

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

FAIR TIME



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New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner The power of human connections

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.

New-Mac Electric was pleased to visit with numerous customers this past month at the Newton and McDonald County Fairs, as can be seen in these pictures including co-op employees Tom Bower (above left), Mark Rakes (top right) and Linda Crosby (below right). New-Mac would also like to thank all of those who participated in informing legislators about our concerns with future energy prices through *Our Energy, Our Future*. Read more about this ongoing effort in Barry Hart's column, page 2.

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.

Make plans now for New-Mac's annual meeting

Mark your calendars now for New-Mac Electric Cooperative's 2009 Annual Meeting, which will be held October 31 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. 31!

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.

Also, Economic Security Corp. of S.W. Area has funds available, if you qualify. To inquire, call the numbers listed below.

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

Our best game is yet to come

The baseball world recently turned its attention to Missouri as the All-Star game took place on the home field of the St. Louis Cardinals.

For those of us laboring in the political trenches, the mid-season classic was a great opportunity to forget, just for a moment, the work being done on climate change legislation.

For the past year, I have been keeping you abreast of this legislation because it has the potential to dramatically increase the price you pay for electricity. If Joe Buck were calling the plays in Congress instead of in the broadcast booth, this is how he might summarize things to date:

It's the bottom of the third inning in a game to decide who goes to the World Series. In the early innings, the U.S. House team had its best pitcher on the mound. But the National Rural Electric Cooperative

Association and its grassroots army made up of local co-op leaders, pinch hitting for the 42 million consumers they represent, got some base hits and eked out a few hard-earned runs and find themselves still in the game heading into the fourth inning. Now the action moves to the Senate, where the electric co-ops have their heavy hitters in the lineup. They'll no doubt be swinging for the fences in an all-out attempt to even the score.

This baseball analogy is one our national leader, Glenn English, likes to use as he explains where we are today in a long legislative process that could see a climate change bill finally become law. English points out that creating new legislation is like a nine-inning baseball game and this bill may go into extra innings.

Electric co-op leaders knew we faced enormous odds in the House, where East- and West-Coast representatives far outnumber rural lawmakers. Some legislators sought to punish Midwest consumers by approving an unfair carbon credit allocation formula because of our reliance on low-cost electric

generation from coal.

They thought we were too far out in right field to make any kind of play in the debate on this bill, but with some clutch hitting by the Agriculture Committee Chairman Colin Peterson and committee members from Missouri, Rep. Sam Graves and Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, they were wrong. We even got some coaching from Missouri's Rep. Ike Skelton, chairman of the Armed Services Committee who worked with Peterson and other House members representing rural districts to get changes.

The biggest hits we got were more carbon credit allocations for electric co-op and municipal utilities and a concession that the carbon offset payment program be led by the Department of Agriculture instead of EPA.

Because there weren't enough changes beneficial to Missouri in the House, Reps. Jo Ann Emerson, Roy Blunt, Sam Graves, Blaine Luetkemeyer and Todd Akin voted against it which sends a strong signal that changes

are needed in the Senate.

The climate change bill that passed the House contained some hard-won compro-

mises that will ease the pain for Missouri's consumers, amounting to more than \$3 billion from initial proposals. But there still are anti-consumer and anti-business provisions in the bill.

Now the debate moves to the Senate, and everyone agrees significant changes need to be made to protect rural America. In fact, many members of the House, including Skelton, have said they voted

yes knowing the Senate would make changes beneficial to cooperatives and rural Missouri, and if those needed changes aren't included in the final product, there is no guarantee they will vote for its passage.

As this measure is debated in the Senate, electric co-op members cannot sit in their seats eating peanuts and Cracker Jack.

Comments from you need to keep flowing to support our "all stars," Sens. Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill, who are committed to protecting consumers from the rate-shock



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



Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America

“ Let's make sure our voices are heard loud and clear...”

It pays to go energy efficient

Look for the *Energy Star* label & receive appliance rebates

New-Mac Electric continues to encourage customers to *Take Control & Save* through its rebate program.

New-Mac hopes customers will use this incentive by spending a little more to purchase energy efficient appliances, knowing they can qualify for rebates.



A Cooperative Effort for Energy Efficiency

And, of course, buying energy efficient appliances will result in savings for years to come for the purchaser.

So, if it's about time to buy a new clothes washer, dishwasher, window air-conditioning unit, water heater, or heating-and-cooling unit, keep in mind the rebate program qualifications – **because only qualifying purchases will be rebated.**

In order to qualify for a rebate, New-Mac must receive a completed rebate form and a copy of the purchase receipt within **90 days of the date of purchase.** Rebate forms are available online at www.newmac.com, at both the Neosho and Anderson offices, or by calling 451-1515 or 800-322-3849. The rebate program has been approved through Dec. 31, 2009. Rebates will be applied to your New-Mac bill in the form of an energy credit.

In order to receive a rebate, purchases **must** meet these qualifications:

CLOTHES WASHERS – \$100

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must be *Energy Star* rated
- only for homes with electric water heaters
- for residential customers only

DISHWASHERS – \$50

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must be *Energy Star* rated
- only for homes with electric water heaters
- for residential customers only

WINDOW AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS – \$50

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must be *Energy Star* rated
- for residential customers only

WATER HEATERS – \$50

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must have an energy rating of .9 or better
- only for replacement of another electric water, or for a new home
- for residential customers only

DUAL-FUEL HEAT PUMPS – \$150 PER TON

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must be *Energy Star* rated (14 SEER)

- must be dual fuel (having natural gas or propane for back-up)
- for residential or commercial customers

GROUND-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS – \$300 PER TON

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- If only the unit needs replaced and the looping is still present, customers can get \$150 per ton if the new unit is a gain of at least 3 EER.
 - 10 tons or more must be pre-approved
- for residential or commercial customers

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

All appliances and heat pumps MUST meet program specifications!

Energy Partners' *Recipe of the Month:*

GLORIOUS GRAPES

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Beatrice Filsinger**

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 8 oz. cream cheese, softened | ½ tsp. vanilla |
| 1 cup sour cream | 2½ lbs. green grapes |
| ½ cup sugar | |

Blend cream cheese and sugar. Add sour cream and vanilla; mix thoroughly. Stir in grapes. Refrigerate overnight. Serves 6-8.

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@newmac.com. If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.

Want to give your AC unit a long, productive life?

Oh my word, it's summertime again! And time to turn the thermostat to cool. This means that your air conditioner's compressor will start churning out that cold air and the electric meter will run faster. Well, for many of us that is what will happen, but for many others the thermostat will be turned to cool only to find that the air conditioning unit won't cool.

Some systems are just old and worn out. However, some are only a few years old and not working. So you call the local heating and cooling company and a technician comes to your house, says "hello," takes his gauges out of the truck, and goes directly to the outdoor air conditioning unit. He soon returns to tell you that the unit has a mechanical problem or is low on freon. If it is low on refrigerant gas, he charges the system and says "it's OK now." You turn the unit on and sure enough, good cold air is coming out of the registers.

All is well for perhaps another year or two and it happens again. Freon is added and all is well for a couple of more years when you find that the compressor is now bad.

Let's think about this. If your unit is only three or four years old, why did it lose the freon? A neighbor might have the same unit as you and never have a problem with his/her unit. If the leak is not fixed, it is sure to leak again.

Air conditioner failures can be caused by a number of things. It may be a manufacturer's problem or an installer's mistake. But there's another cause you may not be aware of — restricted air flow. Restricted air flow will shorten the system's life and reduce the system's performance.

Please remember this famous Doug Rye quote, "An air conditioner cannot blow more air out than it can suck in." In some cases, restricted air flow can be caused by furniture placement. However, it is usually caused by a dirty filter, or an undersized return air filter grill.

How often do you need to change the AC

filter in your house? Some say every month, but I'm telling you it is "as needed." Some may need to change them monthly, some every two months, some every six months, etc. As related to return air filter grills, one needs approximately 2 square feet of filter grill per ton (12,000 British thermal units) of cooling.

So if you have a 3-ton air conditioning system, you need 6 square feet of return air filter grill for the system to operate at maximum capacity and not stress the equipment. Remember, it is impossible to oversize the return air system — the larger the return air, the better. I know what many of you are thinking, "Well, my return air is only half the size it needs to be!" Well, the next time the technician comes to your house to add freon or other repairs, ask him about increasing the size of your return air filter grill.

Stay cool and see you next month! P.S. Before you start calling me, I am very much aware that most air conditioning refrigerant is no longer freon, but all readers recognize that term.



Doug Rye
says ...

Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show (as heard on KBTN 1420 AM & KQYX 1450 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.



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

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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)
Surge Protection
Green Power

Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes
P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO
mrakes@newmac.com

o Hart

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potential of this legislation. Let's make sure our voices are heard loud and clear just like they are when the Cardinals play the Cubs. Members of the House need to hear from you, too, because they will be called upon when compromise legislation is considered.

Please step up to the plate through the *Our Energy, Our Future* campaign either on your own at www.ourenergy.coop or at the annual meeting or other events your cooperative holds. We need to tell our legislators to keep climate change legislation fair, affordable and achievable. Don't let us go down swinging in this effort to keep electricity affordable.