

Holmes- Wayne

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Cooperative vision

Predicting the future is difficult or next to impossible. That's because there are so many variables beyond the knowledge and, yes, imagination of the human mind.

In 1998, Google, Inc. was conceived in the Stanford University dorm room of two graduate students. No one predicted that by 2008, just one decade later, Google would be the Internet's most widely accepted search engine.

Google's incredible growth came to mind recently when I learned its founders were investing \$10 million in the development of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (another innovation not predicted 10 years ago).

As the electric utility industry works with others to address the problem of global climate change, one thing is clear: technological innovation flowing from human creativity is virtually limitless.

We will need the creative energy of our best engineering minds if we are to find a balanced solution that meets the nation's growing appetite for energy while meeting industry's obligation to help reduce greenhouse gases.

Part of the co-op challenge is to convince elected representatives that technological innovation offers the best strategy for reaching affordable and long-term solutions.

In co-op boardrooms today, directors are taking a long, hard look at the effectiveness of energy efficiency and conservation in order to maximize the value of member service and minimize the impact outside factors are having on electric bills. Not since the energy crises of the 1970s-early 1980s have efficiency and conservation received so much attention.

Electric cooperatives are recognized industry leaders in promoting energy efficiency to help consumer-members reduce electricity consumption and save money. That is why Holmes-Wayne Electric provides energy efficiency education to its members through our Web site and our Energy Advisor. Information can be found on high-efficiency lighting systems, geothermal and air-source heat pumps, energy audits, insulation and Energy Star appliances.

A free and open market for new ideas and new technology, unfettered by government restraints, is the best incubator for those solutions. Importantly, any proposed solution that dramatically increases rates and puts the cost of electricity out of reach for our consumer-members is unacceptable.

In the 1930s, electric co-ops demonstrated their vision for a more productive rural America by committing to delivering electricity to the very last house on the line. Their vision — and the work of those who followed in their footsteps — built a generation and distribution network that reliably serves 40 million Americans in 47 states today.

May we continue the same forward thinking and vision of our forefathers and be worthy of their legacy.

President's Report

By
Glenn Miller



Proper insulation a key to energy efficiency this winter

One of the simplest ways to reduce your home's heating and cooling costs — and improve comfort — involves installing proper insulation. Doing so provides resistance to heat flow. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs.

Heat flows naturally from a warmer to a cooler space. In winter, heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated attics, garages, basements and even outdoors. It also can travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls and floors — wherever there is a difference in temperature.

During the summer cooling season, the reverse takes place. Heat flows from the outdoors to the interior of a house.

To maintain comfort, heat lost in the winter must be replaced by your heating system. In summer, heat gained must be removed by your cooling system. Proper insulation, though, decreases heat flow.

Heat flow resistance is measured or rated in terms of its R-value. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulation's effectiveness.

When calculating the R-value of a multilayered installation, add R-values of individual

layers. Installing more insulation in your home increases the R-value.

Insulation effectiveness also depends on how and where it's installed. For example, insulation that gets

compressed will not provide its full rated R-value. The overall R-value of a wall or ceiling will be somewhat different from the R-value of the insulation because some heat flows around the insulation through studs and joists. Therefore, it's important to properly install your insulation to achieve the maximum R-value.

For more information, visit <http://www.eere.energy.gov>

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



CertainTeed Corporation



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 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.



New technology providing real time data

A Holmes-Wayne Electric vehicle may be a common sight within our community, as co-op employees have a full plate when they're out in the field. With 2,200 miles of line in a seven-county service territory, there is a large quantity of work to be done checking and maintaining lines, meters and substations.

One way we are trying to create efficiency, better reliability to you the member/owner and reduce outage time period is through a pilot program called SCADA. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) is a set of monitoring technologies that can feed information from remote equipment back to a central location — in this case, your electric co-op's computer network.

SCADA casts a net to keep track of everything from substation equipment to breaker and switch control. It continuously monitors equipment status and performance. This information typically is displayed for review by a dispatcher in the office and also is stored in a database for future analysis. If any abnormal situation arises in the system, audible and visual alarms are triggered throughout our office and e-mails and text messages are sent to key operations personnel. This enables the co-op to respond quickly and accordingly.

The setup also allows for at least partial control over other electrically operable remote devices. For example, on a distribution system

without SCADA in place, a lineworker might have to drive a long way to close a particular switch. With remote control as an option, the same action rests just a mouse-click away.

"The cooperative is constantly balancing new technology to provide better service to our members but still maintain an affordable price for electricity. SCADA is a large investment that we think will provide several benefits. By receiving the data back in real time, we will know immediately when equipment is starting to have issues and often be able to correct these issues before they come problems. Infrastructure to provide electricity to our members is extremely expensive. For example, one substation power transformer comes with a six-digit price tag. This tool will prevent permanent damage to these valuable assets and further damage to other equipment within our substation," said John Porter, Engineering and Operations manager at HWECC.

Because of the large investment SCADA requires and the wireless technology that is needed and difficult to acquire in rural communities, HWECC is

implementing this program in a two- to three-year time period.

Porter emphasized, "We are excited to be installing this technology in the HWECC system. We feel our members are going to benefit from this tool in many ways."



Brian Spencer, System Engineer at HWECC, works on SCADA installation.

Ride of a lifetime

Congratulations to Annette Lendacki of Brinkhaven for winning a free ride in the Touchstone Energy® Balloon at the Farm Science Review.

Annette is a Holmes-Wayne Cooperative member and submitted a winning energy-saving tip. "Freeze water in old plastic milk jugs to put in your freezer. We all know keeping a freezer full will cut down on energy use. Plus, the milk jugs act like a giant ice cubes, turning the freezer into an ice chest in the event of a power failure."



Outage management system valuable to September windstorm restoration

Less than four years from the largest storm in Holmes-Wayne history, the winter ice storms of 2004 and 2005, your Cooperative was faced with the second largest storm as the remnants of Hurricane Ike combined with a cold front to create devastating hurricane-force winds in Ohio. Almost two million homes and businesses in Ohio were without power after the storm, prompting Governor Strickland to declare a state of emergency.

Holmes-Wayne Electric had approximately 10,500 of the 16,000 accounts without power at the height of the storm. Seven substations were without power because of transmission line damage and HWEC found miles of distribution lines on the ground with more than 30 broken poles.

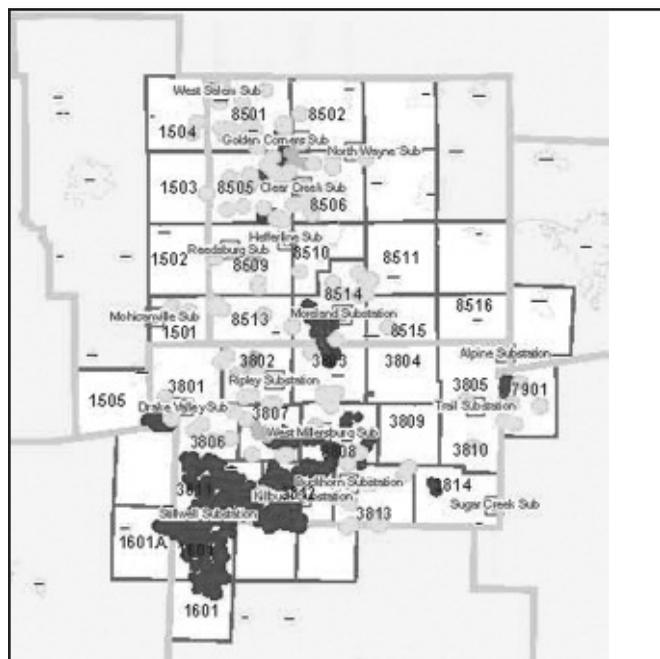
Several key factors reduced the outage time for our members in this storm. The \$5 million spent on tree trimming and right-of-way clearing in the last four years greatly reduced the number of trees on lines and made the rights-of-way more accessible for HWEC linemen. Also, a stronger, newer infrastructure system improved reliability — as more than 7 percent of the 2,200 miles of line has been rebuilt since the ice storm.

Managing the storm was easier with the outage management system that has been put in place since the ice storm. Members calling in to report outages are recorded in the outage system and the system will predict outages based on the calls. “If more than 2 percent of a line section, main feeder or even substation reports an outage, the system will automatically predict the line, feeder or substation is without power. We know the magnitude of the outages in a much quicker time frame. Members calling in and reporting outages and providing key information like trees on lines or downed lines still greatly help in our dispatching and restoration planning,” Nolan Hartzler, GIS Mapping Technician explained. “The system also allows us to sort the outages by a variety of ways so that we can be the most efficient in our restoration process. It also gives us a bird’s-eye view of the outages. We can better tell where the most devastating areas are and how to appropriate staff linemen and tree removal crews. Before, you wouldn’t know until someone was physically in the vicinity.”

“We learned a lot from the ice storm,” CEO/President Glenn Miller said. “We hope to never see a storm of that magnitude again but we need to be prepared for the worst. We are a rural cooperative and serve the rough and rural terrain of this community. Some of our members are the only consumer on a mile of line.

“We don’t make excuses for that and have the same expectations as if all our customer/members were on blacktop in the city that a bucket truck can reach. We may have to physically walk our lines more and climb poles, but our linemen are trained to restore power in that manner. They know the requirements of working for a rural cooperative and are extremely dedicated to restoring power in the quickest and safest manner possible.”

Miller added, “I am extremely proud of all the staff’s dedication to work day and night to restore power. They understand the responsibility we have to provide power to our rural homes and businesses.”



Outage management map