

# 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 rates in effect, as of April 1

### New-Mac encourages energy efficiency following second residential increase in 18 years

After being announced at your annual meeting in October and detailed in this publication in January, a general rate increase is now in effect for customers of New-Mac Electric. This adjustment began April 1 and will be reflected in the bills coming in May.

This is only the second increase New-Mac residential customers have experienced in the last 18 years – with the first coming in April of 2008.

The predominant reason New-Mac has been forced to raise rates is that they have received rate increases from their wholesale power provider in four consecutive years.

New-Mac residential customers will see their rate per kilowatt-hours billed go up by a fraction of a cent – an increase of \$.0065.

Their monthly service availability fee (minimum bill) will go up \$2.50.

As New-Mac has been telling customers as far back as 2003, the trends affecting energy prices are not favorable, and rate increases have now become an unavoidable reality. However, New-Mac will continue to do everything it can to help its customers deal with these rate changes.

New-Mac remains committed to the promotion of energy efficiency – through which customers indeed can “Take Control & Save.” This message is more than just an encouragement from New-Mac, as the co-op has made tools available for doing just that – through methods such as appliance rebates, periodic CFL-bulb giveaways, and interac-

tive assistance at [www.newmac.com](http://www.newmac.com).

New-Mac also hopes its members will stay involved in enacting positive change to industry issues by letting their voices be heard by legislators. Through *Our Energy, Our Future* – [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) – everyone needs to get involved and continue correspondence with lawmakers, which can be done in a matter of seconds. Or, for those not interested in the electronic method, people can fill out cards at either New-Mac office, which simply inform those in Washington that you are concerned about the availability and cost of electricity in the future.

The cooperative way is working together, and by doing just that, New-Mac and its members can push through any challenge.

## Your involvement necessary in affecting future energy prices

Let them know again! Or if you haven't yet, New-Mac and its fellow electric cooperatives all across the country encourage you to let your voice be heard with policy-makers in Washington. They need to know, when they are involved in climate-change discussions, that people are very concerned about how their decisions will affect the affordability and availability of electricity in the years to come.

Through *Our Energy, Our Future*, a joint effort by co-ops across America, more than 1,662,000 letters and emails have been sent



### Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America

to legislators, and nearly 16,000 have been sent by New-Mac Electric customers.

2009 marks the second year of this campaign, and everyone's

involvement is as important as ever. So, please do your part to share our common concern. By going to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop),

you can send an email that goes to your legislators in just a matter of seconds. Or, if you come to either New-Mac office, you can fill out a card and New-Mac will send the email for you.

We need everyone to help. If you par-

icipated last year, we need you again this year!

See *Our Energy, Our Future*, page 4

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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.

## Please play it safe during Kite Month

April is National Kite Month, and as you enjoy this recreation, New-Mac Electric encourages all to keep safety in mind.

The windy days of spring provide ideal kite flying conditions, however these gusts can bring about risks if kite-flyers fail to use sound judgment.

Kite safety begins with the selection of a good location, such as an open field away from power lines. Kites should always be kept a lengthy distance from power lines – since they often stray from their intended course. If your kite does come in contact with power lines, let go of it immediately! Never attempt to retrieve a kite that is tangled in power lines.

However, there's more to kite safety than simply avoiding power lines. Kites should never be flown in stormy weather. Always fly kites made of wood, paper or plastic – never use metal when making a kite, and only use dry string.

Remember, an enjoyable day of kite flying is a safe one.

## 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.

# Cooperatives are never alone

It's always scary to be alone. That's especially true when a large part of your electric co-op's lines have been destroyed. Fortunately, being alone is never the case for Missouri's electric cooperatives. Once again, when Mother Nature sent her worst in the form of a

destructive January ice storm, many people sent their best to assist those in harm's way.

Years ago, the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives developed a plan to help systems affected by disasters. One phone call is all that is required to get men, materials and equipment sent into the affected area.

Thanks to the early warning from the National Weather Service, everyone in the storm's

path was on alert. Linemen from cooperatives to the north had their bags packed and goodbyes said before the first outages were reported. They left behind warm beds and loved ones to work in the harshest conditions to restore power to 64,000

Missourians left in the dark.

They came from every electric cooperative in Missouri able to lend a hand and from co-ops in Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana and Mississippi. The men from Mississippi told us there was more damage to our systems than what Hurricane Katrina did to them in 2005.

As the roads were cleared and the full extent of the destruction became known, we could see we

were in for a long, hard battle to rebuild these systems. The quick assessment from M&A Electric Power Cooperative showed the destruction to our reliable co-op transmission system meant our restoration effort would be more difficult and last longer. That's when we turned to a friend in the industry and a new ally on power restoration.

St. Louis-based Ameren UE was about to release thousands of contract linemen who had completed work in southeast Missouri cities. Rather than send these men home, Ameren CEO Tom Voss decided, after discussions with Gov. Jay Nixon, U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson and me, to do everything in his power to keep them in place working for the electric co-ops. Ameren also offered anything else in its power to help us shorten the outage

See *Hart*, page 3



**By Barry Hart**  
*Executive Vice President  
of the Association of  
Missouri Electric  
Cooperatives*

## ESC ready to make homes more energy efficient

A waiting list has been established for weatherization program

Economic Security Corporation (ESC) of Southwest Area has funds available to help area residents make their homes more energy efficient through its Weatherization Assistance Program.

Eligibility for the program is based on income and preference is given to elderly and disabled individuals. However, the income guidelines have been increased considerably, so many more families would be eligible for this program. Due to this income guideline change, a waiting list has been established for new applicants.

The Weatherization Assistance Program starts with an energy audit. Afterwards, measures are

taken to address the areas that would most benefit the overall energy efficiency of the home.

Measures include weather stripping, adding insulation, installing compact florescent lighting, sealing ductwork and repairing electric furnaces.

Those interested in the program can call toll free 1-888-881-0158 to find out if they qualify based on the income guidelines. If they are eligible, they can leave their name and address, and an application will be mailed to them.

Applications are also available at the ESC locations in Neosho (302 S. Jefferson), Anderson (712 S. Highway 59), Joplin (302 S. Joplin) and Carthage (600 E. 6th Street).

### ESC Weatherization Assistance Program

To check on program eligibility, call

**1-888-881-0158**

If you qualify, leave your name and address and an application will be mailed to you.

**Trade Shows**



This past month, New-Mac Electric was pleased to have been a part of the HBA Home Show in Joplin, the Neosho Business & Industry Review, and the McDonald County Business Expo in Anderson. Pictured are some scenes from the shows with Tom Bower (left) and Linda Crosby (above) visiting with visitors of the New-Mac exhibit.

**Hart**

*Continued from page 2*

time. With their help, the number of workers assisting the three southeast Missouri co-ops jumped from hundreds to thousands.

Making this huge leap in manpower required jumping through some hoops to ensure we met requirements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. That's when we once again called our friends Gov. Nixon and Rep. Emerson to clear away any red tape that could have stood in the way of state and federal help. Their response was, "What do you need, and where do you want it?" In addition, both took time to investigate the damage and give

moral support to our personnel.

Our restoration effort benefited strongly from the close ties between Pemiscot-Dunklin Board President Jake Fisher and the University of Missouri. Jake's request for help at the co-op hardest hit by the ice storm resulted in the university loaning its Delta Research Center for use as a staging area for linemen. Associated Electric also housed some of the line workers at its New Madrid Power Plant.

Our members at Pemiscot-Dunklin, SEMO, Ozark Border, Howell-Oregon, and White River Valley received special help, this time from the Missouri National Guard. We know this was made possible as a direct result of our new Adjutant Gen. Steve Danner, and we will never forget his leader-

ship during this disaster.

We also must acknowledge MFA Oil of Columbia for help in averting a major disaster to our power supply by sending a diesel fuel tanker to one of our power plants on short notice.

To all those who gave us a helping hand, especially the many members who volunteered time and tractors, we offer our heartfelt thanks. Without their assistance, what will go down in history as the worst ice storm ever could have lasted a lot longer.

The effects of this disaster won't be forgotten soon, and the challenge of the rebuild continues. Members affected by future storms can rest assured the co-op family in Missouri and elsewhere will be there for them.

**Don't miss Safe Kids Day**

New-Mac Electric invites kids of all ages to attend Neosho's 13th Annual Safe Kids Day, scheduled for May 1 in the parking lot of the Newton County Health Department from 3-6 p.m.

Businesses, groups and emergency responders from across the area work together to put on this event, focusing on keeping kids safe. Those attending are exposed to a variety of safety education. Plus, they are sure to come away with a

number of giveaways.

Each year, New-Mac Electric does its part by teaching kids to respect electricity around the home.

In addition to the safety education, each child can have a photo/fingerprint ID made, win door prizes, and play various games.

For more information on Safe Kids Day, contact the Newton County Health Department at (417) 451-3743.

**Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:**

**TRIPLE TIER BROWNIES**

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Kelly Starks**

- 1 pkg. fudge brownie mix (for 13x9 pan)
- 1 pkg. (11.5 oz.) milk chocolate chips
- 1 can (16 oz.) cream cheese frosting
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 3 cups crisp rice cereal
- 1 cup salted peanuts, chopped

Prepare and bake brownie mix according to package directions, using a greased 13x9 in. baking pan. Cool on a wire rack. In a large saucepan, combine chocolate chips and peanut butter. Cook over low heat for 4-5 minutes or until blended, stirring occasionally. Stir in cereal; set aside. Spread frosting over brownies. Sprinkle with peanuts. Spread with peanut butter mixture. Chill for 30 minutes or until set before cutting. Store in the refrigerator. Yield: about 5 dozen.

*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.*

# Our Energy, Our Future

Continued from page 1

Currently, we're asking our legislators, "Will you please work with the electric cooperatives to be sure public policy meets my need for affordable electricity?" In this country, it is "We the People" that are given a voice. Won't you let yours be heard?



P.O. Box 310 — 12105 East Highway 86  
Neosho, Missouri 64850  
**Telephone:** 417/451-1515 800/322-3849  
**Fax:** 417/451-9042  
**Office Hours:** Neosho — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Anderson — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Or visit us on the Web at  
[www.newmac.com](http://www.newmac.com).

### Management

CEO/General Manager ..... Mitch McCumber  
Controller ..... David Childers  
Manager of Administration ..... Mary Hatfield  
System Engineer ..... Stan Irsik  
Manager of Operations ..... Alan Loehr  
Manager of Marketing ..... Mark K. Rakes  
Billing Supervisor ..... Vickie Stuart

### Board of Directors

District 1 ..... Martin Youngblood  
District 2 ..... Kenneth Daniels  
District 3 ..... Bobby Fields  
District 4 ..... Beryl Kennedy  
District 5 ..... Billy P. White  
District 6 ..... Paul Sprenkle  
District 7 ..... Maurice Mailes  
District 8 ..... Virgil Winchester  
District 9 ..... Dewey Allgood

### Services Provided to Members

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

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

### Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes  
P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO  
[mrakes@newmac.com](mailto:mrakes@newmac.com)



## AUTO-WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZATION

I (We) hereby authorize New-Mac Electric Cooperative, Inc., to charge my (our) checking, savings and loan, or credit union account for the amount of my monthly bill. I (We) further authorize the bank, savings and loan, or credit union to debit the same to such account.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Customer # \_\_\_\_\_ Location # \_\_\_\_\_

### BANK OR SAVINGS INSTITUTION INFO.

Name of Bank, Savings & Loan, or Credit Union \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Transit Number \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enclose a voided check.**

*The deduction will be made on the last business day of the month.*

Beginning Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (if joint account) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and voided check to:  
**New-Mac Electric Cooperative**  
**ATTN: Billing**  
**PO Box 310**  
**Neosho, MO 64850**

## Bank draft option can make life easier

### Auto-withdrawal means one less check to write

With the help of a bank draft, there's one more way New-Mac Electric Cooperative can help simplify your life.

If you would like to eliminate the need of writing and mailing a check each month, or making a trip to the New-Mac office to pay your bill, that can be accomplished by setting up your New-Mac account with a bank draft.

With a bank draft, each month you will still receive your bill from New-Mac, but when the last business



**Clip and fill out this form and return it along with a voided check, and New-Mac will set your account up for bank draft.**

day of the month rolls around, the cooperative will automatically withdraw the exact amount of your bill directly from your bank account.

All you have to do is fill out an "Auto-Withdrawal Authorization" form and provide a voided blank check, and New-Mac will set up your account so that there'll be no need for writing out checks again! – at least when it comes time to pay the electric bill.

For more information on the bank draft process, call the billing department at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.

