

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

Hottest summer on record?

A/C units strained by extreme heat

Just in case you weren't aware of exactly how hot it has been; as of the time of press for this publication, August's degree-day total was on pace to be the highest August total since the year 2000.

Of course, with seven days of triple-digit heat, as we experienced, it makes for one of the hottest months the New-Mac Electric service area has endured in some time.

It appears August was just following the trend of recent months. According to records compiled by New-Mac since 1989,



At left, the time and temperature sign at New-Mac Electric's Neosho office tells the story of the extreme heat sustained by the area. Above, in spite of the scorching temps, New-Mac linemen toil away on the job.

using data provided by the Neosho National Fish Hatchery, June of 2010 was the hottest June in more than two decades. Likewise, July of 2010 was the third hottest over that same stretch and had the highest degree-day total since 2001. If you combine the degree-days for June and July, 2010 has the highest total on record for that

same two-month span.

So, keep in mind as you consider your electric usage this summer, most likely, you've been contending with the most extreme summer since before 1989. Air-conditioning certainly is the largest contributor to most household's summer utility

See *Hot*, page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Meter tamperingpage 3
- Recipe of the monthpage 3
- Doug Rye.....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.

NEW-MAC ELECTRIC'S 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

• 10 a.m., Sat., Oct. 30 @ Crowder College Gymnasium • Registration 8-10:15 a.m.

It's New-Mac Annual Meeting time again, and we are excited about all we have planned this year.

We will have gift drawings for all ages, and babysitting is provided.

The meeting also features a free luncheon. Please help us in planning the food. If you are planning on attending, please clip and fill out this form, and mail it to P.O. Box



310, Neosho MO 64850. You may also return it with your bill payment.

We will place our meal order based on the number of forms we receive.

See you all at the meeting!

Mitch McCumber, CEO/General Manager

Yes, I/we are planning to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting.

There will be _____ family members attending.

Please circle one: For lunch, I/we would prefer: **Pork** or **Beef**



Please detach and send in or return with your bill payment.

Please call before you dig

Digging in areas where there may be an underground electric line can be dangerous! So, before any project that requires digging, call the Missouri One Call System at 800-DIG-RITE.

Those who fail to make this call not only face the chance of electric shock; they also will be held responsible for any repairs that may be necessary if a line is accidentally cut or damaged.

Please don't lock us out

Remember New-Mac Electric always needs to have access to your meter both for periodic inspections and in the event of an outage. So, make sure the co-op can get to your meter, and any existing lock arrangements with New-Mac need to be maintained.

Mulch available

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.

Outage reporting

To report an outage, have your location number (found at the top of your bill) ready and call 451-1515 or (800) 322-3849.

Climate bill dies in Senate, thanks in part to co-op members

Your voice still must be heard

From Rural Missouri News Service

On July 22, Sen. Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, admitted something electric cooperative members have been trying to tell him for three years: Americans do not want climate change legislation if it means paying dramatically higher rates for electricity and other goods and services.

On that date, Reid was forced to abandon efforts to pass climate change legislation after failing to sway senators from both parties, despite 18 months of arm twisting.

Instead, Reid says the Senate will now work on passing a modest energy bill that will focus instead on energy efficiency and the BP oil spill.

The move followed several earlier efforts to pass Senate legislation that also failed to gain traction last fall. Those efforts became mired in economic distress and scientific scandals that left many wondering if they can trust any of the science on this issue.

Since 2007, electric cooperative members have inundated Congress with messages urging lawmakers to consider electric bills as they debate the climate change issue. Through the electric cooperatives' "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign, more than 3.2 million messages have flooded House and Senate offices. This includes more than 748,000 from Missouri alone.

The messages all had one theme in common: Rural America cannot handle another huge rate increase. And they have made a difference.

As the debate on this issue has taken place in both chambers, electric cooperatives have had a seat at the table thanks to the messages sent

in by members. In fact, when Missouri Sen. Kit Bond addressed the Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee in November 2009, he spoke before a huge stack of postcards sent in by Missouri consumers.

Despite the setback, this issue is not dead, and your electric bills are not safe. The Environmental Protection Agency has said it will pass strict regulations that take affect in January

2011 if Congress does not

act. These regulations likely will not have any compromises that would soften the blow to consumers.

And while some Congressional members do not believe the balance of power between branches of the government will allow EPA to wield its stick, others are more concerned.

Missouri's U.S. Reps. Ike Skelton and Jo Ann Emerson drafted a bi-partisan bill this year that would reign in EPA on the climate change issue. They believe letting EPA regulate carbon would result in a "Glorious Mess."

Their reasoning: unlike earlier efforts to control emissions of sulfur dioxide, there is no commercially viable option today to remove emissions of CO2 from power plants. So utilities would be forced to buy expensive carbon credits to continue generating electricity from coal, or switch to natural gas.

The problem? Consumers would ultimately pay for any carbon tax or cap-and-trade plan. And switching to natural gas would be extremely expensive because natural gas generation is two to three

times more expensive than generation from coal.

Missouri's electric cooperatives are concerned about any legislation that would increase costs for members who are already struggling to make ends meet. Electric co-ops



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

3.2

million messages
have been sent to
legislators

Meter tampering illegal, dangerous

Nothing good can come from tampering with your electric meter.

First, the likelihood of getting away with altering or bypassing a meter's recording of energy use is becoming increasingly slim, if not impossible.

Secondly, it is illegal. In Missouri, meter tampering is a Class A misdemeanor, and repeat offenders face a Class D felony charge. New-Mac treats each tampering incident as a serious matter. Not only are

meter tamperers breaking the law, they're also stealing energy from their fellow electric cooperative members.

Most importantly, tampering with a meter is extremely dangerous, as it could result in severe electrical burns, shock, or even death by electrocution. Meddling with the meter base can be just as deadly, even if the meter has been removed.

If you suspect meter tampering, please call New-Mac at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.

Climate bill

Continued from page 2

typically serve a population that is older, more likely to be on fixed incomes, more likely to be unemployed and more likely to be below the federal poverty level than their urban and suburban counterparts.

We believe that any climate change legislation passed must keep electric bills affordable and

the power supply reliable. At the same time, climate change goals need to be achievable.

Please join us in keeping the pressure on Congress so that electricity will never become a luxury only the very rich can afford. Rural America witnessed that take place before electric cooperatives were formed.

We never want to return to those dark days again.

Hot

Continued from page 1

bills. While there are measures everyone can take to conserve energy, such as using fans and adjusting the thermostats a few degrees, when heat indices are in the neighborhood of 110 degrees, it takes a considerable amount of energy to keep our homes comfortable.

Summers such as this one do, however, encourage us to look for ways to be more energy efficient in the future. For starters, replacing central heat-

and-air with a heat pump could dramatically improve your summer utility bill next year. Of course, regardless of your cooling system, it will only be effective if your home is well sealed, which could mean adding insulation, weatherstripping and caulk. And don't overlook the benefits of a big, leafy shade tree – although it may take a few years for a well-placed tree to shade your house, still it is something to keep in mind.

The good news is: It's September, and Fall is fast approaching.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE NEW-MAC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

The Nominating Committee, elected at the Annual Meeting held October 31, 2009, did on August 18, 2010, meet at this office of the Cooperative, Highway 86, Neosho, Missouri, pursuant to Section 3, Article III of the by-laws of the Cooperative, to nominate a slate of candidates to be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Cooperative, October 30, 2010, and did at such meeting nominate the following persons for Director of the Cooperative.

District #2

East Central Section Kenneth Daniels

Newton County

For three (3) year term

Frank Ward

District #7

Northwest Section

Maurice Mailes

McDonald County

For three (3) year term

Roger Mills

District #8

Southwest Section

Larry Manning

McDonald County

For three (3) year term

Virgil Winchester

Published in accordance with Section 3, Article III, of the by-laws of the New-Mac Electric Cooperative, Inc., Neosho, Missouri.

Signed Mary Rogers
Bill Whitson
Jim Standlee
Pauline Brisco

Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:

ZUCCHINI JAM

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Shirley Calvert**

6 cups shredded zucchini
½ cup lemon juice
1 (6 oz.) pkg. apricot *Jell-O*

1 can crushed pineapple (drained)
5 cups sugar

Boil zucchini 10 min. Drain well. Add pineapple and lemon juice. Add sugar. Boil 6 min. Add *Jell-O* and stir well. Pour in jars and seal. Makes 3 pints.

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.

'And I thought green had been around for a while'

Green, green and more green. What does it mean? Folks, have you noticed that the word "green" shows up in more magazines, newspapers and television programs than ever before? It is almost like a new color has been developed.

My first recollection of the color green was that it was one of my six Crayola crayon colors. I soon learned that you used the green crayon to color grass and trees green, just like they are now that it is springtime. I still like green grass and green trees.

My next recollection of the word "green" was when adults would use it to describe a person. It usually meant that the person was young and inexperienced or, as they also said, "still wet behind the ears."

As I grew up, there were other things green that evoke fond memories. My first automobile was an emerald green Chevrolet. My next car was a dark green Oldsmobile with fender skirts. Wow. What memories.

I also have some bad green memories – like turnip greens, green beans and broccoli. Anyway, now that I am dry behind the ears, I like all of those green veggies. At about 18 years of age, I learned that I wouldn't have anything to eat, green or otherwise, if I didn't get a job and bring home the green. Well, through time, words often take on additional meanings. Since this column is always about energy efficiency, let's talk about what it means to be green in 2010.

Well, first of all, focusing on energy efficiency is being green. I am happy to say that every Doug Rye house built in the last 20 years would be considered green. Let's take a moment to talk about green construction and what that means. To qualify as green construction, I think that both the construction should be envi-

ronmentally friendly and save folks money on their energy bills.

The first draft of this column took several pages because I got carried away by listing every item that is used in the construction of a house

and giving it a green score. So instead of doing that, let's just score a couple of items and we'll use a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being best. Technically speaking, I should give every product at least one green point because everything is made from

the earth. Some products, however, will score a lot of green points.

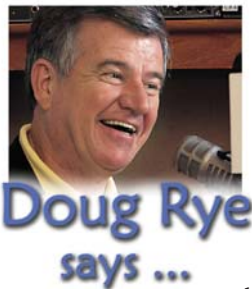
A great example would be cellulose insulation, which is made from paper that was made from trees, a renewable resource, and then recycled into insulation. Cellulose insulation saves folks money every day for the entire life of a house. I can't give it a perfect score of 10, however, because some energy was required to harvest the trees, make the paper and manufacture the insulation.

A geothermal heat pump also scores a lot of green points as it uses the earth's BTUs for heating, cooling and water heating. These BTUs were supplied by the sun, the ultimate renewable energy resource. In fact, I have started calling geothermal, solar thermal.

Because most of the energy in houses nationwide is used for heating, cooling and heating water, geothermal systems score a 9, higher than other heating and cooling systems.

Well, instead of taking three more pages, I thought I'd give you a turn instead. Take a minute to review your house, its construction and your heating and cooling system. What type of green score does your house get?

I hope it is a good one, but if it



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Anderson — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

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District 6 Paul Sprenkle
District 7 Maurice Mailes
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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)
Surge Protection
Green Power

Questions? Comments?

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

isn't, just keep reading this column where we'll keep giving you tips on how you can improve it. See you next month.

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.