

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Protecting our members from over-regulation



Glenn W. Miller
President/CEO

NORMALLY THIS TIME OF YEAR, I would be greeting you with holiday wishes and sharing with you a summary of the past year's accomplishments by your electric cooperative. But by now, you've probably heard of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) much-heralded "Clean Power Plan." What you might not have heard is how much it will increase electricity prices while offering virtually no affect

on the environment. So naturally we want to protect our consumer-members from hikes in their monthly bills.

Electric cooperatives like Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc., oppose the Clean Power Plan because it defies common sense, plain and simple. As a not-for-profit consumer-owned electric cooperative, we have an obligation to provide our member-owners with affordable, reliable, environmentally responsible electricity at cost.

This heavy-handed regulation calls for a massive ramp-up of renewable energy, regardless of price. Renewable energy has proven to produce power at higher costs and is intermittent, meaning power sources like wind and solar require a reliable backup source, such as coal or natural gas. As a member of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, your wholesale power supplier is Buckeye Power. If utilities like Buckeye Power are required to arbitrarily replace coal with natural gas and renewable energy, consumers will be left with huge stranded costs for power plants that still have many years of useful life.

We want clean air and water as much as anyone. But we must balance environmental stewardship with reliability and affordability, and there's no hint of balance in the EPA's proposal. Even the EPA, using its own calculations, admits these stringent new regulations will do little to reduce overall global carbon dioxide emissions.

The bottom line is, the EPA is asking for all pain and no gain from American citizens.

To this end, Ohio's electric cooperatives, along with 36 other wholesale power suppliers, Ohio EPA and 25 other state EPA offices, are suing the U.S. EPA through the Federal D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals for a stay of the implementation of the EPA's so-called Clean Power Plan while the courts determine whether this regulation is even legal. President Obama has requested the court to rule by Dec. 23.

Please join your electric cooperative in telling the White House to reconsider the Clean Power Plan and bring forth a plan that considers the affordability and reliability of power generation along with environmental responsibility. Visit www.Action.coop to learn more.

Why do electric co-ops oppose the EPA's "Clean Power Plan"?

- As a not-for-profit utility, HWEC must balance environmental stewardship with affordability and reliability because we operate at-cost.
- Despite EPA's claims of the opposite, many trade groups and utilities have found the Clean Power Plan will dramatically increase electricity costs.
- Emissions of all types from power plants have been dramatically reduced over the past 10 years because utilities have invested in environmental controls on coal-fired power plants.
- HWEC's power plant has been outfitted with more than \$1 billion in environmental controls over the past 12 years. It is now one of the cleanest plants of its kind in the entire world.
- Even Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler said the federal regulation will mandate a "significant expansion of renewable generation across the country, regardless of practicality or cost."
- Visit www.Action.coop to learn how you can voice your concerns about expensive, unreliable electricity.

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www.hwecoop.com



[Facebook.com/holmeswayneelectriccoop](https://www.facebook.com/holmeswayneelectriccoop)

330-674-1055 (local) • 866-674-1055 (toll-free)
You can call 24 hours a day to report outages, submit meter readings and make payments.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®





Happy holidays!

The HWEC offices will be closed **Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24-25**, to celebrate Christmas with our families. We will also be closed **Friday, Jan. 1**, for the New Year holiday. As always, you can contact us toll free at 866-674-1055 or use our online portal or mobile app SmartHub to report outages, make a payment or submit a meter reading during these days.

Stealing electricity and meter tampering are **CRIMES**

Since August 1978, a revised Ohio law has been in effect covering theft of utility service and tampering with utility equipment. The statute provides that a person does not have to be seen tampering with a meter to be held responsible for such action. Prior to the revision in the law, it was difficult to prosecute a person for meter tampering unless the action was witnessed.

In addition, in prosecution for a user's reconnecting a device that was disconnected by a utility, such activity is now considered prima facie evidence that the user intended to defraud the utility.

The law defines theft of a utility service as a first-degree misdemeanor if the value of the stolen electricity, plus any utility equipment repair, is under \$150. It's a fourth-degree felony if the value is more than \$150 or if the offender was previously convicted of the charge. Tampering convictions carry similar penalties.

Tampering is defined as "to interfere with, damage or bypass a utility meter, conduit or attachment with intent to impede the correct registration of a meter or the proper function of a conduit or attachments." Conviction can bring from six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine to five years in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

Meter tampering costs all of us. It costs the cooperative, and it costs you. And it's downright

dangerous. If you witness someone tampering with their electric meter, contact your cooperative office. Stealing electricity is a crime, and anyone caught violating the law will be prosecuted. Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is required by law to provide this notice to its members annually.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, by fax at 202-690-7442 or by e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.

High School **Seniors**

Are your parents members of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative?

**You could win a college,
vocational or technical
school scholarship up to:**

\$5,900

HWEC Local Scholarship

First Place - \$2,500

Second Place - \$2,000

Third Place - \$1,500

Statewide Scholarship

First Place - \$3,400

Second Place - \$2,400

Third Place - \$1,900

Fourth Place - \$1,800

Fifth Place - \$1,700

Sixth Place - \$1,600

Seventh Place - \$1,500

Eighth Place - \$1,400

Ninth Place - \$1,300

- Available in both boys' and girls' divisions
- First-place Holmes-Wayne Electric scholarship: **\$2,500**
- First-place statewide scholarship from Ohio's Electric Cooperatives: **\$3,400**
- Applications due **Friday, Jan. 29**, to the HWEC office in Millersburg
- All applications must be submitted in a typed format

1. Applicant must be the child or legal ward of an Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative permanent residential member receiving service for the duration of the 2015-2016 academic year (August 2015-June 2016).
2. Application must be received or post marked no later than Friday, Jan. 29, 2016.
3. Applicants must be graduating seniors who have all basic credits for college or proper vocational or technical school entrance. (A "proper vocational or technical school" is defined as a post-secondary institution where credits can be transferred to an accredited four-year college.)
4. Applicants must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.6 or above on a 4.0 scale or an equivalent standing on a nontraditional scale.
5. Winners, in order to receive an award, must be accepted and then enrolled in an accredited college or proper vocational or technical school of the student's choice. Winners who are accepted and then enrolled in an accredited school of nursing, working toward a degree, are also eligible.
6. Applicants who have received "full-ride" scholarships (i.e., scholarships that cover the cost of tuition, room, board and books) to the schools of their choice are not eligible for scholarships from (co-op name) or statewide scholarships from Ohio's Electric Cooperatives. Applicants who win scholarships and subsequently receive a full-ride scholarship following the scholarship competition must contact HWEC and Ohio's Electric Cooperatives immediately to forfeit the scholarships.
7. The finalists in the HWEC scholarship competition will be interviewed by local judges in late February.
8. The two first-place winners will be eligible to earn up to \$3,400 in additional scholarship money from Ohio's Electric Cooperatives. They will travel to Columbus on April 14, 2016, for the statewide scholarship competition.

To get an application:

- Find it online at www.hwecoop.com
- Stop by the HWEC Millersburg office
- Pick one up from your high school guidance

OHIO'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 



HWEC Gift Cards

The holidays are quickly approaching, and if you're having trouble finding the perfect gift for family and friends, consider the gift of electricity.

A gift certificate for the purchase of electricity to a Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative member might just be the ideal present for your parents, grandparents, children or someone in need. It's not just for holidays or birthdays, though — you can also help someone going through a tough time.

If you're looking for a useful present for someone you know who is a member of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, clip the form below, fill it out and mail with your check to Holmes-Wayne Electric. You can also call the office and pay over the phone via check, credit or debit card. Holmes-Wayne Electric will send the gift certificate card to the recipient.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Gift Card Form

You may submit this form with a check to HWEC or contact the office toll free at 866-674-1055 and pay by phone via check, debit or credit card.

Payee Name: _____

Payee Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

Payee Phone Number: _____

Gift Amount: \$ _____

Signature: _____

Gift Recipient Name: _____

Gift Recipient Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Holmes-Wayne will credit the gift recipient's electric account with the amount listed above. The gift recipient will receive a gift card receipt explaining the credit that has been placed on the account and the payee name.

Please make a payment via phone or submit form with check to:

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 112
Millersburg, OH 44654
866-674-1055 (toll free)