

Holmes- Wayne

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Climate change on Capitol Hill

Every spring, members of rural electric Cooperatives across the nation gather at our nation's capital to discuss important issues impacting rural Cooperative members. This year more than 3,000 Cooperative leaders will meet in Washington, DC.

This year's conference is focused on the very important topic of climate change legislation. I and two Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative board members, Ronnie Schlegel and Larry Martin, have the honor of representing HWEC at this year's Legislative Conference.

President's Report

By
Glenn Miller



During our three-day visit, we will meet with our Ohio legislative representatives and have detailed discussions on the proposed Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act (Senate Bill 2191). This bill would implement a cap-and-trade mechanism to curb greenhouse gas emissions. The goal of this law is to immediately reduce covered emissions by as much as 12 percent by 2012 and 30 percent over the subsequent eight years. The difficulty for coal-fired power plant fleets — and the national economy — is the fact that no technology currently exist to scrub CO₂ from combustion flue gas. Based on historical lengths of time necessary to make transformational technological changes in the energy production arena, the goal of the next 10 to 15 years is not a practical target.

These are tough decisions that can drastically impact the U.S. economy as well as the Ohio economy, since both are fossil fuel-based economies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said in March 2008, the Lieberman-Warner bill could cost up to four percent of the country's gross domestic product, increase power prices by 44 percent and raise the price of carbon dioxide CO₂ allowances up to \$83/ton by 2030, even if carbon-capture technology is widely available.

Closer to home, a Penn State University study showed that, by 2015, if one-third of coal-based generation is displaced in Ohio, it will mean \$84 billion in lost economic output, \$27 billion less in personal income and the loss of 500,000 jobs.

As we have communicated to you the members during the past year, it will take a combination of emission reduction, renewable energy and energy efficiency to meet the challenges of the future. Renewable energy sources can help, but won't close the gap between needs of a growing

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Improve your air conditioner's efficiency

Air conditioners use a lot of electricity, consuming the most in a summertime heat wave. Without regular service to your air conditioner, its efficiency can fall by as much as half, especially when it works overtime in the summer heat. However, proper maintenance and repair on your air conditioner will save you money and can extend its life for roughly 15 years.

Air conditioners are complicated and require specialized tools to service them. It is best to hire an air-conditioning technician. An annual tune-up of your air conditioner averages approximately \$50 to \$100, but can reduce your cooling costs by 5 percent or more.

Here are some maintenance tips that should be performed by a professional:

- Inspect the ductwork for loose joints and other leaks. Air leaks waste energy and should be sealed with duct mastic, not duct tape.
- Check hose connections for leaks, and make sure the condensation tube is draining freely.
- Clean the blower so that it can move air more efficiently.
- Oil the motors, and check the belts for tightness and wear.
- Verify the airflow by measurement. Improper airflow can affect efficiency.
- Clean the indoor evaporator and outdoor condenser coil. If it doesn't have an access panel, have one installed.
- Check the refrigerant charge and adjust if needed. Remember that the law requires refrigerant to be recaptured when units are recharged.
- Straighten any bent fins on the condenser and evaporator coils.
- Inspect the electric terminals.
- Make sure to clean and tighten the connections.
- Inspect the thermostat to ensure that it provides a reliable reading.
- Install a programmable thermostat to adjust your home's temperature automatically. This thermostat increases the temperature setting while you're gone and then returns the home to a more comfortable setting before you return.



Source: North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives and NRECA



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

A well-designed landscape not only adds beauty to your home, but it also can reduce heating and cooling costs. On average, landscaping for energy efficiency provides enough energy savings to return an initial investment in less than eight years,

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

economy and a mandate to reduce emissions. Environment Ohio suggests that 20 percent, or 32 million megawatt-hours, of the state's electricity can come from wind turbines in Lake Erie. To meet this goal, 5,200 two-megawatt turbines operating at a 35 percent capacity would be needed. This would entirely fill up Ohio's ownership of Lake Erie with wind turbines.

We feel it is essential for members of Congress to understand the challenges we will be facing in the future. As a utility that serves the rural areas, we are seeing significant growth and demand. Electricity demand, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA), is expected to increase by 40 percent by 2020. We also understand and

appreciate the need to reduce emissions that are generated from our coal-fired power plant. Meeting future demand while limiting emissions is a challenge that requires utilities and legislation to work together to provide practical solutions that avoid serious economic implications.

Stressing the important factors for Holmes-Wayne Electric is vital to our future and our responsibility to you, the member-owner. Even though HWEC is composed of only 16,700 members, together with Cooperatives across the nation we become a team of more than 40 million consumers in 47 states. When we join our sister Cooperatives in speaking to our legislators we have a strong voice — a voice that can make a difference.

Are you tired of peaks in your bill?

Sign up now for budget billing. In extreme weather conditions, like winter and summer months, members often consume more electricity, and therefore will have higher bills. Budget billing allows you to manage your bill by averaging your annual consumption and avoid high-bill surprises. The average is based on the last 12 months of consumption. Once a quarter, HWEC will evaluate actual consumption to verify you are maintaining an average balance; therefore avoiding a large balance at the end of the 12-month period.

If interested, you must be a member of HWEC for 12 months and have a zero balance by June 1, 2008. Please contact the Cooperative for further questions or to enroll in the program.

The Power of Green

We all can make a difference by making small changes in our daily activity to keep our world a little more green. You now can eliminate receiving a paper version of your Holmes-Wayne Electric bill and receive it electronically. You can save yourself the endless piles of paper bills that gather on your desk at home or business by just logging on to your computer. You will receive your bill via the e-mail address you request.

You also can save time by paying your HWEC bill online as well. Bill payments can be done via check, debit or credit card. It's quick and easy. We even offer automatic electronic funds transfer from your checking, savings or credit card account. You can automatically have funds transferred from your applicable account on the 20th day of the month, or the first business day thereafter, for the amount of your electric bill. It is a simple, hassle-free way to pay your monthly electric bill.

You may register for any of the above services through our Web site www.hwecoop.com and use our E-Bill feature. If you have any questions regarding these green, time-saving programs, contact us toll-free at 866-674-1055.

Six school districts represent the 2008 HWEC scholarship winners



Iva Boyd



Daniel Shipman



Megan Anderson



Andrew Koch



Emily Krueger



Seth Hochstetler

Iva Boyd, West Holmes High School, and Daniel Shipman, Smithville High School, won first place — and \$1,000 scholarships — in their respective divisions in the 2008 Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative scholarship competition.

Boyd and Shipman were part of a group of 49 students representing 11 area high schools who competed this year.

Boyd is the daughter of Doug and Rose Ann Boyd, 11211 T.R. 54, Killbuck. She plans to pursue a degree in psychology at Marshall College.

Shipman is the son of Nathan and Cindy Glass, 7505 North Honeytown Road, Smithville. He will be attending Babson College, majoring in finance.

By taking first place at HWEC's local contest, Boyd and Shipman earned the right to represent Holmes-Wayne in a statewide scholarship competition in Columbus on May 12. Students representing electric Co-ops from around the state compete for prizes of up to \$2,500 in the Columbus event.

Other winners were:

Megan Anderson, second place, girls' division (\$750). Anderson is the daughter of Tim and Karen Anderson, 6890 Congress Road, West Salem. A senior at Triway High School, Megan will attend University of Evansville majoring in archaeology and history.

Andrew Koch, second place, boys' division (\$750). Koch is the son of Thomas and Teresa Koch, 3587 Evergreen Drive, Wooster. Koch is a senior at Wooster High School and will major in engineering.

Third-place winner in the girls' division (\$500) was **Emily Krueger**, a senior at Northwestern High School. She is the daughter of Phillip and Bonnie Krueger, 13770 Overton Road, West Salem.

Krueger plans to earn a degree in psychology at The Ohio State University.

Seth Hochstetler, a senior at Hiland High School, was the third-place winner (\$500) in the boys' division. He is the son of Randy and Michelle Hochstetler, 4947 T.R. 444, Walnut Creek. Hochstetler plans to major in pharmacy at Ohio Northern University.

Our best wishes go out to all the students who participated in this year's scholarship contest.