

# Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## Energy costs on the rise



*President's Report*  
*Glenn Miller*

We are all reading and hearing from the media a lot of information regarding energy cost; some factual and some not so factual. One thing is true and no one is disagreeing that energy costs are on the rise. According to the American coalition of Clean Coal Electricity, half of American families can expect to spend an average of 19 percent or more of their after-tax income on energy-related expenses in 2010. The U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Census Bureau found that since 2001, the cost of residential electricity has increased about 48 percent.

In a downward-sloping economy, the current federal and state energy and environmental legislation being considered could drastically raise the price of electricity for Holmes-Wayne members. We find this very alarming. As a cooperative, our mission is to provide electricity to our member/owners at a reasonable price. We take this responsibility seriously.

There are several avenues we are utilizing to communicate our concerns. Most recently, I had the opportunity, along with John Porter, HWEC VP of Engineering and Operations, and Ronnie Schlegel, HWEC Board Chairman, to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. We met with Ohio congressmen to express our concerns regarding proposed energy and environmental policies and the devastating impact this would have on our members. With thousands of rural cooperative staff and board members in attendance, we were able to represent more than 42 million cooperative members in 47 states. That's a loud voice that our congressional representatives need to hear from.

Also you can take confidence in the efforts of your board of trustees and Holmes-Wayne staff. All nine board members and the entire leadership staff at HWEC are contributing to the Action Committee for Rural Electrification® (ACRE). ACRE supports congressional candidates, regardless of party, who share public policy goals that are consistent with the mission of member-owned electric cooperatives. Also, half of the contributions to ACRE are returned to the statewide associations for use in state elections.

We also continue to provide information through this publication, our Web site ([www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com)) and bill stuffers. We feel it is critical and encourage you to become educated and actively involved in this subject. We hope you took advantage of attending our annual meeting to hear more about the most recent energy policies our legislators are proposing, and to participate in the grassroots campaign of *Our Energy, Our Future*. You also will note in your next several bills further information allowing you to express your interest and concern in legislative policies impacting energy cost and your pocket book.

Throughout the 75 year history of rural electric cooperatives, we have used grassroots effort to make a difference in our rural communities. The time has come again that we must make our voice be heard.

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866-674-1055 or 888-264-2694

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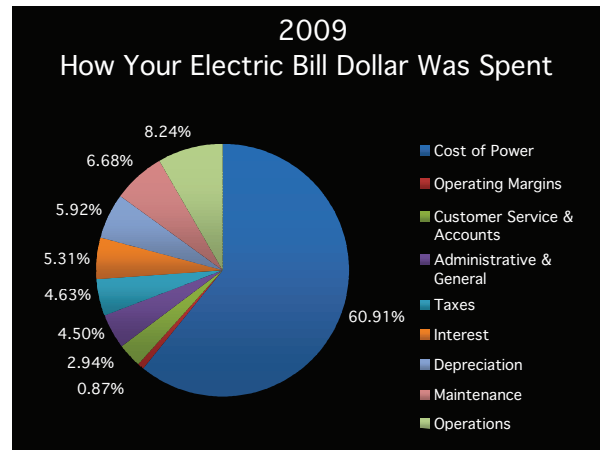
## Did you know?

For every dollar you send to Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative for your electric bill, approximately 61 cents is paid directly to Buckeye Power, Inc., our wholesale power supplier. Buckeye Power generates the electricity that Holmes-Wayne Electric purchases and sells to you the members of Holmes-Wayne.

Because wholesale power makes up such a large part of your electric bill, wholesale power increases significantly impact your monthly bill and is the primary reason your electric rate has been increasing over the past decade. Buckeye Power has experienced increased costs from dramatic price acceleration of fuel used to generate electric and multi-million dollar investments in equipment to meet federal and state environmental controls.

As always we encourage you to manage your bill by controlling your consumption through energy efficiency. The less electricity consumed, the less your bill will be. Take advantage of the tools provided by Holmes-Wayne Electric through this publication, our Web site, bill stuffers, energy efficiency days and our on-site energy advisor. Small changes can have a dramatic impact on your energy consumption.

### Your Holmes-Wayne electric bill breakdown



## Summertime Blues

Don't let the warmer weather turn into "summertime blues" when the monthly electric bill arrives. Here are some tips on keeping your electric bill in check.

**Adjust the thermostat.** As TogetherWeSave.com demonstrates, lowering a thermostat in the winter can save as much as \$85 a year. During warmer months, raising the thermostat a few degrees can save money, too. Set the temperature between 78-80 degrees Fahrenheit, and you could save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.

Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering four pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year.

**Be a "fan-atic."** While they don't replace an air conditioner or a heat pump, fans move the air so everyone feels more comfortable. On milder days, fans can save as much as 60 percent in electric bills. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

Regular maintenance is essential. Holmes-Wayne Electric recommends that members have

their HVAC systems serviced annually by a NATE (North American Technician Excellence)-certified technician. This HVAC professional will check the entire system to make sure it is running efficiently. This will help to extend the life of the system and save money.

Look for ENERGY STAR equipment.

When it's time to replace that cooling system, TogetherWeSave.com recommends replacing it with an ENERGY STAR-qualified model. This could reduce energy costs by as much as 30 percent. Tax credits and rebates on qualifying ENERGY STAR models may be available.

**Bigger isn't always better.** Too often, cooling equipment isn't sized properly and could lead to higher electric bills. A unit that is too large for your home will not cool evenly and might produce higher humidity indoors.

Instead of getting burned this summer with high energy bills, check out Touchstone Energy's energy-saving Web site, TogetherWeSave.com, for more money-saving ideas or call our energy advisor, Kenny DePriest.



## Cash from the cooperative

There are many reasons to be glad you are a member of a rural electric cooperative. Holmes-Wayne Electric provides 36 jobs in both Holmes and Wayne counties, **paid more than \$756,000 in property tax that benefits 12 local school districts** and supports local community activities and events. In four years, our Operation Round Up program has distributed more than \$150,000 back into the community to help individuals, families and organizations in need.

A local company has a staff that knows and understands your needs. We are governed by a board of trustees that consists of HWEC members throughout the service territory. Those **trustees are elected through a democratic process and only you, the members, control the decision.**

But one of the most exciting aspects of a rural electric cooperative is the **capital patronage**



**credit. That's right, we return invested money back to our members.** Any margins recognized by the cooperative at the end of a year are credited back to each member's patronage capital account. This patronage is utilized to fund cooperative capital expenditures, which limits the amount of outside loans required. This, in turn,

reduces the amount of interest expense incurred, which directly impacts electric rates. The patronage capital is then "retired" and refunded to the members on an industry standard 20-year cycle. **In 2010, Holmes-Wayne Electric distributed**

**\$914,972 in patronage capital credit refunds. If you were a member of the cooperative is 1989, you should have received a check in mid-June.** If you were a member in 1989, have moved off of HWEC lines and you did not receive a check (the minimum amount returned is \$10), please contact the cooperative office at 866-674-1055.

## View HWEC outages on our Web site

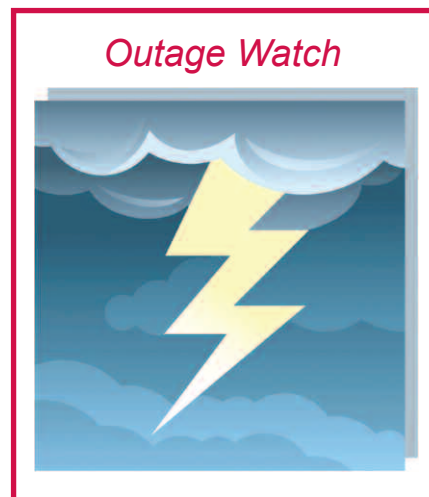
You can now view any outages that Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is experiencing from our Web site. Just go to the HWEC homepage, [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com) and look for the outage watch image, image example located to the right.

"We think this tool will be very useful for our members," said Ronnie Schlegel, HWEC's board chairman. "Our members understand that weather storms, animals and car accidents can play havoc on our electric distribution system. When there are outages, members want to know the status of the outages. This can now allow them to log on our Web site and see exactly how many outages and in what area."

The Outage Watch program

automatically updates every 60 minutes providing up-to-date information. With today's technology and conveniences, those members who may not have power can access the Internet through a charged laptop, a computer on a generator, at work or from family or friends who still have power.

"The information uploaded to the HWEC Web site is directly from our dispatching center," Nolan Hartzler GIS Mapping Technician shared. "The outages are placed in the system based on members reporting outages via phone call and our mapping system software that will predict whether an entire line section, feeder or substation is out based on the number of calls reported



in the area."

Schlegel also shared, "We hope our members view this tool as another way HWEC is providing strong customer service. Every decision we make as a board is based on what is best for the cooperative and our members. That is what makes cooperatives so great!"

## Shoots places first in statewide scholarship competition

Tony Ahern, left, president and CEO, Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (OREC), congratulates Jennette Shoots, daughter of Jim and Lyn Shoots, Wooster, who won first place and a \$2,755 scholarship in a statewide competition sponsored by OREC.

Jennette was sponsored by Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, after winning a \$2,000 scholarship from the cooperative in March. She is a recent graduate of Triway High School. She will be attending Kenyon College in the fall majoring in chemistry.

There were 47 students representing Ohio's 24 electric cooperatives competing for \$23,640 in scholarship awards. Winners were announced at a banquet following interviews with scholarship judges on May 10.

This is the second year in a row that a Holmes-Wayne Electric representative has placed first in the statewide competition.



## Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Josh Johnson and Steve Asbury for completing their four-year apprenticeship training program through both Marion Technical College and Merchant training program. This program also requires 8,000 hours of specific on-the-job training. With this accomplishment, Josh and Steve are class A linemen.



Josh  
Johnson



Steve  
Asbury



Fred  
Combs

Congratulations to Fred Combs, class A lineman, for completing the Merchant lineman training program.

### Safety reminder

During the summer months, we spend a lot of time working on outdoor projects around our home and/or farms. Holmes-Wayne Electric wants to remind you while working outside be aware of the electric lines that are around you. The most recent data from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission shows that, on average, there are more than 400 electrocutions in the United States each year. Some of these fatalities are from ladders, farm equipment and pipes making contact with overhead lines. Other causes for fatalities include digging into underground electric service. *Please remember to call the Ohio Utilities Protection Service before you dig at 800-362-2764.* Utilities will come mark where underground services are located to prevent contact and a potential deadly accident.

### Closed July 5th

HWEC offices will be closed on Monday, July 5, in observation of the July 4th holiday. Our after-hours call center will be available for outage reports, meter readings and payments by phone.

### Annual Meeting

Holmes-Wayne Electric's 2010 Annual Meeting was held June 24. Members attending the meeting received a commemorative 75th anniversary mug and a pack of energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights. Further details of the meeting, the trustee election results and pictures will be in the August issue of *Country Living*.