

Energy Partners

A monthly look at the happenings of and related to:



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

A pleasant surprise: No general rate increase planned

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, New-Mac Electric plans to not have a general rate increase in 2018.

At the New-Mac Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting in late October, CEO/General Manager Mitch McCumber said, "It is a bit too early to say for certain, but for 2018, it looks likely we will have to have a general rate increase."

However, that's not all he said. "We will never raise your rates until we absolutely have no other choice," McCumber added.

"Based on the information we had

available at the time from our suppliers, it looked like a general rate increase was unavoidable," said McCumber. "As we went through our budgeting process, we were able to shave some costs from this year and as it appears now, we will not have a general rate increase in 2018."

At the annual meeting, McCumber promised discussion of rates in this edition of the co-op's newsletter. "I do want everyone to understand we are just putting the increase off for one year. We will have to have a general rate increase in 2019,

most likely in January of that year," he said. "I am really pleased, however, that we won't have a general rate increase in 2018, as always, barring any unforeseen circumstances."

New-Mac has had just four general rate increases in the past 26 years.

"We try diligently to keep our rates in check, however across the nation, electric rates have and will continue to trend upward, as we've been informing you for years," said McCumber. "And at the end of the day, there's only so much we can do."

New-Mac Electric's annual contest will send students to Washington D.C. and Jeff City

A pair of high school juniors will win a trip to the U.S. capital and 2 more to Missouri's legislative city

If you are a junior in high school, or know of one, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity exists that starts with simply writing a short essay.

Once again, New-Mac Electric will be sending two students to Washington D.C. and two more to Jefferson City on expense-paid trips through the co-op's annual Youth Tour/CYCLE Contest.



New-Mac's 2017 Youth Tour delegates were Sarcxie's Kobe Kisling and Seneca's Emily Horine, picture here in front of the U.S. Capitol Building.

Sarcxie, Seneca and Wheaton. Home or private school 11th-grade students residing in the aforementioned districts are also eligible. Immediate family members of New-

See *Contest*, page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Be prepared this winterpage 2
- 2018 rebate program.....page 2
- Dusk-to-dawn lights.....page 4
- Generator safetypage 4



New-Mac Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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.

Stay away from downed lines

Heavy snow, ice and wind are all capable of bringing down power lines. New-Mac would like to remind everyone to stay away from downed power lines.

Please **don't** touch, attempt to move, or drive over downed lines. Also, **don't** touch anyone who is in contact with power lines.

Always report downed power lines to New-Mac Electric at 451-1515 or (800) 322-3849.

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 are maintained.

Be safe, 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, or you can dial 811. Please call three working days in advance.

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

Co-op reminds 'be prepared' this winter

Our winter has been mild so far, but we all know that could change at any time in Southwest Missouri. So, New-Mac encourages you to always be ready for winter's worst. Please keep the following items on hand, and be prepared:

- Flashlight (with extra batteries) and candles.
- Battery-powered radio.
- Bottled water and non-perishable food items.
- Manual can opener.
- Extra medicine and baby items.
- First-aid supplies.
- Back-up heating source – NEVER use a charcoal grill to cook or heat inside!
- Fire extinguisher and smoke detector.
- New-Mac also reminds everyone to never approach downed power lines as they may be energized.

In the event of outages, New-Mac customers should have their map number (location number) ready and call 451-1515 or 800-322-3849. Don't assume that someone else has already called for your area.

During extended outages, customers can get updates on the restoration efforts by checking our website, newmac.com, and through local media outlets.

If you are on social media, updates will come right to your computer or smart phone by liking our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/NewMacElectric or by following us @ [NewMacElectric](https://twitter.com/NewMacElectric) on Twitter. Please DO NOT report outages through social media, as it is not monitored 24/7. Outages must be called into our dispatch.

New-Mac will extend rebates in 2018

New-Mac Electric is pleased to continue its energy-efficiency rebate program in 2018.

The co-op hopes members will use these rebates as incentives to make energy-efficient purchases, which will bring additional savings through energy conservation. Rebates are available for energy-efficient electric water heaters, window air-conditioning units, and three types of heat pumps.

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 newmac.com and at both the Neosho and Anderson offices.

Rebates will be applied to your New-Mac bill in the form of an energy credit.

If you have questions about any of our rebates or their qualifications, call Zane in our member services department at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.

New-Mac Electric 2018 Rebates

WINDOW AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS – \$50

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must be Energy Star rated
- limit one per address
- service where installed must use 6,000 kWh per year
- for residential customers only

WATER HEATERS – \$50

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must have an energy rating of .9 or better
- limit two per address
- must be a 40-gallon tank or larger
- tankless (on-demand) water heaters are not eligible
- service where installed must use 6,000 kWh per year
- for residential customers only

DUAL-FUEL HEAT PUMPS – \$150 PER TON

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must be at least 16.5 SEER
- must be dual fuel (having natural gas or propane for back-up)
- for residential or commercial customers

MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMPS – \$150 PER TON

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must be at least 16.5 SEER
- must not have electric resistant heat as a backup
- for residential or commercial customers

GROUND-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS – \$300 PER TON

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must be at least 19.1 EER
- must provide documentation of Manual J load calculation
- 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
- minimum insulation requirements (R-38 for ceiling, R-13 for walls)
- for residential or commercial customers

Contest

Continued from page 1

Mac Electric employees or board members are not eligible to participate.

Youth Tour is a week-long trip to Washington D.C. sponsored by electric cooperatives from all across the country. Delegates are selected by each co-op, grouped together with peers from their state, and then sent to the nation's capital. Missouri will send over 100 delegates to be part of over 1,500 that will experience our nation's capital June 8-14.

The Missouri students will see sites such as the Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, Ford's Theatre, Iwo Jima Memorial, White House, Mount Vernon Plantation and many more. Also, they will learn about the workings of our government while developing life-long friendships with their fellow delegates. To learn more about Youth Tour, visit youthtour.coop.

CYCLE stands for Cooperative Youth Conference & Leadership Experience. It is a three-day trip to Jefferson City, where students learn about our state government, cooperatives and leadership in general. Highlights include touring the Missouri Supreme Court and State Capitol and the opportunity to debate a fictional bill from the actual floor of the House of Representatives. CYCLE will take place July 18-20.

PARTICIPATION

The contest consists of writing a 400-600 word essay on the following topic: **How Electricity Improved Farm Life**. All essays must include a cover sheet with the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Email address
- Parents'/Guardians' names
- School
- Word count of essay

Essays should be sent to: Youth Tour/CYCLE, New-Mac Electric, PO Box 310, Neosho, MO 64850. Or, they can be emailed to jkling@newmac.com with "Youth Tour/CYCLE" in the subject line. All essays must be received by **March 9, 2018**.

Finalists will be selected from the essays and inter-



Above, 2017 Missouri Youth Tour delegates pose in front of the Lincoln Memorial. At left, New-Mac's 2017 CYCLE winners included Sarcoxie's Michael Lee and Seneca's Madison Wade are photographed in the Missouri State Capitol. Below, CYCLE participants debate a fictitious bill from the Missouri House floor.



viewed by a panel of judges at New-Mac's Neosho office. The top two winners will attend Youth Tour, June 8-14, in Washington D.C. The third- and fourth-place participants will take part in CYCLE July 18-20 in Jefferson City.

If you have additional questions about the contest, call our member services department at 417-451-1515 or 800-322-3849.

Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:

CORN SALAD

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Audra Elliott**

- 2 cans of whole kernel corn, drained)
- ½ cup of colored peppers (green, red, and/or yellow), chopped
- ½ cup of red onion, chopped
- 1 cup mayonaise
- 1 to 1½ cup shredded cheese
- ½ bag of chili cheese Fritos, crushed

Mix all of the ingredients except the chili cheese Fritos together and chill. When ready to serve crush ½ bag of chili cheese Fritos and add to the chilled mixture. Stir and serve.

Send your recipe, along with your name and account number, to: Recipes, c/o New-Mac Electric, 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.

Extend your day with a dusk-to-dawn light

If evening seems to be setting in before you've done all your chores, or perhaps you'd just like the security of some additional lighting, then New-Mac Electric has the solution for you.

Security lights, also called dusk-to-dawn lights, are available from New-Mac for a monthly fee.

New-Mac will install a 100-watt, high-pressure sodium light on an existing meter or transformer pole. The co-op will then maintain and supply the electricity to the light (it does not go through your meter) for a \$11 monthly rental fee. If the light ever stops working,

New-Mac will repair or replace the light at no additional charge.

Higher wattage lights or installations requiring the setting of new materials may also be available for additional fees.

Also, if a light owned by a customer is in need of repair, New-Mac is willing to make those repairs for the cost of parts (if the co-op has the necessary parts). These repairs will take place as work orders permit when a truck is in your area.

If you are interested in a security light at your location, contact our billing department at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.



Main Office:
P.O. Box 310 — 12105 East Highway 86
Neosho, Missouri 64850

District Office:
9 Mustang Lane
Anderson, Missouri 64831

Telephone: 417/451-1515 800/322-3849

Fax: 417/451-9042

Pay-by-Phone: 855/874-5348

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

Management

CEO/General Manager..... Mitch McCumber
Controller..... Craig Bonet
Manager of Administration... Mary Hatfield
Manager of Operations..... Stan Irsik
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 Mailles
District 8 Jason Ruddick
District 9 Jamey Cope

Services Provided to Members
Call our consumer services department for information on the following services:

- Automated Phone Payment**
- Autowithdrawal Payment**
- Green Power**
- Levelized Billing**
- Online Payment & Usage History**
- Rental Light**
- Meeting rooms available at both locations**
- Credit Card Acceptance**
- Safety Programs (upon request)**
- Surge Protection**

Questions? Comments?

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

Generators must be installed correctly

Generators offer a reliable back-up source for electricity during an extended power outage. However, they must be installed and used correctly to avoid very serious health and safety risks – not only to your household but also to the linemen working to restore power. The best way to ensure you and co-op line crews stay safe when you are using a generator is to educate yourself and plan ahead.

Generators come in a variety of sizes. They can range from 500 watts up to several megawatts of output, and run on gasoline, diesel, propane or natural gas. The size of generator needed can be determined by totaling the wattage of the lights, appliances, devices, etc., and then add about 20 percent for the increased start-up power requirements.

A whole-house generator – one that is tied directly into your wiring – must have a double-throw transfer switch installed at your breaker panel by a qualified electrician. Without the switch, a generator can backfeed 240 volts to the transformer, where it is then stepped up to 7,200 volts and sent down the lines, creating a life-threatening situation for the linemen trying to restore your power.

The double-throw switch makes it impos-

sible to have both the generator and the power supplier service connected at the same time. It opens one in order to close the other.

Portable generators (usually with wheels) are smaller and can supply enough power for necessary applications but not the whole house. These generators also need a double-throw switch.

Another reason for having a qualified electrician hook up your generator is for the protection of everything you plan to have powered by it. Improperly connecting to the generator could damage all of your appliances, electronics, etc.

When weather threatens, generators can provide peace-of-mind, but they must be installed correctly. Please consider the following safety tips involving generators:



Portable generator

- Follow the instructions included with your generator.
- Make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- Never overload the generator.
- Never add fuel while it is running.
- Never use a generator indoors.
- Always keep a fully-charged class ABC fire extinguisher nearby.
- Turn off all appliances powered by your generator before shutting it down.