

Holmes- Wayne

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Now's the time to make your voice heard

Next month, the American people will take to the polls to choose the next President of the United States, members of Congress and, in many cases, state legislators and local officials. As electric cooperatives strive to meet our present and future energy needs, we are asking lawmakers of all stripes what they will do to ensure that consumers continue to enjoy safe, reliable and affordable electric power.

President's Report

By
Glenn Miller



Today, many policymakers and elected officials believe renewable energy, like wind, solar and biomass (tree trimmings, farm byproducts, animal waste and landfill gas), provide the solution to addressing climate change and establishing energy independence. But to keep the lights on and electric rates affordable, electric cooperatives will need to make use of all available generation resources, including renewables, nuclear power and fossil fuels like coal and natural gas that use the latest environmental technology.

Our nation's electric system, commonly referred to as the "grid," relies on a network of power plants, transmission lines and distribution facilities woven together in an intricate web to provide us with electricity. When a piece of this puzzle doesn't fit or goes missing, brownouts and blackouts can occur — as many folks in the Northeast remember from August 2003, or those in the West recall twice during the summer of 1996.

During the next 22 years, demand for electricity is predicted to increase 30 percent, and our country has used up the excess power capacity it once had available. That means we will need to build new power plants, all at a time when costs for construction materials such as steel, copper and concrete, and fossil fuels, like natural gas and coal, are skyrocketing. The challenges we face are immense.

As a result, electric cooperatives are urging lawmakers to invest in technology that will allow us to help all households become more energy efficient, fast-track plans for building new transmission lines — connecting rural regions where renewable electricity is generated to the population centers where it's consumed — cut through the red tape that prevents construction of new nuclear power plants (which emit only clean water vapor) and capture and permanently store carbon from coal-fired power plants (as a way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions blamed for contributing to global climate change).

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Want to reduce your energy bill?

Winter is just around the corner. Don't let your memory of the summer catch you off guard this winter. Now is the time to perform an energy audit at your home. You can identify possible ways to cut down on energy use and save yourself from paying an unnecessarily high utility bill.

Heat loss in homes and inefficient heat sources are causes for the majority of winter's high bills. And often the two problems are related. It simply is a matter of your home leaking warm air out and cold air in during the winter and reverse in the summer. When there are leaks, your heating and cooling system is going to work harder and longer. If your system is electric, that translates to a much higher electric bill. This is why Holmes-Wayne Electric encourages you to use energy conservation steps now to avoid the high bills this winter that pay for energy that really was wasted.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Energy Advisor Kenny DePriest is available to answer any questions you may have with testing your home's efficiency and ways to improve issues you may discover. "I can assist HWEC members as little and as much as they would like. Sometimes it is as simple as following a simple walk-through home audit (listed below) or I can come to the member's home and utilize tools such as our infrared camera and blower door to identify and recommend ways to improve their home energy efficiency," DePriest said.

Below is a list of simple steps you can follow to identify some potential problems. If you would like to participate in a home energy audit including the blower door and infrared camera test, please contact Kenny toll-free at 866-674-1005 for further information.

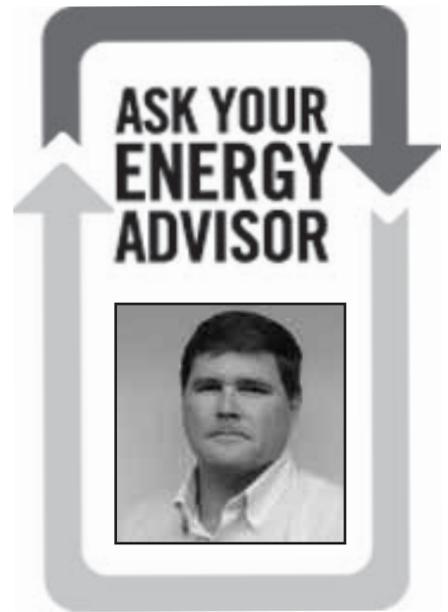
Step 1: Caulk — Look for small gaps around your windows and door frames. Caulk is cheap — only dollars per tube — but it can seal cracks and gaps to keep out the cold and keep in the heat. This also reduces drafts in your home.

Step 2: Cover — Storm windows and doors pay big dividends. If you want to do even better, consider a combination of thermal pane windows and storm windows. If upgrading your windows is not an option, then consider a much cheaper alternative. Place plastic sheeting over windows. Also use sweeps at the bottom of your doors and seals around the edges.

Step 3: Plug — Check around plumbing, wiring or other holes that have been cut in the walls, ceilings and roof of your home. Caulk, insulation or a foam seal-

er are useful to plug these holes; use the product that best fits the size of the hole. Tubs and shower stalls are common areas of problems.

Step 4: Insulate — Remember that insulation can save you money both in winter and summer. Take a quick peek in the attic; this quickly will reveal whether you have an adequate layer of insulation there. The R-value is important; R-20 is the recommended minimum for walls, while R-38 is recommended for ceilings and roofs. Make sure the openings to your crawl space are secured from pets that could damage the insulation or ductwork. Consider insulating your water heater (if you don't have a newer high-efficiency unit) as well as your pipes, especially if they are located in an unheated area such as a garage.



Step 5: Block — If you have a mobile home, be sure to have it underpinned. Without underpinning, the floor of the mobile homes is exposed to direct wind and cold temperatures. If possible, back the underpinning with insulation and overlap joints as tightly as possible, caulking the cracks.

Step 6: Lower — Reducing your thermostat setting can save money. Sixty-eight degrees F is a recommended setting. Be sure your thermostat is registering correctly. Never purchase or use a portable heater that doesn't have an automatic shut-off in case of a tipover. Be careful not to place heaters near flammable materials. Check your water heater setting; turning your thermostat down a few degrees might not be noticeable in the bath or shower, but it could reduce utility bills.

President's Report

These steps not only will strengthen our nation's electric infrastructure and head off an impending electric power crisis, but significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions. Even better, they will help ensure that any climate change goals ultimately adopted remain politically and economically sustainable over the decades necessary to make a difference.

Now's the time to make your voice heard. In addition to casting your vote on Nov. 4,

you also can help educate and inform lawmakers about these concerns. Electric cooperatives currently are engaged in a grassroots campaign called "Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America." Nearly 400,000 letters and e-mails already have been sent to Congress by your fellow consumers from all across the United States, each asking critical energy questions. To join the effort, visit www.ourenergy.coop.

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In partnership with the federal government, electric cooperatives met the greatest engineering challenge of the 20th century — spreading the benefits of electric power to the most remote corners of our nation. The time has come once again for Congress to step up to the plate and make certain we continue to enjoy the electric service we've come to expect at a price we can afford.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc., 6060 St. Rte. 83, Millersburg, OH 44654 is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance effort is the president/CEO of Holmes-Wayne Electric. Any individual, or specific class of individuals who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, DC 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

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 less than \$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 "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, Inc. is required by law to provide this notice to its members annually.

Wooden spools available

Holmes-Wayne Electric has several used wooden spools. We are giving the wooden spools to any member of the cooperative who is interested. This is on a first-call, first-served basis. If you are interested, please contact Karen at the cooperative at 866-674-1055. You must pick up the spools at our Millersburg location during business hours, Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.



Helping beyond our community

Four members of our HWEC staff, along with equipment, headed to Greenwell Springs, La. on Sept. 3 to assist a sister rural electric cooperative, Dixie Electric, with the recovery from Hurricane Gustav. Dixie Electric is the state's largest co-op with 100,000 meters and had its entire system out of service. By the time HWEC's linemen made the trip back to Ohio on Sept. 12, more than 95 percent of the cooperative's members had their power back on.

Even though the flooding was thankfully not at the level of Hurricane Katrina, the middle of the state, primarily rural territory, was hit with wind damage that was the strongest ever seen that far inland.

Holmes-Wayne Electric is committed to assisting our sister cooperatives in their time of need.

"We had 19 crews from five different states that came to HWEC in December 2004 and January 2005 to assist us during our ice storms. Although you never wish or hope for devastation on anyone, it is nice to be able to return the favor. Bringing power back to the cooperative members of Louisiana allows those people to begin recovering and get back to some form of normality," said Stacy Shaw, one of the HWEC staff to head to Louisiana. Also providing assistance were Jeff Young, Darin Stefano and Michael Maurer, all Class A Linemen for HWEC.

We will update you on their efforts in the coming month.



Meet an employee of our HWEC Team!!

Meet Class A Lineman Greg Lemon. Greg started at Holmes-Wayne in 2002 as an apprentice. Completing the apprentice program, Greg graduated as a Class A Lineman in 2007.

One of his favorite parts of his job is troubleshooting outages. He likes the challenge of walking into a situation and locating and discovering the problem, creating a solution and returning the power to the member.

"Greg has developed and grown in to a strong lineman over the years at the Cooperative. I also appreciate his positive attitude he brings to the job every day," said Ward Vaughn, lineman supervisor.

Born and raised in Holmes County, he is a Waynedale graduate. Greg and his wife, Heidi, live outside of Holmesville with their two children, Morgan and Gavin. He enjoys outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, farming and spending time with his family.

