

# Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.



*Glenn W. Miller  
President/CEO*

## We're Looking Out for You

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is different from other businesses you deal with. To tell you the truth, I like being different. And the fact that you're reading this article shows you like that difference, too.

We're different because we're looking out for you. Now, more than ever, that's important because we need to work together to keep your electric bills affordable.

Congress did not pass a comprehensive climate bill last year. In January the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began regulating greenhouse gases — an action made possible by a 2007 Supreme Court decision, followed by rulings allowing the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions. Policies dealing with coal ash, even more stringent controls on other power plant emissions and renewable energy requirements could also lead to higher costs. It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain: government regulations are going to increase the cost of doing business.

New regulations won't be the only culprit. Prices for fuel, materials and equipment will continue to rise. Although the recent economic slump and corresponding drop in electricity use provided some much-needed breathing room, soon the electric industry will need to build new power plants, requiring a significant, long-term investment of time and money.

We're committed to keeping you informed about policy changes that will impact your electric bill through channels like this publication, bill stuffers and our website. We're going to do everything we can to keep your electric bills affordable.

To accomplish that, we're controlling costs through innovation. On our website you can learn about energy efficiency and see how little changes — like sealing your air ducts, replacing old appli-

ances, or improving your home's insulation — can add up to big savings on your electric bill. We also offer home energy audits to make sure you're getting the best value out of the energy you use every month.

Deploying state-of-the-art solutions like GIS mapping and SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) helps us control operating costs and improve service reliability. Nationally, co-ops are meeting members' power needs with a diverse fuel mix, including renewable energy.

While we're affordable and innovative, above all else we're member focused. No matter what comes our way, we'll continue to put you, our members, first. Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is member controlled and locally operated. As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates. At our annual meeting each year you have the opportunity to elect fellow members to our board of trustees to represent your best interests. The cooperative is governed by our nine-member board. Don't miss our next meeting on Thursday, June 30! You will be receiving an invitation and election ballot via the U.S. Postal Service the first week in June.

Member control means we are accountable to those we serve, and are dedicated to assisting our communities — your money stays at work close to home. Costs are rising for all of us, but, when it comes to your electric bill, our rates are set simply to cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders.

In fact, as a not-for-profit organization, we give money back to you when our revenues exceed costs. I'm proud to report that in 2010 we returned more than \$1,053,387 to our members in the form of capital credits.

The bottom line? We exist only to serve you and meet your needs for safe, reliable and affordable power.

As you can see, we're different. We're working together to keep your electric bills affordable. We're controlling costs through innovation. And we're continuing to put you, our members, first. No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain. We're looking out for you.

## Board of Trustees

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**24-Hour Toll-Free Phone:**

**866-674-1055 or 888-264-2694**

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# 2010 Allocation of Capital Credits

As a member-owned cooperative, Holmes-Wayne Electric is committed to operating the cooperative to provide the best service at the lowest possible cost. We sell and deliver electricity to our members at cost plus a small margin. It is necessary to maintain an operating margin in order to provide working capital, which is used to maintain the electric distribution system, to build and upgrade lines, and to provide service to new members. However, because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, we return these margins to the members. These are called patronage capital credits.

Capital credits are returned to each member based on patronage. They are divided among the members according to the amount of power purchased by the member.

Capital credits are assigned, or allocated, to each member/owner for the prior year. Your member-elected board of trustees oversees the financial well being of the cooperative. As the financial status of the cooperative permits, the board will decide to retire capital credits. Capital credits are currently being retired on the industry

goal of a 20-year cycle. When these capital credits are retired they are returned via a check to current members, and via check to former members no longer on our lines. This is one reason why you always should keep your cooperative apprised of your address if you move off of Holmes-Wayne Electric's lines: you may have money coming to you that you have forgotten about!

You also receive an allocation of capital credits from our generation company, Buckeye Power, also a cooperative. (Holmes-Wayne Electric is a member/owner of Buckeye Power.) Buckeye Power allocates capital credits to Holmes-Wayne Electric based on the same principles. We, in turn, allocate these capital credits to you. You are notified annually of your allocation of the capital credits assigned to your account for the prior year.

Please note on your May 2011 bill the inclusion of information regarding the 2010 allocation for both Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative and our generation company, Buckeye Power. You will only have a 2010 allocation noted if you were a member of the cooperative in 2010.

## What can you get for 10 cents?

Did you know that as a Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative member, you pay less than 10 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh)? But a good value cannot always be perceived by electricity since it isn't tangible. To give you an idea of the amount of real energy that comes into your home via your electric co-op, imagine trying to run your home on batteries.

A regular D-cell battery, like those used in flashlights, can produce a maximum of 12 amps an hour at 1.5 volts. This equals a total

output of 18 watts for one hour. After that, the battery would be dead.

The average refrigerator uses about 250 watts an hour. This means that it would take 14 D-cell batteries to run the average refrigerator for one hour. At this hourly rate, it would take 336 batteries to power a refrigerator each day; 2,352 batteries to power it for a week; and 122,640 batteries for a year!

We found an eight-pack of a popular brand of alkaline D batteries selling for \$10.48 at one of the big

home improvement stores. With sales tax that comes to \$171,904.49 for a year of batteries to run just one refrigerator.

To run that same refrigerator on the electricity provided by Holmes-Wayne Electric costs you \$18 per month and \$220 per year.

Sure, there are rechargeable batteries, but if you're going to use AC power to recharge a bank of batteries, why not just plug in your fridge in the first place and avoid the trouble and expense?



### Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. "Smart" power strips are another good option — when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# TAKE THE 'SHOCK' OUT OF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL!

The winter of 2010-2011 proved to be another cold and extremely long Ohio winter. The temperature for December averaged 20 percent below normal and for January averaged 18 percent below normal. In extreme weather conditions, like winter and summer months, members consume more electricity to heat and cool their home and therefore your bill will be higher.

To plan and budget your expenses more easily, Holmes-Wayne Electric offers budget billing. 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.

Because of weather and lifestyle practices, your consumption can change dramatically, so every January and July, HWEC will review your consumption history and adjust your set budget amount if needed there-

fore avoiding a large balance due at the end of the budget cycle. Budget billing cycle runs July to the following June. Any balance due is posted on your June bill.

Plus if you choose, you can have the convenience of paying your bill on-line every month at our website, [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com), or select our automatic withdrawal payment program.

If interested in the HWEC budget billing program, you may enroll at



## Ohio Average Temperature

### December

Normal — 33.2 degrees  
2010 — 26.6 degrees  
2009 — 33.3 degrees

### January

Normal — 29.7 degrees  
2011 — 24.4 degrees  
2010 — 26.2 degrees

anytime as long as you have been a member of HWEC for 12 months and have a zero balance. Please contact the cooperative toll-free at 866-674-1055 to discuss a budget plan for you.

Also be sure to check out all our money-saving tips at our website, [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com), under energy advisor. Learn easy and inexpensive ways to manage your electricity consumption and bill.

## Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements

### \$\$ Smart Money Management \$\$

Gault Learning Center in Wooster is offering free classes to the community. These classes are a wonderful educational opportunity to assist in managing your personal finances. The Gault Learning Center is located at 104 Spink Street, Wooster. Below are the upcoming classes.

Credit 101 Class

May 23

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Stretch Your Dollar

June 20

5:30-7:30 p.m.



*Holmes-Wayne Electric Annual Meeting of the Members  
Thursday, June 30, 2011  
West Holmes High School*

# May is national electric safety month

## Surviving auto accidents involving power lines

Instincts tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

Safe Electricity wants everyone to know: If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, stay in your vehicle and wait until the local electric utility arrives on the scene and ensures that lines have been de-energized. If you come upon or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the scene.

Indiana teenagers Lee Whittaker and Ashley Taylor saw a power line safety demonstration at their high school and never dreamed their new knowledge would be put to the test. Five days later, they and two classmates were in a car that crashed into a utility pole, bringing live power lines to the ground.

Fortunately, they heeded the safety advice they'd received, and survived because they knew the right actions to take. And they helped others who approached the scene by warning them to stay away. A video of their story can be seen on [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, tens of thousands of accidents each year occur where power poles are struck by cars or large equipment. Each one of these accidents has the potential to bring down power lines. Surviving the accident itself might not be enough to stay alive without awareness of the right moves to make.

In the vast majority of those incidents, the safest place to remain is inside the car. Only in the rare instance of fire should people exit a vehicle. Then, they must know how to do so safely, jumping free and clear, landing with feet together, and hopping away. It's difficult to get out without creating a path for current to flow, which is why one should get out only if forced to.

"When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the



**The teens in this car crash knew to stay in the car until the power lines that had fallen were de-energized, thanks to a demonstration by their local electric cooperative. Source: Safe Electricity**

last thing on anyone's mind," Safe Electricity Executive Director Molly Hall notes. "We're often more concerned about whether anyone was injured, or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We forget that by exiting the vehicle, we're risking bodily exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines."

Lee and Ashley are grateful to White County Rural Electric Membership Corporation, the Safe Electricity partner electric cooperative that sponsored a Live Line Demo program at their school. The students are encouraging everyone to learn from their experience.

To learn more, watch the video on [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org). Visitors can also check out a live power line demonstration, just like the one the Indiana teens saw at their school.

*Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.*

## Agriculture Safety

As the spring weather arrives with warming temperatures, the grass begins to turn green and early spring flowers begin to bloom. In our community a true sign of spring is when local farmers begin their spring planting ritual.

Holmes-Wayne Electric wants to remind those members in the agricultural industry, that each year farmers are electrocuted when large farm machinery comes into contact with overhead power lines.

Often, the situation occurs because a newer, bigger piece of equipment no longer clears a line the way a smaller one did. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year to year.

The following tips will help keep everyone on a farm safe:

Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles.

Make sure you have ample clearance when moving large machinery such as planters, combines, grain augers, pickers, bailers and front-end loaders.

Do this every year as equipment sizes or soil conditions may change.

Store large equipment properly if near or under power lines.

When planning new construction, factor in existing power lines.

Be extra careful when working around trees and brush; they often make it difficult to see power lines.

Train all farm workers to keep an eye out for overhead power lines.

Sources: *Safe Electricity* [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)