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Why do electric bills increase in the winter?

As the temperatures drop, we typically receive calls from members regarding an increase in their kWh usage. Several factors can contribute to higher bills during the winter including:

- ▲ Extra hot water used for warm baths and showers on cold days.
- ▲ Shorter days and longer nights mean lights stay on longer, both inside and out.
- ▲ Electric equipment, such as; TVs, DVD players, gaming consoles etc. are often used more in the winter than spring and summer months
- ▲ Most heating systems use electricity for some functions such as operating the fan, and many run almost continuously.
- ▲ Use of the clothes dryer more often.

- ▲ Livestock heater or a pet dish warmer.
- ▲ Waterbeds; make sure you are using an insulated blanket to cover it to keep the heat in.
- ▲ Guests in the home (preparation before they arrive and cleanup after).
- ▲ Holiday Festivities (Christmas lights, cooking & baking, extra guests).
- ▲ School-aged or college students home for winter breaks all day long.

Other reasons why your electric bill could have been higher last month. Look on your electric bill and it's a good idea to compare month to month:

- ▲ Average temperature
- ▲ EAC (Energy Adjustment Charge)
- ▲ Number of days in the month

Use of space heaters, electric blankets and engine block heaters can add to winter energy bills. **For example, a 1,500-watt space heater can cost about \$4.04 per day. In a single month, that space heater could cost you about \$125!**

Use the following formula to determine the monthly operating cost of any electric appliance:

$$(\text{Wattage} \div 1,000) \times \text{hours of operation} = \text{kWh}$$

$$\text{kWh} \times \$.1123 \text{ (HREC rate of } 11.234\text{¢ per kWh)} = \text{Cost}$$

Example: $(1,500 \div 1,000) \times 24 \times .1123 = \4.04

Remember to keep blankets and curtains away from space heaters.



Attention Members with Sub-Meters

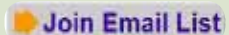
Please make sure you have your S1 (sub-meters) turned on and leave them on. If we cannot read the meter, you will not get credit for having the sub-meter.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Grassroots Member-Outreach Program **NEW!**

We keep a watchful eye on proposed legislative policies that may impact our ability to deliver safe, affordable, reliable electricity in an environmentally responsible manner to our members. Members can get involved too!

email




Sign up to be included in email communications. Visit www.hawkeyerec.coop/News/LegislativeNews and click on the 'Join Email List'.

twitter



Go to www.twitter.com/HawkeyeREC and start 'following' Hawkeye.

newsletters

- Look for periodic articles in the REC News monthly publication 
- *The Policy Wire* - a quarterly publication from the Iowa Assoc. of Electric Cooperatives

websites

- www.hawkeyerec.coop
Go to News/Legislative News
- www.iaruralpower.org
- www.ourenergy.coop
Our Energy, Our Future



New EPA Rules Driving Wholesale Rate Increase

Happy New Year to you, the members of Hawkeye REC. The new year, however, is looking very challenging to Hawkeye REC and our neighboring electric cooperatives; Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, People's Cooperative Services and Heartland Power Cooperative, and the other 20 member distribution cooperatives, which are all member-owners of Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier.

While Dairyland is in full compliance with all the current applicable regulations and remains supportive of environmental improvements, they and other power generation utilities across the country are dismayed with the rapid timeline of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) most recent proposal, the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), that went into effect on Jan. 1, 2012. Under the rule, power plants in 27 states, including Wisconsin (where Dairyland's facilities are located) are required to further limit sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emissions that affect air quality in other states.

system—which includes Hawkeye REC—about \$10.2 million to reach compliance in 2012. There will also be significant additional spending requirements in future years to meet further requirements of the rule.

It is important to note that clearly, we are supportive of protecting the environment. However, the precipitous implementation of the new EPA rule is compromising the financial stability of our cooperative membership, which has already faced difficult times during the recession. Dairyland has joined many other utilities nationwide in asking for a stay of the CSAPR rule in 2012. Several state attorney generals are also attempting to stop promulgation of the rule. The major reason cited involves the tight time frame, which is dramatically increasing costs for all affected coal-burning utilities. Unfortunately, efforts to get Congress to stop CSAPR have failed.

As a point of information, CSAPR replaces the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), that was issued in 2005. Following a long legal battle, CAIR was vacated by the United States Court of Appeals in 2008. The court then instructed EPA to make revisions to CAIR and, until the revisions were made, the CAIR rules would temporarily stay in place. Yet, one of the reasons the CSAPR rule is so expensive is its impractical compliance period. This rule was originally finalized in July of 2011 and significantly revised in October 2011. Yet, beginning Jan. 1, 2012, just weeks after its release, CSAPR will go into effect and establishes the emissions limits for each state and each electric generating unit (called allowances). The number of allowances provided for Dairyland's power plants and most other affected utilities, is significantly less than needed to meet typical generation requirements.

installed at Dairyland's plants are not enough to meet these new allowance limits. Yet, the additional air emission controls planned by Dairyland cannot be installed before the CSAPR limits are in effect. While excess allowances may be traded under the rule, there is concern that there will not be enough allowances available to cover all of the emissions from utilities in the state.

Since it is obviously impossible for Dairyland to install additional planned air emission controls by the 2012 start of CSAPR and allowance trading is questionable, Dairyland and other utilities may be required to reduce generation to comply with CSAPR. If they curtail production at their facilities, an undesirable strategy, it will likely require the purchase of power from a higher priced marketplace.

Despite all of the complicated details and jargon, the message I am trying to send you is simple: Protecting the environment is important. But so is protecting you, the member. Dairyland and Hawkeye REC will continue to work every day to protect you as much as we can from these and other cost pressures, as we fulfill our obligation to power your home and business.

We are committed to protecting our members to the best of our ability, and will absorb as much of the cost impacts as possible to keep the retail rate increase at an absolute minimum. More information will be shared next month as we finalize the 2012 operating budget and update our cost of service study.

As always, I welcome your calls, e-mails and personal visits.



Brian Krambeer, CEO
(563) 547-3801 or (800) 658-2243
bkrambeer@tec.coop

“The new EPA rule is estimated to cost about \$10.2 million to reach compliance in 2012.”

Environmental regulations such as the CSAPR rule are a major cost impact in Dairyland's 2012 budget, which includes a wholesale rate increase of approximately 7 percent in May 2012. A larger increase was mitigated by significant cuts in many other areas of cooperative operations.

The CSAPR rule is estimated to cost member-consumers in the Dairyland

The hundreds of millions in dollars worth of air emission controls already

BOARD *Report*

Hawkeye's Board of Directors conducted the monthly board meeting on December 15th.

Highlights of the meeting:

- ▶ Approved Bylaw Revision regarding the time period for appointing the Nominating Committee
- ▶ Finalized Appointment of the 2012 Nominating Committee
- ▶ Reviewed and discussed a seasonal rate structure
- ▶ Discussed and reviewed Miscellaneous Fees and Charges
- ▶ Reviewed new headquarters final checklist



December Outage Report

- Planned – 4 (20 members)
- Weather – 0
- Other/Unknown – 10 (228 members)
- Power Supplier – 0
- Small Animals/Birds – 1 (1 member)
- Individuals – 7
- Affected Members – 249
- Total Outages – 15

When the lights go out, so do we

Dairyland Power Ceased Operation at Three Units

Dairyland Power Cooperative ceased burning coal in three vintage 1950s units of the Alma Station on Dec. 31, 2011. This move aligns with Dairyland's generation resource plans that include the continued addition of renewable resources.

Alma 1, 2 and 3 are part of the 181 megawatt (MW) Alma Station, located in Alma, Wis. Together, the three units have about 60 MW of generating capacity. They account for about 5 percent of Dairyland's total generating capacity, but generated only 0.4 percent (four-tenths of 1 percent) of Dairyland's energy resources through October 2011. Effective Jan. 1, 2012, these units will only be available on an emergency basis. (The two other Alma Station units 4 and 5 total about 120 MW of capacity and will continue to provide energy for the Dairyland system.)

"It is certainly difficult to make decisions that impact employees; therefore Dairyland has made every effort to minimize the impact on their livelihood," said Bill Berg, President and CEO. "The closing of these units will eliminate 12 positions; however, we are in the position to offer al-

most all of the impacted employees the opportunity to transfer to other vacant positions within our cooperative."



A thank you card we received from an elementary student after employees performed an electrical safety demonstration at the Norman Borlaug Inspire Day last fall.

Fall Legislative Meeting Recap

Every year, electric cooperatives invite local legislators to a brief meeting to highlight and explain cooperative issues at hand for the upcoming legislative session. The meeting this year was held at Allamakee-Clayton's headquarters



Hawkeye REC representative Ted Kjos (L) communicates important cooperative issues with Senator Merlin Bartz (M) and Kenric Scheevel (R) from Dairyland Power.

in Postville on November 28th. There were representatives from neighboring cooperatives including Hawkeye REC, Allamakee-Clayton in Postville, Butler REC in Allison and East Central REC in Urbana. Board members and staff from each of these cooperatives welcomed Representative Bob Hager, Representative Roger Thomas, Senator Merlin Bartz, and Senator Brian Schoenjahn.

Brian Krambeer, CEO of Hawkeye, along with representatives from Allamakee-Clayton and Butler REC presented information regarding the following items:

- Iowa's Electric Cooperatives and Our Commitment to Community
- Our Energy Efficiency Activities
- Importance of Our Area and State Rural Economic Development Efforts
- Balanced Approach to Baseload Generation

- Stray Voltage Policy
- Emergency Declaration Procedures and the Value of FEMA funds
- Other Potential Legislation for the 2012 Session

After this information was presented, the legislators were also able to make comments. An additional guest speaker, Kenric Scheevel, also reported on finding the right balance between economics and the environment. Scheevel is the Government Relations Representative at Dairyland Power Cooperative in LaCrosse, Hawkeye's wholesale power supplier.

These meetings are an important cornerstone to our relationship with our elected officials and we appreciate the legislators taking time out of their busy schedules to connect with rural electric cooperatives.

ELECTRICITY: What's it worth to you?

Electricity Is a Great Value!

Take a look around-everything is either powered by electricity or produced with the help of electric power. This includes your kitchen appliances and power tools in the garage as well as the energy behind the clothes you wear, the food you eat and the cooled or heated air you breathe.

For more than 30 years, the price of the basic unit of electricity has stayed relatively low, while we are using much more electricity to power more items each year.



Electricity is there when you need it and it's a good value. As consumers, we directly or indirectly use electricity almost all the time.

We are using electricity in new ways: from computers and cell phones to big screen televisions; from electronic picture frames and DVD consoles to gaming consoles like Xbox®, Wii® and PlayStation® for our entertainment.



From powering our homes and businesses to energizing entire communities, electricity is crucial to powering our modern lives. In fact, electricity is one of the most valuable and reliable products we use.



Our houses are also larger today. In the 1970s American homes were around 1,500 square feet—now they are more than 2,200 square feet—so we are cooling and heating much more space.

Experience the WONDER OF WASHINGTON

WIN A TRIP!

High school sophomores and juniors can win a free trip sponsored by your local electric cooperative to Washington, D.C. June 15-21, 2012.

The Iowa Rural Youth Tour is a perfect opportunity to travel, work with REC leaders, and enhance your leadership skills! You will travel with over 30 other students from Iowa and meet over 1,000 teens from across the nation!

Log-on to www.hawkeyerec.coop to apply and complete the new online "open book" test which must be submitted by March 16, 2012. The answers can be found on Hawkeye's website and the National Youth Tour website at <http://youthtour.coop/>

The five students with top scores will qualify for the final interviews and judging on April 11th. A panel of judges will select the winner of the Washington D.C. trip and an alternate.

Take a close look at the action-packed itinerary highlights for the 2012 Youth Tour:

Friday, June 15

- Orientation at Best Western Plus Marquis Des Moines Airport Hotel
- Fun and Games

Saturday, June 16

- Fly to Washington, D.C.
- World War II Memorial
- Washington Monument
- Driving tour of the city
- Albert Einstein Memorial
- Washington National Cathedral
- Paddleboats on the Potomac
- Check-in at Hyatt Regency Crystal City
- Youth Leadership Council interviews

Sunday, June 17

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- National Air and Space Museum
- Tour National Mall attractions
- Boat cruise on the Potomac River

Monday, June 18

- Rural Electric Youth Day
- Ronald Reagan International Trade Center
- Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Madame Tussauds Wax Museum
- Ford's Theatre
- Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

- Union Station
- U.S. Navy Band Concert
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial

Tuesday, June 19

- Arlington National Cemetery
- Kennedy Gravesites
- Tomb of the Unknowns
- Robert E. Lee Memorial
- Bureau of Printing and Engraving
- Mount Vernon
- Iwo Jima Sunset Parade
- Iwo Jima Monument
- The White House

Wednesday, June 20

- Meet with representatives at U.S. Capitol
- U.S. Supreme Court
- Library of Congress
- Tour of U.S. Capitol
- Meet with senators at U.S. Capitol
- National Harbor
- All-States Farewell Dinner and Dance

Thursday, June 21

- Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial
- Newseum
- Georgetown
- Pentagon 9-11 Memorial
- Fly to Des Moines

Do You Have Plans for College?

Hawkeye is offering five \$500 scholarships to help students in our local areas

Any graduating high school senior, whose parents or guardians are members of the Cooperative, are eligible for the Hawkeye REC scholarship. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll, in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2012. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen.

How Do You Apply?

Applications are available at your area high school guidance counselor office or at the REC office in Cresco. Applications can also be downloaded on Hawkeye's website at www.hawkeyerec.coop.

Return the completed application to Hawkeye REC by Monday, April 2, 2012 with the following:

- Copy of the student's high school transcript
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher, advisor or counselor
- Essay (minimum 250 words) answering the following question:

What are the main factors influencing the rising costs of electricity?



Still not convinced? Watch this video created by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives after last summer's trip and it might just change your mind!

<http://animoto.com/play/IKShrNsc8Ob0XSebIAEoZg>

"Youth Tour Influenced my future!"

Olivia Reicks – Hawkeye's 2011 Winner



Follow us at @IowaYouthTour
facebook.com/IowaYouthTour

The Holiday Season is Over... Now We Turn to the Director Election Season

We want YOU
to Be a Part of
YOUR Electric
Cooperative

Are you interested in serving as a board member for Hawkeye REC? Consider becoming part of your electric cooperative by submitting your name as a director candidate in this year's election. Becoming a director is a great opportunity to learn more about your cooperative, work with local legislators and create new relationships that will last a lifetime. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings, other special meetings and educational seminars which are designed to keep directors informed on the various aspects of Hawkeye REC and the electric utility industry. Their decisions are made in the best interest of the cooperative and they represent the entire membership. Director applications are available by calling (800) 658-2243 or emailing cchristensen@hawkeyerec.com. The application deadline is February 13. If you have any questions about serving as a director, contact the cooperative.

Nominating Committee Members

- Tom Sabelka – Chickasaw County
- Tony Schwickerath – Chickasaw County
- Linus Kleve – Winneshiek County
- Thomas Ryan – Winneshiek County

The nominating committee will be meeting on February 13 to select candidates.

Once the nominating committee posts the candidates, a member could also be nominated by petition containing the signatures of not less than 1% of the cooperative's membership. Such petitions must be received by the Secretary not less than 45 days before April 18. The Secretary shall post the nomination(s) at the office alongside the list of nominations made by the nominating committee.

Directors up for re-election 3-Year Term

- Dean Fisher - Chickasaw County
- Charles Frana - Winneshiek County

Note:

Roger Nibaur (Howard County) will be retiring after 18 years of dedicated service to the cooperative. It was voted by the membership in 2010 to change the articles of incorporation from (9) nine to (7) seven board members as directors retire or resign. Therefore, there will not be an election in Howard County this year and the number of board members will be at (8) eight for the 2012 election term.

**Make Plans to Attend
Hawkeye's Annual Meeting
Wednesday, April 18
7:00 p.m.
Crestwood High School**

**CELEBRATE
THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF COOPERATIVES!**

Replacing your Grain Dryer... Adding Geothermal in 2012?

GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE

USDA Rural Development is offering grants and guaranteed loans to help rural business or agricultural producers looking to produce renewable energy or make energy-saving improvements to their facilities or farms. A popular use of the program has been to assist in the purchase of new, more efficient grain-drying systems.

*Funds are not available for residential use.



Contact Pat Boyle at
(563) 547-3801 for information.

Even when you're not there, protect your home and family against:



Heartland Security

Yes dear, I'm CERTAIN everything is fine at home.

- Burglars
- Fire/smoke
- Frozen pipes
- Power failure
- Carbon monoxide
- Sump pump failure
- And more...

Purchase a new Heartland Security System by January 31, 2012 and receive three months of FREE monitoring. (Certain restrictions apply; cannot be combined with other offers.)

Call Heartland Security today for a free, no obligation security analysis: 1-888-264-6380 or visit www.heartlandss.com.

Recipes...

Super sandwich for your SuperBowl party.

Egg Sandwich Spread

- 3 hard-boiled eggs
- 5 T. mayo
- ¼ lb. bacon (cooked)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Chives (Chopped)
- Sliced Onion (Chopped)



Grate eggs and bacon together. Add salt and pepper and mayo. Decorate with chopped chives or sliced bacon. Spread over bread or toast.

Judy Spalla • Decorah

Send or e-mail your favorite recipe. If we print your recipe in our newsletter you'll receive \$5 off your next electric bill. E-mail to: mmoellers@hawkeyerec.com
All recipes can be found on our website.

Feb - Recipes that use Oreo Cookies (need by Jan. 15)

March - No Newsletter - Annual Report

April - Recipes that use nuts (need by March 15)



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Switch to energy-saving halogen incandescent lightbulbs to cut lighting energy use by 25 percent. These bulbs last three times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs and can easily be dimmed. Want to save more? Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) cut lighting energy use by at least 75 percent. Learn more at energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Rebates & Incentives for 2012

Look for an article in the February newsletter for a complete listing of the rebates and incentives available in 2012. The forms can be downloaded on Hawkeye's website at www.hawkeyerec.coop.

- ▶ Rebates must be purchased, installed and/or recycled January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012.
- ▶ Rebates are in place through December 31, 2012 **OR until funds, by incentive or in total, are depleted.**
- ▶ Members are encouraged to submit the rebate form and a copy of your receipt as soon as the equipment is purchased and installed.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Grace Grelman from Decorah for being chosen as the winner for the Willie Wiredhand coloring contest winner! Grace's picture was randomly picked from the 15 entries. We want to thank everyone for participating in the contest. You can go to our website www.hawkeyerec.coop to see all of the colored pictures. Grace was given an REC Toy Truck full of Christmas goodies.



© NRECA

Electrical Safety Calendar

Use this handy calendar to help keep your home safe. For more tips, visit esfi.org.

JANUARY

- Check and replace furnace filters

FEBRUARY

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

MARCH

- Replace smoke and carbon monoxide alarm batteries if not done in last 12 months

APRIL

- Check and replace furnace filters

MAY

- Clean air conditioners or schedule annual inspection
- Vacuum refrigerator coils

JUNE

- Dust light fixtures/lamps
- Schedule annual inspection of gas-powered dryer

JULY

- Check and replace air conditioning filters

AUGUST

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

SEPTEMBER

- Schedule annual furnace cleaning and inspection

OCTOBER

- Check and replace furnace filters

NOVEMBER

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

DECEMBER

- Dust light fixtures/lamps

Every month you should:

1. Inspect all electrical and appliance cords for damage

2. Test GFCIs & AFCIs
Whether you have a receptacle-type or circuit breaker-type ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), pushing the TEST button should turn off power to the circuit. To restore power, press the RESET button. To test arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) push the TEST button. The breaker handle should go to the middle or off position. To reset, move the breaker handle to the OFF position and then to the ON position.



3. Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

Push the TEST button or use other procedures recommended by the manufacturer. Smoke alarm batteries should be changed at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps" or "beeps" to indicate low batteries, change them right away. Replace all smoke alarms at least every 10 years.

ESFI recommends hiring a licensed, qualified home electrical inspector if:

Your home is more than 40 years old; your home had a major addition or renovation or major new appliance added in the last 10 years; and/or you are the new owner of a previously owned home.



Source: SafeElectricity.org

24049 State Hwy 9 - Cresco, Iowa 52136
1-800-658-2243 or 547-3801

www.hawkeyerec.coop

www.twitter.com/HawkeyeREC

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday • 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Closed Sat., Sun., & Holidays)

**Payment and billing inquiries
are available 24-7**

OUTAGES

1-800-927-5265

**IOWA STATE ONE CALL
1-800-292-8989**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dean Fisher, President - Lawler
Charles Frana, Vice President - Calmar
Dennis Ptacek, Secretary/Treasurer - Elma
Norman Dickman - Decorah
Roger Nibaur - Elma
Dean Nierling - Burr Oak
Dennis Young - Decorah
Darla Rance - Lime Springs
Carl Reicks - New Hampton

PERSONNEL

Brian Krambeer, Chief Executive Officer
Mike Walton, Operations Manager
Peggy Berg, Chief Financial Officer
Ted Kjos, Marketing & Mbr. Services Manager

EDITOR

Meagan Moellers

Hawkeye REC
PO Box 90
Cresco, Iowa 52136

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
DPC

Dates to Remember

BILLING CYCLE DATES

- Jan. 10 Hawkeye REC prints bills based on December meter reading.
- Jan. 11 Bills are mailed to members.
- Jan. 24 Disconnect services for non-payment.
- Jan. 25 Please mail your bill today to make sure it arrives to Hawkeye by the 1st of February. If needed, member reads meter and records on payment voucher.
- Jan. 30 Automated payments from checking accounts and credit/debit cards are processed.
- Jan. 31 AMR meters are read by the cooperative.
- Feb. 1 Bills become delinquent..

OTHER EVENTS

- Jan. 18 Board Meeting
- March 16 Youth Tour Deadline
- April 2 Scholarship Deadline
- April 18 Annual Meeting

Please remember that you can use the **Payment Drop Box** after office hours. It is located on the east side of the building between the two driveways.



CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES!

Electric cooperatives across the United States are pleased to join in celebrating the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives as designated by the United Nations General Assembly. We pledge to work with other cooperatives in our communities to raise awareness of the strength of our business model.

Cooperatives around the globe have empowered people to improve their lives through economic and social progress. We are a major economic force in developed countries and a powerful business model in developing ones. Millions of cooperatives operate in every region of the world and are owned and controlled by more than 1 billion members.

More than 29,000 cooperatives operate in the U.S. Collectively we generate 2 million jobs and make a substantial contribution to the U.S. economy with annual revenue of \$652 billion with total assets of \$3 trillion.

As members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), we commit to celebrating the International Year of Cooperatives. In doing so, we will promote the vital role cooperatives play in the economic and social well-being of the U.S. Together, we will engage in efforts to raise the profile of all cooperatives and demonstrate how we build local wealth, generate employment, and create opportunity for our members.



COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES BUILD A BETTER WORLD