

Holmes-Wayne

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Climate change legislation must be fair, affordable and achievable

We need your help. As Congress debates climate change this fall, our voices must drown out special interests. We've got to send Congress a reality check.

Since early this year, Congress has considered a cap-and-trade system to address climate change concerns. This system focuses on reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, natural gas, vehicles, factories—essentially, anything that emits carbon—impacting all sectors of the economy. As Congress acts on climate change, it will be directly responsible for raising our electric bills. But by how much?

President's Report

By
Glenn Miller



Electric co-ops like Holmes-Wayne Electric feel it's important for Congress to keep three things in mind regarding climate change. We know rates will go up as a result of any action Congress takes, but any bill should be fair, taking into account regional differences in how electricity is produced. Some states have more low-carbon resources (such as wind or hydro) available than others, but we're all in this boat together. One part of the country should not benefit at another's expense.

Next, we've got to keep electricity affordable for all Americans. We already have members in Ohio who barely manage to pay their monthly electric bills, or must choose between paying for medications and keeping the lights on. Even a small increase will be a hardship beyond measure for these folks.

Finally, the goals Congress sets must be achievable. Climate change policy must be realistic and in sync with technology to ensure long-term success. Otherwise we have no chance of success.

Holmes-Wayne Electric and others across the nation have been working hard to make sure these concerns are raised—and we need your help.

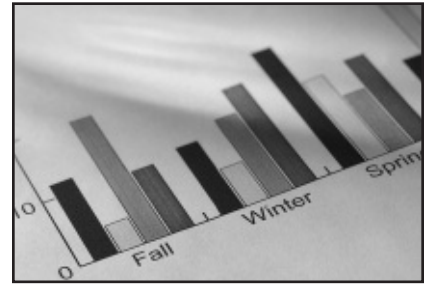
More than 423,000 co-op members like you across the nation have joined the *Our Energy, Our Future*™ grassroots campaign, demanding that elected officials keep consumer interests in mind. Their voices had a major impact this summer, as the U.S. House passed a climate change bill that included more than \$3 billion in rate relief for co-op consumers from initial proposals. Still, that bill fell far short of being fair to consumers. The climate change debate, has moved to the U.S. Senate. We have an opportunity there to make more improvements—and you can impact the outcome.

Your senators, as well as members of the U.S. House, need a reality check from you, their constituents. Visit www.ourenergy.coop today to send a message about the need for fair, affordable and achievable climate change legislation or contact the office to receive a post card to mail to your legislative representative.

New bill look offering more service to our member

Starting in November, members will notice a HWEC bill that offers additional information to manage their electric bill.

“The goal of the new design is to offer more information to our members in a clear manner,” said Lisa Baker, billing supervisor. “Members should notice immediately on the top right-hand corner a bar chart that shows the last 13 months of consumption as well as the average temperature during the consumption period. Members will be able to better plan for peaks in their bill or make adjustment to avoid peaks by managing their consumption.”



Other changes include a separation of past bill from current bill and the account activity within the past month. Additionally, space on the back of the bill has been utilized for defining the details of your electric bill and for a listing of payment stations.

“The purpose of these changes were all in the theory of providing a bill that could be another tool for our members to manage their electric consumption and budget,” explained Vicki Bilek, customer service supervisor. “We are a local cooperative, and our members are the owners. We want to provide every avenue of communication to provide quality service. The bill is another tool that encourages our members to look at their account activity and prevent any unexpected amounts when opening the mail. If a member is active in managing their account, they benefit from the vast amount of services we provide, whether it be our budget billing, our online payment, direct payment, meeting with our Energy Advisor or making energy efficiency changes to their home, business and/or lifestyle.”

The HWEC bill will also continue to offer the “Important information” yellow note, where members are notified of essential information regarding the cooperative or their account.

Energy Savings Days

Many HWEC members took advantage of the Holmes-Wayne Electric Energy Savings Days that were held Sept. 10 at the Millersburg office and Sept. 29 at the West Salem District office.

Members had an opportunity to gather a vast amount of information on energy efficiency to reduce their electric consumption and manage their electric bill. All members received three packs of CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs) and registered for a chance to win a basket full of energy efficiency products such as winter weatherization items for your home and a chance to win a free home energy audit. Also, members learned more about the current proposed cap-and-trade legislation and had an opportunity to sign up for the



Our Energy, Our Future campaign.

Additionally, county agencies representing state heating and weatherization programs were available to answer questions.

“Holmes-Wayne Electric continues to make efforts to communicate and educate our members on the importance of becoming energy efficient. During these economic times, and with the increase in energy costs, we feel it is crucial that our members are provided with all the latest tools and information to make educated electric

consumption decisions,” said Kenny DePriest, HWEC Energy Advisor.

Remember, you can contact our Energy Advisor to schedule a home energy audit or view our Web site for energy efficiency tips at www.hwecoop.com

Members participating in Operation Round Up making a difference in the community

Approximately two-thirds of Holmes-Wayne members participate in Operation Round Up. This is a program where members voluntarily round their bill to the nearest dollar. The spare change is donated to the Operation Round Up Foundation. Individuals, families and organizations within our community can apply for assistance.

Those applications are reviewed by a five-member voluntary board.

Those pennies are making drastic changes in many lives in our community. This fall alone, HWEC Operation Round Up has assisted three families who lost their homes and their belongings due to fires. Two of them were families of six and the other was an individual on a fixed income. The American Red Cross contacted the HWEC-ORU Foundation with applications to assist these families who have lost everything and need assistance beyond what local agencies can provide.

"I can't imagine losing everything you own except for the clothes you are wearing. Thankfully there are programs like Red Cross that can assist these families and coordinate with other agencies and foundations to help them get back on their feet," said Sherry Crowner of Wooster, a HWEC participating member. "The few pennies I am donating every month are making life-changing differences. I am proud to be participating in such a worthy cause and especially appreciate that the money stays within our community!"

Additionally this fall, the ORU Foundation has assisted the Holmes County Home and the Wayne County Salvation Army. Members in the community who purchased 4-H animals at either the Holmes or Wayne County fairs could donate the animal to the Holmes County Home and the Wayne County Salvation Army, respectively, and the Foundation covered meat processing



costs. It was an opportunity for the Foundation to support local worthy programs that feed those in need in our community and support the local youth 4-H program.

Thanks to the many generous donors to the Operation Round Up program. Since the establishment of HWEC Operation Round Up in January 2006, more than \$129,000 has been distributed back into our community. Many lives within our community are being touched, and together we are making a significant difference.

If you are currently not participating in Operation Round Up and would like to enroll, please contact our office toll-free at 866-674-1055.

Farm Science Review winner

Congratulations to Alice Kemper of Burbank for winning two free Farm Science Review tickets. Alice submitted a winning energy-savings tip in the contest held in the August edition of *Country Living* magazine.

Her is Alice's winning suggestion: "*After filling the washing machine, turn it off and let your clothes soak for at least 1/2 hour. Then turn the washer back on to complete its cycle. Clothes get just as clean and this lets you use a shorter wash cycle. Saves you money and it is easier on your fabrics. My mom did this with her old wringer washer every time and it really works.*"

Alice, along with thousands of other Ohioans, visited Ohio Electric Cooperatives' education center at the Farm Science Review. Displays on energy efficiency, electric safety and new electric technologies were presented.

2009 Cardinal Station Tour

On Sept. 15, Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative invited local government representatives, community leaders and business/residential members of the cooperative to tour the Cardinal generating facility. The Cardinal Station is located on the Ohio River near Brilliant, Ohio, and supplies the majority of the electricity used by the 25 rural cooperatives serving Ohio. This facility has a generation capacity of 1,830 MW and uses approximately 4.2 million tons of coal per year.

Here are a few thoughts that participating members will remember from the tour and shared with us through a survey.

"The environmental compliance costs are astronomical and the power company does a good job of operating in an efficient manner within these mandates."

"Our co-op is looking years ahead to meet the needs of its customers and possible federal regulations"

"I learned that steam from hot water comes out of the big stack and is not pollutants"

"I learned how clean the Cardinal plant is"

"The co-ops are a good deal! It worked 70 years ago and is still working today"

"The many details it takes to produce electricity at a reasonable price"

"Almost all byproducts from the coal (are) reusable "

" A very environmentally safe plant"

"the focus on keeping the environment clean"

"The complexity of operation of a power plant and the extra cost due to environmental regulations"

Conservation Corner

Heating and cooling

Consumers spend roughly 56 percent of their total energy costs on heating and cooling. Here are some tips for controlling your heating and air conditioning use:

- Set thermostats to 78°F in summer, 68°F in winter.
- Close shades and drapes at night to keep heat in during winter.
Open during the day to let heat in.
- In summer, close drapes and shades during the day to keep solar heat out.
- Run ceiling paddle fans on medium, blowing down, in summer.
- Change HVAC filters monthly.
- When heating or cooling, keep windows locked.
- Insulate electric wall plugs and wall switches with foam pads.
- Caulk along baseboards with a clear sealant.

For more energy-saving tips to prepare for the cold Ohio winter, go to our Web site at www.hwecoop.com under Energy Advisor and look at the 101 ways to reduce your energy consumption.