

# Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## Helping you manage your bill



**President's Report**  
Glenn Miller

What causes a higher electric bill is a question that is often asked by consumers following the cold months of winter or the hot days of summer. When your electric bill seems higher than normal, it's important to remember that your bill is a direct reflection of your consumption. During the last two years, Holmes-Wayne Electric has used this publication, your bill, energy fairs, annual meeting and our Web site to communicate ways to reduce your consumption to better manage your bill.

Below are some items to consider if your electric bill seems higher.

**Lifestyle**—are there additional people or extra hobbies or time you are spending at home, family visiting from out of town or a child home on break.

**Estimates**—if you miss submitting a meter reading one month, your bill is computer estimated. If the estimate is lower than your actual consumption, then your next bill will be high to cover the prior months consumption.

**Weather**—Additional heating or cooling load will cause a significant increase in your electric use. Heating and cooling average more than 50 percent of the total energy use for the normal household. Even if you heat with another resource other than electric, your furnace runs on electricity. If your furnace is running more your consumption of electricity will increase.

**Secondary heating source**—Many consumers will use portable electric heaters during the colder days of winter. Please be aware that one, 1,500-watt heater running 24 hours a day for a one-month period will add \$102 to your electric bill

**Appliances**—Appliances that are more than 15 years old have very poor efficiency. New appliances that have ENERGY STAR ratings consume less electricity. It is important to clean or replace the condenser coils or filter to other appliances regularly.

**Vampire power**—Some appliances consume electric even when off, like your television, DVD player, coffee maker, range/oven, alarm clocks. This can be up to 20 percent of your residential electric consumption. Unplug or turn off power strips when not using these items.

**Lighting**—Lighting is approximately 10 percent of an average residential electric bill. Compact fluorescent lights (CFL) are up to 75 percent more efficient. Replace a dozen of your 75-watt incandescent bulbs with the equivalent CFL and you can save more than \$110 per year assuming these 12 lights are on for an average of 5 hours a day.

We want to emphasize that as a member of the cooperative you can impact your own monthly bill in dramatic ways. Please take advantage of our energy advise section on our Web site [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com) or contact our energy advisor, Kenny DePriest. At Holmes-Wayne Electric, we are committed to continue to educate and offer resources to assist in managing your electric bill.

## Board of Trustees

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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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# Outage prevention

Our mission to our member/owners at Holmes-Wayne Electric is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy. Keeping trees and other vegetation a safe distance from the energized power lines is a critical part of reliability.

Holmes-Wayne invests hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to trim, spray or remove trees and vegetation which jeopardize the safety and reliability of the distribution service that provides electric to you. Allowing adequate clearance around the cooperative's distribution facilities reduces outages and blinks caused by tree and vegetation contact through storms, high winds and wildlife contact. It also saves the member money by reducing after-hours labor costs.

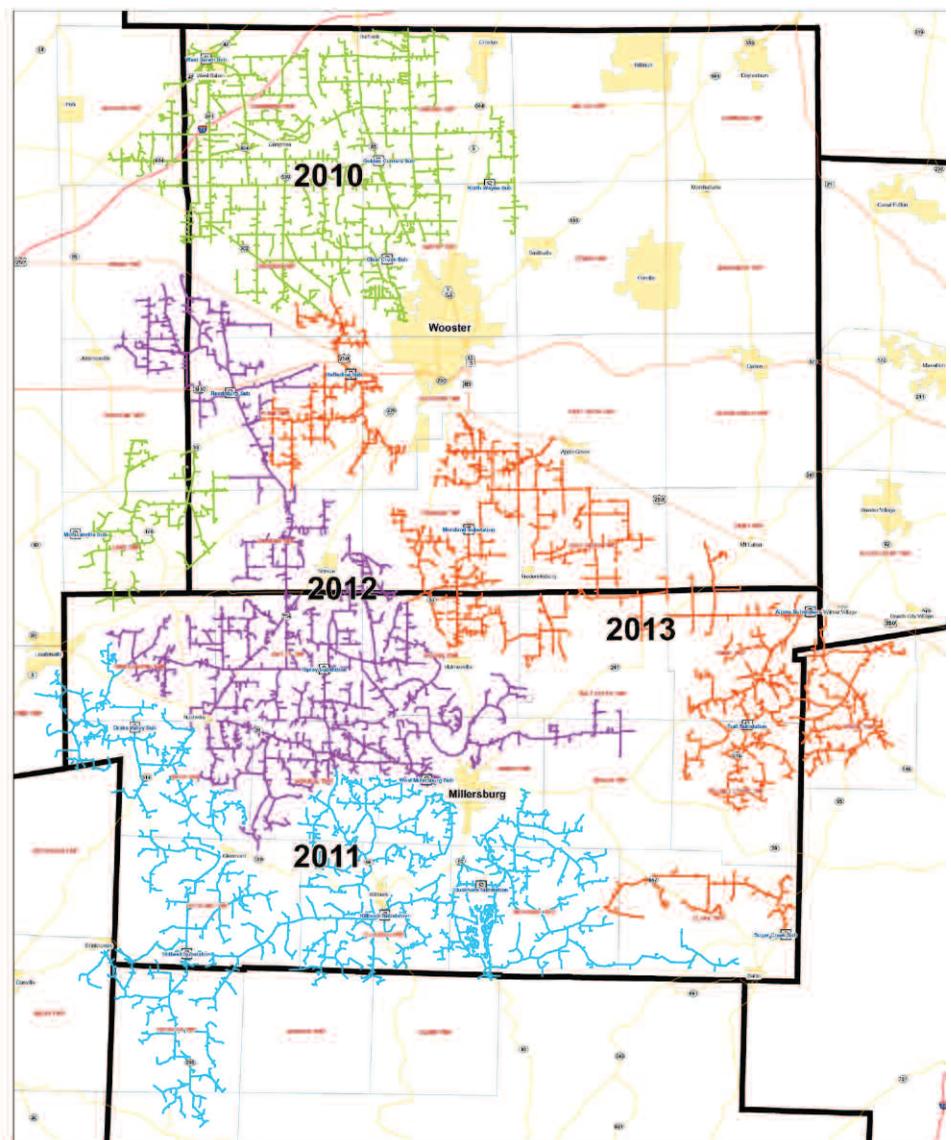
Holmes-Wayne has a four-year tree trimming cycle that allows for all substations' service territory to be evaluated and trimmed. Brent Schrock, a certified arborist utility specialist, manages HWEC tree trimming program. The cooperative utilizes independent contractors which annually bid on providing tree trimming and vegetation spraying services.

"It is essential that we maintain clear rights-of-way for Holmes-Wayne members to have the most reliable service possible," said Schrock. "I work on a daily basis with our contractors to continue to provide and maintain an elite standard of practice within the tree care program.

"Safe, reliable and affordable energy can be accomplished by all of us working together," Schrock emphasized.

If members have questions regarding tree trimming program, you are encouraged to contact Schrock at the office toll-free at 866-674-1055.

## HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC CO-OP TREE TRIMMING SCHEDULE



### Tree Trimming Schedule

- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013

 **Holmes-Wayne  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
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Miles  
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# GPS Project

Holmes-Wayne Electric has begun a three-year GPS (global positioning system) project that will inventory the entire 2,200 miles of Holmes-Wayne electric distribution system. A third party contracted company has been working with HWEC to tag, collect data and identify GPS location readings at each point of the system, including poles, transformers and meters.

“This is a major project that will benefit the members of the cooperative immensely,” said Nolan Hartzler, HWEC GIS Mapping Technician. “We currently are averaging 34 locations, or points, per our electric distribution mile. Multiply that figure by our entire system and we have a lot of equipment to manage. This not only allows us to better manage charges to other utilities, such as phone and cable companies, who may be utilizing our poles/equipment; but also allows us to visually see our entire infrastructure from a bird’s-eye view to provide more efficient storm management and restoration and safety of multiple crews working in close proximity.

“The majority of our day-to-day pole replacements are due to automobile or member contact. When we are contacted by the Highway Patrol or member of a broken pole, we can instantly use our GPS system to identify the specific pole, location and size of pole that needs to be replaced so the linemen can load the correct pole instantly and arrive at the scene with proper equipment, therefore shortening outage times.”

The following is a list of our three-year GPS project by substation service territory:

2009-2010 - Moreland, Alpine, Trail, Buckhorn and Killbuck..

2010-2011 - Sugarcreek, West Millersburg, Stillwell, Drake Valley and Ripley.

2011-2012 - Mohicanville, Reedsburg, Hefferline, Clear Creek, North Wayne, Golden Corners and West Salem.

## *Holmes-Wayne Electric announcements*

### **Quick and easy payment options**

Are you one of the 3,700 accounts at HWEC that is taking advantage of our convenient pay options?

**Go paperless!** You can sign up to receive your bills via e-mail. To enroll to receive your monthly electric bill via e-mail only and no longer receive a hard copy via postal mail, just register on-line at [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com) under view and pay your bill or call the office toll-free at 866-674-1055.

**Automatic payment.** Quit worrying about due dates and remembering to pay your bill. Your bill can be automatically paid through your choice of banking account. You can complete the automatic payment form located on our Web site [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com). It doesn't get any easier than this!

**Pay your bill on-line.** Save a stamp and pay your bill when you want to with this 24-hour option. You may pay your bill by check, debit or credit cards. (Visa/MasterCard)

**Save a stamp!** Give us a call and pay your bill over the phone. You can call any hour and day and we will take your check, debit or credit card (Visa/MasterCard) for payment.

### *Recycle your CFL*

The Ohio State University, Wooster Campus, will be hosting the Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair again on Tuesday, April 20. A special feature this year will be a recycling station. Items to recycle include energy-efficient **compact fluorescent lights (CFL)**, worn out sneakers, blue jeans, newsprint/magazines, aluminum cans, cell phones, printer ink cartridges, computers and computer accessories, nonlead/nontoxic useable paint, plastic grocery bags and rechargeable batteries. Also Medway DEA will be collecting prescription drugs. HWEC will again will have an informational booth. Further details of the event will be in April's *Country Living* magazine.

# **!Important!**

## **Medical Awareness Certification**

Is someone living in your home with a medical condition that requires electrical assistance? If so, you must notify Holmes-Wayne by completing the form below to be added or remain on our Medical Awareness list.

HWEC's Medical Awareness list is used to notify you of any planned outages for maintenance and repair as well as uncontrollable outages such as weather conditions or car accidents. During these "standard" outages, the member on the list is given first consideration when your specific line is being restored.

Holmes-Wayne makes every effort to keep power flowing to every member's home at all times. Because of factors beyond our control, it is always our recommendation that you create a backup plan in case of a power outage. This may be as simple as having a generator or another location to relocate to if such a case would occur.

***Medical Awareness Certification form must be completed on an annual basis.***



Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Medical Awareness Certification

**If you or someone in your home is dependent on medical equipment operated by electricity, please provide the following information.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Account number \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

**We request the attending physician please complete and certify the following information.**

Equipment in use \_\_\_\_\_  
Physician's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed form in your next bill or to : Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc  
Attn.: Medical Awareness List  
PO Box 112; Millersburg, Ohio 44654**

## **Nominating Committee report**

The 2010 meeting of the Nominating Committee, appointed by the Board of Trustees, was held at the Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative office in Millersburg, on Tuesday, Jan. 12. Eight of the nine districts were represented by the members listed below. A special thanks to the appointed members for their willingness to work on the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee selected 10 members in order of qualification for each of the three districts (districts 2, 8 & 9) for the 2010 trustee elections. The current chairman of the Board, Ron Schlegel, will contact the list of potential candidates.

Any member from districts 2, 8 & 9 may nominate a trustee candidate for the trustee election in writing by March 11, 2010. The candidate must live within the election district and all nominations must include 15 signatures of members in the election district.

All nominations will be posted at the cooperative office according to the Holmes-Wayne Electric Code of Regulations.

District 1 - Matt Schneider  
District 2 - Tom Brewer  
District 3 - William McKee  
District 4 - Wes Starker  
District 6 - Craig Garrett  
District 7 - Nate Johnson  
District 8 - Gene Varns  
District 9 - Dan Burkhart