



HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



Summer is here, and the rural landscape is green and growing. The beautiful green trees will change to spectacular fall colors in just a few months. However, those same trees can, at times, inhibit our ability to provide reliable electric service. Trees do not mix well with power lines and can cause blinks and outages.

This year, we've seen record rainfall totals, which is showing through the regrowth on trees. Regrowth can start to encroach into our rights-of-way and make contact with our power lines.

One of the most crucial ways we try to prevent these kinds of outages is through our right-of-way (ROW) clearing and vegetation management program. HWEC's trimming and Environmental Protection Agency-approved vegetation management is on a four-year rotation. These programs are completed by a third-party

contractor and are bid out every year to ensure the best value. During this four-year cycle, over 2,200 miles of line are maintained.

The style of trimming used is called directional pruning. Entire limbs or portions of limbs that are growing toward the lines are removed back to the main branch or trunk — the point where they would naturally shed if the limbs were to die from natural causes. Directional pruning not only eliminates the limbs from current contact with power lines but strives to train the tree to grow away from the power lines. Our office reviews all tree trimming plans before the process begins and inspects the work upon completion.

In a few situations, we may need to remove a tree rather than try to trim it. These situations include when a rapidly growing tree is directly under a power line, when a tree is leaning toward a power line, or when a tree has structural defects that increase its risk of falling. Over the last several years, we have seen a dramatic increase in dead ash trees from the destructive emerald ash borer. Such ash trees may be outside of the right-of-way, but saturated ground and even just a little wind can bring them down quickly, causing damage to the electric infrastructure.

ROW clearing also keeps your family safe by ensuring that tree branches do not become energized due to close contact with a power line. When around trees that are close to power lines, please be mindful. Make sure children know that climbing trees near lines is extremely dangerous. Never go near a downed power line or a tree or any other object touching a downed power line! Report the outage and the downed power line to us immediately through our free mobile app, SmartHub, or toll-free at 866-674-1055.

Also don't forget to contact HWEC if you are planning to trim or remove trees near any power line, so we can determine whether the situation is safe. And never trim a tree in the ROW zone (15 feet on either side of the lines) on your own! Contact us to help.

Enjoy the beautiful countryside and keep these safety tips in mind. As always, we will continue to work diligently to provide the most reliable and safest power to your home or business.



Glenn W. Miller
PRESIDENT/CEO



Regularly inspecting, replacing utility poles for reliable electricity

Many don't pay attention to the utility poles found throughout our community, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of your electric distribution system?

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we annually inspect thousands of poles on our lines. We test poles throughout the HWEC service territory for decay caused by exposure to the elements or unreported damage. Poles not meeting standard requirements are identified and tagged.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation, and car crashes are potential causes for immediate replacement.

Throughout 2019, we are completing pole testing in Golden Corners and Moreland substation territory. We will inspect over 4,400 poles this year alone. Line personnel will



incorporate replacement of the identified poles within their standard daily schedule.

Crews will start the process by digging a hole that's 15% of the new pole's height. Next, the new pole may be fitted with a variety of items such as cross arms, insulators, ground wires, arm braces, and others as needed. Then crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached. Depending on situation and location, this can be done while power lines are still energized.

As you can imagine, this process is no small task and can take several hours. The next time you come across HWEC crews replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process allows us to provide safe and reliable electricity to the homes and businesses of our community.

Stake and Harris

Apprentices to linemen

Congratulations to two HWEC staff — Taylor Harris and Jim Stake — who recently completed their apprenticeships to become Class A linemen.

At the core of our organization and one of the Seven Cooperative Principles is "Education, Training, and Information." That education can come from a variety of avenues — formal higher education classes, professional certifications, or conferences and seminars. But we also understand the value of on-the-job training, cross-training, and networking with others in our industry.

Apprentices complete 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and also classroom and technical training on their path to graduation from the Central Ohio Lineworker Training (COLT) program.

Congratulations ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT



Energy assessments

Savings you can count on

Better energy efficiency at home starts with savings, not sales. An energy assessment conducted by a trained energy advisor can help you get there.

“We are happy to provide energy advice to our members,” says Kenny DePriest, energy advisor for Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative. “We have the tools, knowledge, and commitment to assist members in our community.”

Members become frantic when they see a major increase in their power bill and want almost immediate answers as to why. Sometimes a call to the co-op office (where member service reps have meter data reports and years of experience and knowledge) is the only step needed to identify the problem. Other times, more extensive research is required.

During on-site assessments, an energy advisor uses all five senses to find abnormalities, such as hot water

line leaks, running well pumps, damaged power cords, construction issues, and more. He also checks household systems many homeowners seldom see or consider unless they spend time with their HVAC technician.

On average, a member can reduce their energy use by about 5% if they follow the low-cost or no-cost advice given during the assessment. Additional savings of up to 20% can be achieved by addressing issues with big-ticket items, such as HVAC replacement, attic insulation, or major duct repair discovered during the assessment.

Improved energy efficiency not only helps reduce the member’s energy consumption, but a discussion with our energy advisor also provides an opportunity to discuss services and programs available to members.

To learn more about energy assessments available to you, contact us toll-free at 866-674-1055.



Energy assessments point the way to savings

Conducting an energy assessment of your home is a great way to identify opportunities for energy savings. Below are five areas an auditor will typically cover.

- **Leaks and losses:** Damaged, missing, or improperly installed insulation can increase energy use year-round. Knowing where and how to check can identify problems.
- **Comfort costs:** A visual inspection of your thermostat, water heater, heating and air conditioning equipment, and ductwork can identify performance problems.
- **Assessing appliances:** The age, condition, location, and use patterns for washers, dryers, refrigerators, and other major appliances can impact their efficiency levels.
- **Learning lighting:** A quick discussion about lighting options with an energy auditor can take the guesswork out of choosing the best bulbs and fixtures.
- **Activity adjustments:** Knowing how and when you use energy can help you save money. Shifting the time of day you use energy to do things (like laundry and cooking) to cooler, less humid hours can ease the load on HVAC systems.



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We want to hear from you!



Help us plan for future energy needs.

This August through October, the cooperative will be working with Clearspring Energy to survey our members about the appliances they own. The purpose of the survey is to help us to understand how members use electricity so we can plan for future energy needs. The surveys will be by email or postal mail, but not everyone will be contacted. If you are contacted, we would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your feedback with the cooperative.

We strive to provide all members with safe, affordable and reliable electric service. By participating in the survey, you will help us make decisions that benefit you, your family and your neighbors. All information is confidential.

Thank you!

**OHIO'S ELECTRIC
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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave, or grilling outside instead.

Source: energy.gov



**Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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