

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

New-Mac says thanks for your help thus far

If you missed the fairs, CFL bulbs available Aug. 11-15 or Sept. 15-19

New-Mac Electric Cooperative would like to thank all of its members who helped with the *Our Energy, Our Future* campaign at the recent Newton and McDonald County Fairs.

By visiting the New-Mac tent and signing the cards or letters to our local legislators, nearly 1,400 contacts were initiated expressing our concerns about the affordability and availability of electricity in the future.



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

New-Mac was happy to give CFL bulbs to those helping with the *Our Energy, Our Future* effort at the fair. So, those members left the fairgrounds with a means for saving energy right away and with the knowledge that they were doing their part in the search for solutions to our energy issues in the years to come.

But if you didn't make it to the fair, don't fret; you still can help tell Washington you're concerned about the affordability and availability of electricity and get some energy-saving CFL bulbs as well. If you clip and fill out the requested information in the box on this page and **bring it in person** to either New-Mac

office (Neosho or Anderson) during normal business hours **Aug. 11-15** or **Sept. 15-19**, we will give you three CFLs for your home or business – **limit 3 bulbs per location**.

Our Energy, Our Future, as the name of the campaign suggests, addresses an issue that affects us all. If we work together, we can let our government know the concerns of the actual users of electricity, instead of the only voices being those of special interest groups. After all, ultimately, it is the energy users that have to pay for it.

Please help us in this effort and get your energy-efficient bulbs!



Start The Dialogue

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE (_____) _____

EMAIL _____

I AM A MEMBER OF _____ CO-OP

SIGNATURE _____



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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.



For more information visit
www.ourenergy.coop



If you missed us at the fairs, fill this out and bring it in Aug. 11-15 or Sept. 15-19 for your bulbs!

Make plans now for New-Mac's annual meeting

Mark your calendars now for New-Mac Electric Cooperative's 2008 Annual Meeting, which will be held October 25 at Crowder College's gymnasium.

Learn about the cooperative's state of affairs, and enjoy the activities, entertainment and lunch that will be provided. Don't miss out on this big day on Oct. 25!

Assistance is available

If you are having a problem paying your New-Mac account, please call us to make arrangements. Please don't disregard paying your bill. There are programs and options (such as budget billing) designed to assist you. So, please give us a call at 451-1515 or (800) 322-3849.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM & EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Jasper County417/781-0352
McDonald County..417/845-6011
Newton County.....417/451-2206

Please watch out for school kids

As kids head back to school this month, New-Mac Electric reminds everyone to be careful and keep them safe.

Drivers, please be attentive and look out for children around roadways. Parents, please instruct your kids to look before crossing streets and to stay away from traffic.

Your voice will matter

Power plant suspended indefinitely

A year ago, in the pages of this newsletter, we looked at the factors contributing to increasing wholesale electricity prices.

Among the factors were increasing demand and the need to build more power plants. Specific to that, Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. (AECI), New-Mac's wholesale supplier, was working toward constructing a 660-megawatt coal plant near Norborne, Mo. While this plant would have significantly benefitted AECI in its quest to provide reliable and affordable energy, due to increasing costs and other uncertainties, such as increasing regulatory concerns, plans to build the plant were suspended indefinitely.

Due to worldwide demand for engineering, skilled labor, equipment and materials, the estimated cost of building the Norborne plant escalated from \$1.7 billion in 2007 to \$2 billion in 2008. Amazingly, back in 2004, it was estimated the plant would cost just \$800 million.

Increasing uncertainties in the regulatory environment also played a major part in halting the Norborne plant. Congress continues to debate the environmental and economic impact of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, making the cost of reducing carbon dioxide from power plants impossible to forecast.

Still, the demand for more power exists. So, as an alternative to the Norborne plant, AECI is developing plans for a combined-cycle natural gas plant. In late 2006, AECI had the opportunity to purchase equipment for a 540-megawatt combined-cycle plant for \$43 million. The equipment – now estimated to be worth \$250 million – was bought and put in storage until it could be put to use. Now, AECI is hoping to do just that in a plant to be built in Chouteau, Okla.

A combined-cycle plant maximizes efficiency

by using the waste heat from the gas turbines to make steam which turns steam turbines to produce additional electricity. While there aren't many concerns over emission legislation with the



New-Mac Electric members at both the McDonald (at left) and Newton (below) County Fairs got involved in the *Our Energy, Our Future* campaign, initiating nearly 1,400 contacts with our local legislators.



natural gas plant, being subject to volatile natural gas rates is an ever-present threat. But in order to meet growing demand, a plant must be built.

While there's much to consider in the generation of power, in recent years, affordability often has been overlooked by policy-makers. Without the cloud of legislative uncertainty, the Norborne

Take Control & Save with rebates

New-Mac offers customers means to improve energy efficiency

Starting Aug. 1, 2008 and running through Dec. 31, 2008, New-Mac Electric customers can *Take Control & Save* with the help of rebates.

New-Mac is now offering appliance and heat pump rebates for *residential* members wanting to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Appliance rebates are available for qualifying water heaters, room air conditioning units, clothes washers and dishwashers.

The **water heater rebate is \$50** for customers changing out existing electric water heaters. The new electric water heater must have efficiency rating of .9 or better.



The rebate is also **\$50 for room air conditioning units**, which must carry the *Energy Star* label.

The rebates for clothes washers and dishwashers only apply to homes with existing electric water heating and the new units must be *Energy Star* models. The rebate amount is **\$100 on clothes washers** and **\$50 on dishwashers**.

The heat pump rebates are for both air-source and ground-source units and the amount is per ton.

For residential customers only, rebates are available for:

WATER HEATERS	\$50
ROOM AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS	\$50
CLOTHES WASHERS	\$100
DISHWASHERS	\$50
AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS	\$150 per ton
GROUND-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS	\$300 per ton

All appliances and heat pumps MUST meet program specifications!

Qualifying **air-source heat pumps will be rebated \$150 per ton**. The unit must carry the *Energy Star* label and feature natural gas or propane for it supplemental heat. This rebate applies toward the replacement of electric resistance heat, new construction, retrofit of an existing propane or natural gas heating system, or replacement of an existing

air source heat pump.

The **ground-source heat pump rebate is \$300 per ton**. Qualifying applications include the replacement of electric resistance heat, new construction, retrofit of an existing propane or natural gas heating system, or replacement of an existing ground source or air source heat pump.

Rebates will be applied to your New-Mac bill in the form of an energy credit. For more program details, call the New-Mac Electric member services department at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.

○ Plant halted

Continued from page 2

plant certainly would have been a great help to AECI in terms of keeping wholesale rates down, however until affordability becomes a bigger part of the discussion with the nation's energy and climate policy, alternative means of generation must continue to be sought – regardless of the cost.

Because New-Mac and co-ops across the country believe affordability is as important as availability and the environment, the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA) is encouraging all cooperative members to let their voices be heard with legislators. By visiting www.ourenergy.coop, in less than a minute, you can easily notify your elected officials about your concerns regarding the affordability and availability of energy in the years to come. Or even better, *if didn't already notify your legislators at the county fairs*, clip and fill out the requested information in the box on Page 1 of this newsletter and **bring it in person** to either New-Mac office (Neosho or Anderson) during normal business hours **Aug. 11-15** or **Sept. 15-19** to receive three CFLs for your home or business – **limit 3 bulbs per location**.

The nation's energy and climate policy will continue to take shape *whether or not* legislators hear from the people they represent, but through this simple *Our Energy, Our Future* measure, it's easy to let them know your concerns. The question is: Can we afford not to?

Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:

CHICKEN A LA KING

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Mary Clenney**

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 frozen biscuits | 1/8 tsp. salt |
| 1 3/4 cups sliced fresh mushrooms | 1 cup chicken broth |
| 1/4 cup chopped onion | 1 cup milk |
| 1/4 cup chopped celery | 2 cups cubed cooked chicken |
| 1/3 cup butter, cubed | 2 Tbs. diced pimentos |
| 1/4 cup all-purpose flour | |

Bake biscuits per package directions. Meanwhile, in large skillet, saute the mushrooms, onion and celery in butter till crisp-tender. Stir in flour and salt till blended. Stir in broth and milk. Bring to boil; cook and stir 2 min. or till thick. Add chicken and pimentos. Bring to boil. Reduce heat; simmer uncovered 4-6 min. Serve with biscuits. Serves 4.

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.

Don't forget the ductwork

Folks, you can't imagine how much I enjoy having you call me with your energy questions. I'm also glad to hear from you that these columns are helping you make your homes more energy efficient. Please be sure to tell your electric co-op how much you appreciate the tips.

Did someone say electric co-op? This is about the time of year when all electric companies start getting calls about high electric bills. That is, of course, unless you live in a home that is built to Doug Rye energy efficiency standards.

I expect nearly all folks wish their electric bills were lower. But, as we discussed during a past column, electricity is one of the best consumer buys available. That is, of course, unless a lot is being wasted.

How do you know if you are wasting electricity? Try this. Over the years, I have developed a simple rule-of-thumb formula to give me some kind of idea as to whether a person's utility bills are lower than average, average, or higher than average. Here's the formula: Take the square footage of your house and multiply it times .07. Example: 2,000 square feet X .07 = 140.

If your 2,000-square-foot house has average energy efficiency, you should never have a total energy bill (electricity plus gas) over \$140 in any month. If your calculation shows you are paying considerably more than this figure, your house probably has some serious energy efficiency problems.

When someone tells me, for example, that their 2,000-square-foot house sometimes has energy costs of \$200 to \$300 a month, my first thought usually goes to the ductwork. With the exception of air infiltration problems, which we've dis-

cussed in earlier columns, the single biggest energy problem in residential construction is ductwork.

How can ductwork be such a major energy waster? There are four basic ways.

- 1) The location of ductwork.
- 2) Sizing and design of ductwork.
- 3) Ductwork tightness.
- 4) Type of ductwork.



Doug Rye
says ...

First, let's consider the location of the ductwork. This is so elementary I almost feel guilty writing about it. But let's do so anyway. Where is the hottest place, by far, in your house in the summertime? That would be the attic, which sometimes reaches up to 160 degrees.

How would you like to sit in the attic and make homemade ice cream or, should I say, try to make homemade ice cream? It would take a lot of ice and a lot of energy and it most likely still would not freeze. With that in mind, where is the one location you should at all costs avoid placing your ductwork? You're right — the attic.

So why do so many houses have ductwork in the worst possible location? You can answer that question any way you want to, but the only real reason is because that is the way it has always been done and adults are hard to change.

What's the best option, you ask? By simply installing your ductwork in the conditioned space, in the slab, or in the crawl space/basement, you would immediately account for a minimum 20 percent reduction in cooling energy costs. Next month, we will discuss the other ductwork-related issues that can lead to high bills. In the meantime, feel free to call me here at the office at 501-653-7931 with any energy efficiency questions you might have.



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Or visit us on the Web at
www.newmac.com.

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Call our consumer services department for information on the following services:

Autowithdrawal Payment
Levelized Billing
Rental Light
Meeting rooms available at both locations
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Safety Programs (upon request)
Trade-A-Tree Program
Surge Protection
Green Power

Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes
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mrakes@newmac.com

P.S. You must admit that I do make sense, right?

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.