farm machinery comes into contact with overhead power lines.

Often, the situation occurs because a newer, bigger piece of equipment no longer clears a line the way a smaller one did. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year to year.

The following tips will help keep everyone on a farm safe:

Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles.



Make sure you have ample clearance when moving large machinery such as planters, combines, grain augers, pickers, bailers and front-end loaders.

Do this every year, as equipment sizes or soil conditions may change.

Store large equipment properly if near or under power lines.

When planning new construction, factor in existing power lines.

Be extra careful when working around trees

and brush; they often make it difficult to see power lines.

Train all farm workers to keep an eye out for overhead power lines.

Source: Safe Electricity, www.safeelectricity