

# Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.



*Protecting affordable, reliable electricity*

## New resolve for the New Year



*Glenn W. Miller  
President/CEO*

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS ARE as individual as the people choosing them. Losing weight, eating healthier and exercising are always popular choices. Some might vow to call their mothers once a week, volunteer for a cause they're passionate about, or read more books.

This year, my resolution is not new, but every new year gives me a fresh perspective and renewed vigor. This year, I resolve more firmly than ever to be an advocate on behalf of you, the members of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative.

Over the years, member advocacy has taken on different forms, but the common theme for not-for-profit electric cooperatives has always been "members first."

In the new year 2014, advocacy involves urging federal regulatory bodies — namely, the Environmental Protection Agency — to implement reasonable, common-sense solutions to curbing carbon dioxide emissions from our nation's power plants.

We at Holmes-Wayne Electric, your cooperative, believe in the need for clean air and water as much as anyone. But we have an obligation to provide you with electric service that is affordable and reliable as well as environmentally responsible. Proposed regulations put both of those ideals in jeopardy.

The EPA released rules in September that outlined a future in which it is extremely unlikely a

coal-fired power plant will ever be built again.

Considering that our country sits on more than 200 years' worth of coal, it seems short-sighted to completely exclude this fuel source — especially when new technology makes coal much cleaner to burn.

We do recognize that we need all sources of domestic energy for a strong economy. Natural gas has played a bigger role in generating electricity in recent years, but its cost can be more volatile. (A chart on page 21 illustrates price differences.) It may be low now, thanks to recent mild winters and an abundant supply, but history shows its volatility.

In June, the EPA is expected to release new regulations for existing coal-fired power plants, and the price tag associated with their continued operation is likely to be high. The electricity you get from Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is some of the cleanest generated from coal in the world, thanks to more than \$1 billion invested in upgrades and environmental controls by Buckeye Power, our cooperatively owned wholesale power supplier.

For all those reasons, I will be advocating for you this year. But you play an important part, now more than ever. Visit the Cooperative Action Network at [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop) today to learn more about the issue and send a comment to the EPA, urging that regulations be reasonable, measured and implemented with the consumer in mind.

From all of us at Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, we wish you a happy, healthy and safe New Year. ☺

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**Business hours 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

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

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**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®

# 2014 Holmes-Wayne Electric Scholarship

**Attention all high school seniors!  
Are your parents HWEC members?**

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

**\$5,700 \***

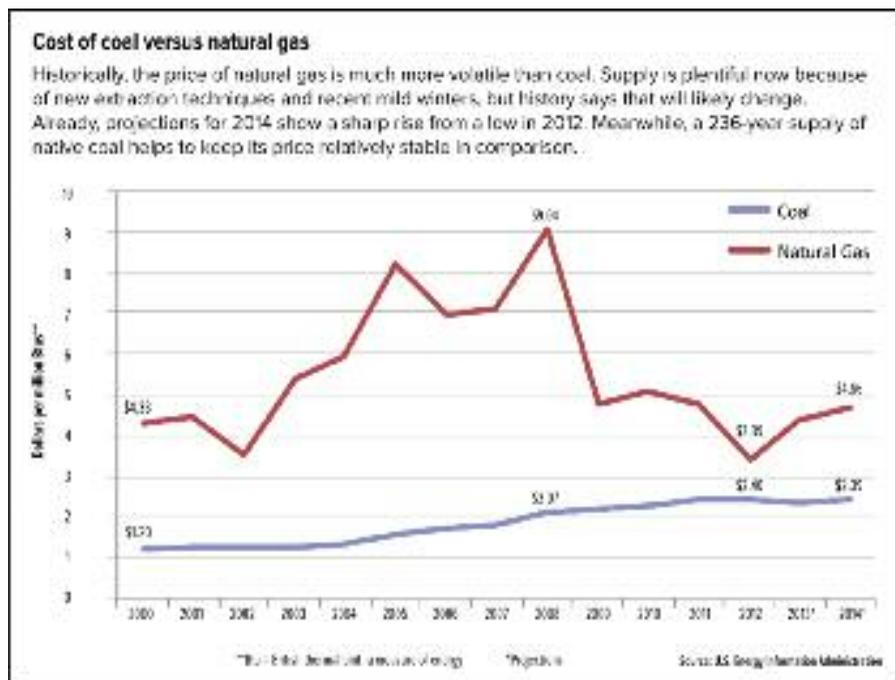
\*Nine scholarships for both the boys' and girls' divisions will be awarded through the statewide competition. Amounts listed include the local Holmes-Wayne Electric first-place award of \$2,500. Holmes-Wayne Electric will distribute three scholarships for both boys' and girls' divisions. (First is \$2,500, second is \$2,000 and third is \$1,500.)

Second place .....	\$4,700
Third place .....	\$4,300
Fourth place .....	\$4,200
Fifth place .....	\$4,100
Sixth place .....	\$4,000
Seventh place .....	\$3,900
Eighth place .....	\$3,800
Ninth place .....	\$3,700

1. Applicants must be a son, daughter or legal ward of a 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 at [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com).
3. All applications must be submitted to Holmes-Wayne Electric Millersburg office or postmarked by Friday, Jan. 31, 2014.
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+" (3.6 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 ride" (tuition, room, board and books) scholarship to the school of his/her 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. Winners from both the boys' and girls' divisions of the local Holmes-Wayne Electric competition will compete at the statewide competition.

Applications and guidelines are available at [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com), your local high school guidance office or the HWEC office.





## Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements



### *E-bill offers members 2013 summary*

If your business would like to retrieve its total 2013 electric expenses for tax purposes, it's as easy as a few clicks. Visit [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com), select "view and pay bill online" and then select "payments."

### *January adjustment to budget billing*

If you participate in the HWEC budget billing program, you will notice the mid-year recalculation change on your January bill. Your monthly payment will be adjusted based on your electric consumption over the last 12 months. This adjustment prevents you from accumulating a large credit or debit on your HWEC balance. As always, on the top left of your bill you can find your current balance based on actual consumption of electric.

### *Operation Round Up Thank-You*

HWEC received the following thank-you note from an Operation Round Up grant recipient:

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I just wanted to take a moment to personally thank you for your most generous donation of the processing fee for the ground whole hog sausage to our food pantry from the Wayne County Fair and Shreve Custom Meats. Your donation is more than a contribution; it is an outpouring of Christian love to those who are less fortunate. We appreciate how you see the need!

The timing of this gift was an answer to prayer, since we have seen a steady flow of families in need of food. Your gift will help us in so many ways to continue to minister to those in need in our area and to help spread hope. It is such a blessing to know how much our community cares. We are still continuing to help on the average of 300 to 350 families per month with food from our food pantry.

From everyone here at People to People Ministries, we appreciate your support and ask that you continue to support us with your prayers. May God continue to bless each and every one of you!

Sincerely,  
Lydia A. Stahl  
Executive Director

## Understanding energy

# Why does the power blink?

BY SCOTT TURNER, P.E.

AT ONE TIME OR another, we've all returned home or woken up late for work to see a blinking "12:00" on a digital clock. You then have to reset every digital clock in your household that doesn't have a battery backup, from the microwave to the answering machine. Usually, this state of "eternal midnight" was caused by a blink in the electrical system.

While blinks can be annoying, they show that an electrical system is working exactly as designed. And while Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc., has taken steps to reduce the number of blinks across its power system, there are measures you can take as well.

Let's look at blinks. These momentary power interruptions can occur anywhere along a power system, from the time electricity is generated at a power plant to when it flows across transmission lines to substations and along to your home.

### Why blinks?

Blinks are created when a breaker, or switch, opens along any portion of the power system. The breaker usually opens because of a large, quick rise of electrical current. This large rise, called a fault condition, can occur when a tree branch touches a line, lightning strikes or a wire breaks.

When this happens, a relay senses the fault and tells the breaker to open, preventing the flow of power to the problem site. After opening, the breaker quickly closes. The brief delay, which allows the fault to clear, usually lasts less than two seconds.

If the fault clears, every home or business that receives electricity off that power line has just experienced a blink. This could include thousands of accounts if the breaker protects a transmission line or a substation.

### Reducing the blink's effects

Holmes-Wayne Electric employs methods to reduce blink frequency. Tree trimming is probably

the easiest and most common way, and one area where you can help. Make sure your co-op knows of any trees or limbs located close to a power line. Call us toll-free at 866-674-1055 to tell us about potential problems.

Meanwhile, you can reduce the frustration of blinks by purchasing an alarm clock equipped with a battery backup. This type of digital clock offers "ride-through" ability for momentary outages. It will also keep the correct time and sound an alarm in case of a long outage, provided a charged battery is in place. As an added benefit, these devices only use the battery during a power interruption.



Blinks affect all electrical equipment, not just clocks. If there's a blink while you're using a computer, it may crash and you will have to reboot. An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) on your computer can help prevent information loss. The UPS incorporates surge

suppression technology with a battery backup and provides you some time to save whatever you were working on and exit your computer properly.

### The future of blinks

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative operates an active system maintenance program and works hard to identify and fix sources of service interruptions. Even though blinks will never disappear from our electrical energy delivery system, by working together, we can minimize the effects and frequency. ☺

*Scott Turner, P.E., is a former electric co-op employee and electrical engineering consultant at his firm JD Engineering, PC, in Hamilton, Mont. ([www.jdeng.org](http://www.jdeng.org)).*