

Energy Partners

A monthly look at the happenings of and related to:



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner The power of human connections

Our Energy, Our Future

New-Mac encourages members to get involved

With climate change legislation on the front burner in Congress, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association launched a new campaign at its annual meeting to get members nationwide involved in the debate. The “Our Energy, Our Future” campaign is designed to ensure elected officials grasp the importance of reliable, affordable power.



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

During his annual speech to the members, NRECA CEO Glenn English said the association is launching an unprecedented effort to open a dialogue between the 40 million electric cooperative members and lawmakers about a topic that has not been part of the debate to date – the effect climate change laws will have on the price and availability of electricity.

“It’s going to be extremely difficult to have affordable electric power or even, in some case enough power, given some of the discussion that’s taking place in

Washington and some state legislatures,” English said. “We need for our members and their elected officials to get together and get on the same page.”

The grassroots campaign launched at the meeting hopes to motivate electric cooperative members to ask their legislators three important questions:

1. Experts say that our nations’ growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation and efficiency can provide; What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we’ll need in the future?
2. What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions-

Start The Dialogue

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____

EMAIL _____

ISSUE NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____

America's Electric Cooperatives For more information visit www.ourenergy.coop

Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

New-Mac Electric customers can go to www.ourenergy.coop or click on the link from New-Mac’s site, www.newmac.com, and in just a matter of seconds, you can send your concerns to your representatives in Washington. Or, cards such as the one *at left* will be available in both New-Mac offices that can be filled out easily. Then, New-Mac will contact your representative for you.

free electric plants an affordable reality?

3. Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my elec-

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Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of, and related to, the cooperative.

Paying by phone? Please consider....

While paying your bill over the phone with a credit card is a popular option for New-Mac customers, those waiting to do so on the last day of the month can avoid long waits on hold (due to high call volumes) and assist the cooperative through the following options:

1. Customers can leave their payment information and phone number on a voice mail, and when the payment has been processed, they will receive a call that day. Some return calls may occur after

normal business hours, however New-Mac will return a call that day.

2. Customers can leave their name and phone number, and a billing clerk will call them in order to process the payment.

3. Customers can call a few days earlier with their payment information and request that New-Mac not process the payment until the last day of the month.

4. Customers can sign up for automatic payment, and their bill will be processed on the 25th of each month.

Watch out for kids

Children will soon be out and about enjoying their break from school, and New-Mac Electric asks that you be mindful of that as you drive around this summer.

It's every driver's responsibility to be on the lookout for kids at play; just as every parent needs to stress that their children always be watchful for cars.

Let's all work together to keep summer both fun and safe.

Offices closed Memorial Day

New-Mac's offices will be closed May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

Mulch available

Just in time for spring landscaping, New-Mac Electric has mulch available for \$5 per scoop. Anyone interested should call the Neosho office (451-1515) and ask for Susan or Tobey so that arrangements can be made to assist you.

Plan ahead

Any plans of additions or upgrades on your property should include New-Mac in the early stages.

Contact the engineering department about any project that will require additional electrical service. Calling New-Mac early will not only expedite the process, but it could also render money saving advice.

Contact the engineering department at (417) 451-1515.

Another **STOP** on the lines 

Saving the environment one shipment at a time

Company offers a simple change for the better

An opportunity to tremendously help the environment has been right under our noses for years. Actually, it's been under all kinds of things, like canned fruits and vegetables, office supplies, beverages, furniture, appliances

So, what could bring about such a positive change for the environment? How about just changing the pallet. You know, that wooden platform thing virtually every major company has been using for shipping seemingly forever. One new local company stands ready to see that change take place, with a pallet



A stack of freshly assembled pallets get a little drying time before being shipped out.



AmeriGreen Industries began operation April 5 in the former home of Mid-Tec, about 5 miles west of Anderson on Highway 76.

actually made of cardboard.

AmeriGreen Industries began operation on April 5 in the former home of Mid-Tec, located on Highway 76 about 5 miles west of Anderson. Currently, it employs around 15, but within a year, they'd like to have 300-400 assembling their, perhaps, revolutionary product.

The obvious questions: How can flimsy cardboard take the place of hardwood? And how can this pallet make a difference to the environment?

First, to simply call this pallet cardboard is a gross understatement. It is actually composed of corrugated fiberboard, which is able to sustain significant weight. How significant? Each pallet contains 9 corrugated cores, which collectively give the pallet the ability to support 18,000 pounds – certainly stout enough to handle almost anything that needs shipped.

Now, for the environmental

aspect. For starters, the pallet is made from 100 percent post-consumer material and is 100 percent recyclable. But that's just the tip of the iceberg on its potential environmental impact.

When you look at the environmental advantages of replacing the wood pallet with this corrugated alternative, well ... there's much to consider. Such as:

Weight. AmeriGreen's pallet weighs around 10 pounds, while most wood pallets weigh in at around 80. Say it costs you 60 cents a pound to ship your product; right there, you've got a \$42 savings per pallet in shipping costs. If you shipped 5,000 pallets a year, you'd have a savings of over \$200,000, or a company shipping 50,000 pallets per year would have a savings of over \$2 million.

While that might sound more like an economical benefit than environmental, consider that most trucks aren't limited by space when hauling goods, as more could be fit into the trailer. Usually the limitation is weight. Well, gaining 70 pounds per pallet by switching to AmeriGreen's product, likely would allow for an extra pallet or two to be loaded. Which means less trips, less fuel, less exhaust ... you get the idea.

Really, though, it doesn't take

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much pondering to see how the corrugated pallet can best help our environment.

AmeriGreen co-owner Mike Kindellan set forth that “61 percent of our nation’s hardwood is used to make a wooden pallet. 840 million pallets a year are produced.” And when all of those pallets have served their purpose, you’ve got a problem. Landfills across the country are refusing pallets. In five states, it is illegal to dispose of them.

While with the 100-percent-recyclable corrugated pallet, you send it right back into the system. It contains no nails or staples. Only cardboard, held together by an all-natural paste.

There’s also the fact that most wooden pallets are heat-treated for international shipping, which is not necessary with the corrugated variety. Kindellan affirmed that the entire Midwest could be heated for the winter with the BTUs that could be saved if the nation switched to corrugated pallets.

Kindellan pointed out many other advantages to the corrugated pallets, such as reducing injuries and damage to facilities and products. However, he and the company’s other owners, hope people will truly recognize the environmental virtues of their product and perhaps be motivated to get involved in protecting our environment.

“We’re trying to educate people. Can we handle 840 million pallets per year? I don’t think so, but in saying that, we are making a significant entrance, and we’re changing people’s mindset. And that’s what this is all about, being able to change people’s mindset. Plus, we’re providing jobs for the area,” he said.

AmeriGreen is committed to practicing what it preaches, maintained Kindellan. That is evidenced by the fact that AmeriGreen actually chooses to spend more on its corrugated boards, because they believe in the mission of their supplier, Pratt Industries. Pratt is the only supplier of 100-percent, post-consumer waste corrugated products in the nation. Kindellan also praised local state representatives, Kevin Wilson and Marilyn Ruestman, because they have put AmeriGreen in contact with people and government agencies that hopefully will allow AmeriGreen to bring about the change it envisions.

Among the six owners of AmeriGreen are Kindellan and his wife Victoria, brothers Cole and Sean Walden and their father Michael, plus one other. Currently, under full production, around 3,600 pallets can be produced in one day at the Anderson facility, however the total stands to go up significantly as the company expands. AmeriGreen is already looking for more employees.

Anyone interested in learning more about AmeriGreen or its pallets, can call (417) 775-5555 or go on their website at amerigreenindustries.com.

AmeriGreen is proud to be a new member of New-Mac Electric Cooperative.



Above and below, AmeriGreen workers assemble the pallets that are already being shipped worldwide. At left, corrugated boards await being cut and fashioned into pallets.



Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:

ENGLISH MUFFIN LOAVES

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Jose Rodriguez**

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 2 pkg. yeast | 2 tsp. salt | ½ cup water |
| 6 cups flour | 2 cups milk | cornmeal |
| 1 Tbsp. sugar | ¼ tsp. baking soda | |

Combine 3 cups flour, yeast, sugar, salt and baking soda in large bowl. Heat liquids until very warm (120-130°). Add to dry mixture. Beat well. Stir in enough flour to make a stiff batter. Spoon into 2 loaf pans (8x4") that have been greased and sprinkled with cornmeal. Sprinkle tops with cornmeal. Let rise in warm place 45 min. Bake 25 min. at 400°. Best sliced and toasted.

Send your recipe, along with your name and customer number, to: Recipes, c/o New-Mac Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO 64850; or recipes@new-mac.com. If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.

When opposites attract

I bet the first thought that you had when you read the title of this column was about marriage. Well, never fear, guys! That's not the topic as this monthly column is always about energy efficiency.

I received several complimentary comments about a recent column that taught you about Delta T and the driving force. At the risk of ruining a good thing, I want to go a little further with that topic because of its importance when analyzing the energy use of a house. If you can understand these two columns, you might be ready to graduate to energy efficiency 201.

First, let's do a little review about the Delta T. In that column, you learned how warm air tries to get to the cold air until the temperatures are equal. This difference in temperatures between the warm location and the cold location is called a Delta T. You also learned how humid air tries to get to drier air until they are equal. And, hopefully by now you have a better understanding of why some houses have "sweaty" windows and some have areas where mold and mildew are present.

A week before I wrote this current column, a dry cold front came from the northwest and collided with a large mass of warm, humid air. As a result, tornadoes developed, which destroyed hundreds of houses in Arkansas and neighboring states. Tragically, numerous lives were also lost.

That is an example of a Delta T and driving force that we all could do without. By the way, if you know of families whose homes were destroyed and plan to rebuild, ask them to call me at my office at 501-653-7931, and I will send them my new house construction video for free. I want them to build new houses that are super comfortable and super energy efficient. And, yes, I definitely suggest building safe rooms in new homes.

While some Delta T situations are awful, such as those that produced the Feb. 5 tornadoes, not all Delta Ts are bad. Parts of the nation received much needed rain from these storms. Our food and water supplies are also dependent on such rain. And if it were not for the Delta T phenomenon, we would have a difficult time cooling our house in the summer.

Consider this: When the thermostat says that cooling is needed, your air conditioning unit sends warm, humid air through the cold coil. The air is cooled, condensation occurs in the coil and then trickles to a drip pan and through a little pipe to the outside of the house. The larger the Delta T, the better this system works.

Geothermal systems, which use ground

loops to tap the earth's constant 58-degree temperature, have an advantage with the Delta T. That's because a geothermal coil is simply colder than most other air conditioning coils as it is working from cool ground temperatures and not the hot outside air.

A regular air conditioning unit has an outside coil and on a hot summer day, the fan in the outdoor coil is pulling hot outside air across a coil in an effort to cool that coil. I have checked temperatures of that coil on numerous occasions and found it to regularly be more than 115 degrees. I think that you all can understand that the heat transfer is better using cold groundwater in a geothermal unit than hot outside air from a standard air conditioning unit.

In addition to your air conditioning units, there are other things in the house that use Delta T in a positive way. Those include refrigerators, clothes dryers and water heaters, among others.

Well, that's all for the Delta T. I do, however, have to say something about marriage after all. A really kind lady once told a nice young couple that she thought their marriage was made in heaven. The young man replied, "So is thunder and lightning."

Until next time, stay warm and enjoy the good effects of the Delta T.

Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show (as heard on KQYS 1420 AM), works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video, call Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye. More energy-efficiency tips can also be found at www.ecark.org.



Doug Rye
says ...



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

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The power of human connections

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Questions? Comments?

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○ Our Energy

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tric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?

Those attending the meeting got the ball rolling by sending thousands of e-mails to Capitol Hill.

Whatever your stand on the climate change debate, the price you pay for electricity in the future — and likely its availability as well — depends on getting involved in this discussion. NRECA has made it easy by setting up a Web site at

www.ourenergy.coop. Those logging on to the site can quickly send an e-mail or letters to their elected officials asking them these important questions.

In the end, it's your wallet that will most be affected by what is happening in the halls of Congress. For this reason, it makes sense to get involved.

The nation's electric cooperatives believe the twin goals of protecting our environment and keeping the price of electricity affordable are possible. But doing so requires a seat at the table during this far-reaching debate.