

# Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## Note of appreciation



President's Report  
Glenn Miller

As we are amid the holiday season, many of us take this busy time to look back on the past year and to express our appreciation. On behalf of the board and staff of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative for joining the Co-op Owners for Political Action® program (COPA).

As I write this article in early November, we have more than 200 members who have joined this political action program to help support your rural electric cooperative. You have made a positive statement by joining COPA and joining more than

34,000 individuals nationwide who have pledged to support the unique principles of electric cooperatives. Your actions tell your state and federal elected officials that you are committed to promoting policies that will secure the future of our electric cooperative and our community.

Now, more than ever, that's important because we need to work together to keep your electric bills affordable. Congress did not pass a comprehensive climate bill last year; however, in January, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began regulating greenhouse gases — an action made possible by a 2007 Supreme Court decision, followed by rulings allowing the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions. Policies dealing with coal ash, even more stringent controls on other power plant emissions and state renewable energy requirements could also lead to higher costs. It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems cer-

tain: government regulations are going to increase the cost of doing business.

New regulations won't be the only culprit. Prices for fuel, materials, and equipment will continue to rise. Although the recent economic slump and corresponding drop in electricity use provided some much-needed breathing room, near future we will need to build new power plants, requiring a significant, long-term investment of time and money.

We're committed to keeping you informed about policy changes that will impact your electric bill through channels like this publication, our website and bill stuffers. We're going to do everything we can to keep your electric bills affordable.

We are a member-owned cooperative. Member-owned means we are accountable to those we serve, and are dedicated to assisting our communities — your money stays at work close to home. Costs are rising for all of us, but when it comes to your electric bill our rates are set simply to cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders.

In fact, as a not-for-profit organization, we give money back to you when our revenues exceed costs. I'm proud to report that in 2010, we returned more than \$1,020,000 to our members in the form of capital credits.

The bottom line? We exist only to serve you and meet your needs for safe, reliable and affordable power.

As you can see, we're different. We're working together to keep your electric bills affordable. And we're continuing to put you, our members, first. No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain. We're Looking Out for You.

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[www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com)

24 Hour Toll-free Phone:

866-674-1055 or 888-264-2694

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The power of human connections®



# SURPRISED when you open your electric bill?



Have you ever opened your electric bill and were surprised by the amount of electricity you consumed? Well, there are a few simple ways to avoid a surprise when opening your next electric bill. Try some of these simple tips to make managing your electric bill easier.

**1.** Read your meter every month on the same date. The electric bill you receive from Holmes-Wayne Electric is processed monthly based on the reading you provide. If you read your meter at sporadic times of the month you will have bills that are based on longer time periods therefore leading to higher consumption periods which translates to a higher electric bill. Your bill is primarily based on your electric consumption. The charts on the following page compare reading your meter on regular basis to inconsistent readings.

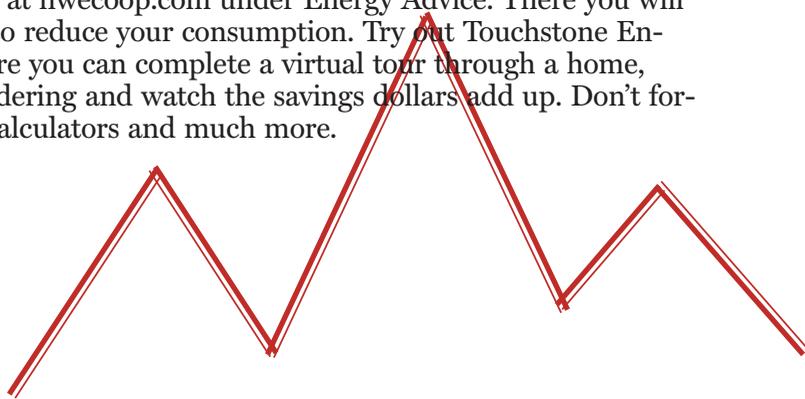
**2.** Enroll in budget billing. Budget billing allows you to know exactly what your electric bill will be every month. If you enroll in the program, HWEC averages your last 12 months of consumption. The average is your monthly bill. Every six months, in December and June, we recalculate your average based on most-recent consumption. When working with tight home finances, this is a great way to control dramatic changes in your electric bill. At all times, your bill will show your actual consumption and compare to your average budget.

**Read your meter every month or enroll in our budget billing program to avoid extreme bills.**

**3.** Reduce your consumption, reduce your bill. Take advantage of Holmes-Wayne Electric's many avenues for reducing your electric bill by reducing your consumption.

You can schedule a home energy audit with Energy Advisor Kenny DePriest. The audit includes a blower door test, infrared camera and walk-through inspection with full audit report for your records.

You also can visit our website at [hwecoop.com](http://hwecoop.com) under Energy Advice. There you will find 101 no-cost/low-cost ways to reduce your consumption. Try out Touchstone Energy's Togetherwesave link, where you can complete a virtual tour through a home, apply the changes you are considering and watch the savings dollars add up. Don't forget our lighting and appliance calculators and much more.



## See the difference...

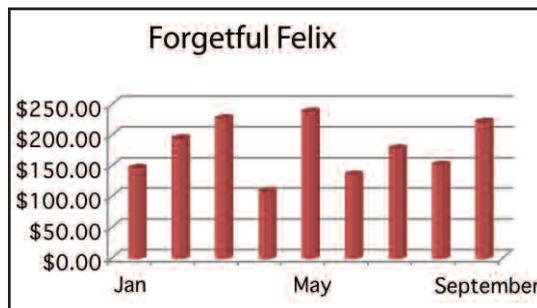
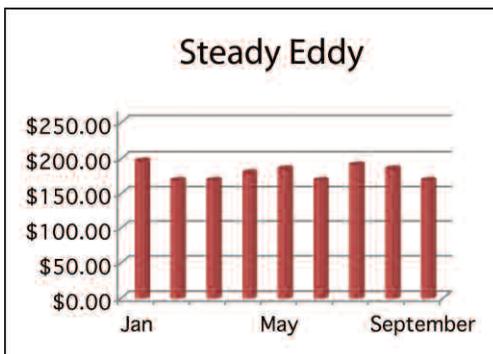
By comparing two members with the exact same daily consumption you will notice member A, Steady Eddy, reads his meter approximately the same time every month and has no surprises when opening his electric bill. Member B, Forgetful Felix, often forgets to read his meter on a regular basis and therefore has bills that vary dramatically.



*\* Please note that the daily average for both of these accounts is 55 kWh. Just by reading the meter at different dates and not changing your consumption creates these changes in your bill.*

*\* As your consumption increases during heating and cooling months,*

*not reading your meter on a consistent basis will create even more dramatic fluctuations of your electric*



## Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements...

### Budget Basics Class



A free class on managing your personal household finances will be available at the Gault Liberty Center (second floor - large meeting room) in Wooster on Wednesday, Dec. 8 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Gault Learning Center is located at 104 Spink Street; Wooster.

### Tax Credit Deadline December 31st

You have until Dec. 31 to take advantage of the federal energy efficiency tax credit. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for more information.

### Christmas and New Year Holidays

A friendly reminder, HWEC offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 23 and 24, and Friday, Dec. 31, to celebrate the Christmas and the New Year holidays with our families. As always, our after-hours call center is available for outage reporting, payment and meter reading processing. You can call toll-free at 866-674-1055. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the board of trustees and staff at Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative.

# High School Seniors

*Are your parents members  
of an electric cooperative?*

You could win a college, vocational or  
technical school scholarship of:

**\$5,310\***

Contact your electric  
cooperative for details on  
how you can enter

Second place: ...\$4,465

Third place:.....\$4,185

Fourth place:.....\$4,070

Fifth place:.....\$3,960

Sixth place:.....\$3,845

Seventh place: ..\$3,725

\* Seven scholarships for both  
the boys and girls division will be  
awarded through statewide and  
amounts include local Holmes-  
Wayne 1st place awards

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1. Applicants must be a son, daughter or legal ward of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative member living on the lines and receiving service at the time of the statewide competition.
  2. All applications must be submitted (typed) on forms obtainable on request from your local high school guidance office or at our website [hwecoop.com](http://hwecoop.com).
  3. All applications must be post marked or submitted to the office of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative by **February 11**.
  4. Applicants must have all basic credits for college or proper\*\* vocational or technical school entrance. They must have a current career average of "B+" (3.5 on a 4-point scale) or better and must be accepted, then enrolled (when they receive the award), in the accredited college or proper\*\* vocational or technical school of their choice.
  5. Any applicant who has received a full-tuition scholarship to the school of their choice is not eligible for a scholarship from OREC.
  6. All scholarships must be accepted in the first academic year after proof of enrollment is received by OREC.
  7. Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative local 1st place winners in both boys and girls division will be eligible to participate in the statewide competition.
  8. Local winners will include both girls and boys division of \$2,500 first place, \$2,000 second place and \$1,500 third place

**For information contact:  
Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative  
Toll-free 866-674-1055**

\*\*Proper vocational or technical schools must educate beyond high school and credits earned must be transferable to a state-accredited college.