



Cooperative *review*

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A Newsletter for Members of Union Power Cooperative

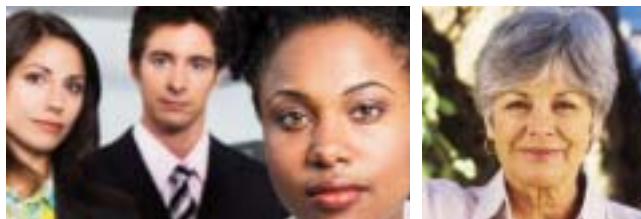
Now's the Time to Make Your Voice Heard

Next month, the American people will take to the polls to choose the next President of the United States, members of Congress, and, in many cases, state legislators and local officials. As electric cooperatives strive to meet our present and future energy needs, we are asking lawmakers of all stripes what they'll do to ensure that consumers continue to enjoy safe, reliable and affordable electric power.

Today, many policymakers and elected officials believe renewable energy, like wind, solar, and biomass (tree trimmings, farm byproducts, animal waste, and landfill gas), provide the solution to addressing climate change and establishing energy independence. But to keep the lights on and electric rates affordable, electric cooperatives will need to make use of all available generation resources, including renewables, nuclear power, and fossil fuels like coal and natural gas that use the latest environmental technology.

Our nation's electric system, commonly referred to as the "grid," relies on a network of power plants, transmission lines, and distribution facilities woven together in an intricate web to provide us with electricity. When a piece of this puzzle doesn't fit or goes missing, brownouts and blackouts can occur—as many folks in the Northeast remember from August 2003, or those in the West recall twice during the summer of 1996. Over the next 22 years, demand for electricity is predicted to increase 30 percent and our country has used up the excess power capacity it once had available. That means we will need to build new power plants, all at a time when costs for construction materials such as steel, copper, concrete, and fossil fuels like natural gas and coal are skyrocketing. The challenges we face are immense.

As a result, electric cooperatives are urging lawmakers to invest in technology that will allow us to help all households become more energy efficient, fast-track plans for building new transmission lines—connecting rural regions where renewable electricity is generated to the



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population centers where it's consumed, cut through the red tape that prevents construction of new nuclear power plants (which emit only clean water vapor), and capture and permanently store carbon from coal-fired power plants (as a way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions blamed for contributing to global climate change). These steps will not only strengthen our nation's electric infrastructure and head off an impending electric power crisis, but also significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions. Even better, they will help ensure that any climate change goals ultimately adopted remain politically and economically sustainable over the decades necessary to make a difference.

Now's the time to make your voice heard. In addition to casting your vote on November 4, you can also help educate and inform lawmakers about these concerns. Electric cooperatives are currently engaged in a grassroots campaign called "Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America." More than 400,000 letters and emails have already been sent to Congress by your fellow consumers from all across the United States, each asking critical energy questions. To join the effort, visit www.ourenergy.coop.

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Tony E. Herrin
Executive Vice President
and General Manager

Our Energy, Our Future...

Gasoline prices soar to around \$4 per gallon. The cost of groceries, including essentials like milk and bread, keeps climbing as well. As America adjusts to paying more for everyday necessities, Union Power is doing its part to keep electricity as affordable and reliable as possible.

Nearly half of electricity generation in our nation comes from coal-fired power plants. But mounting pressures to lower greenhouse gas emissions have made it more difficult and costly to build coal-fired facilities. Nuclear power doesn't emit greenhouse gases, but strong political and philosophical opposition makes building new plants very difficult. In fact, the first nuclear plants in nearly 30 years are just getting started.

Additionally, rising costs of fossil fuels to produce electricity and power plant construction materials like steel, concrete, and copper make the industry's ability to bring sufficient generation on-line more difficult. As a result, natural gas has become the "bridge" fuel of choice for keeping the lights on, at least until new low-emissions technologies are developed on a large scale.

Natural gas plants are usually smaller than coal-fired or nuclear plants; can be built faster; and typically face less public opposition than other power generation options, making them a convenient alternative. Simple gas-fired turbines—similar to jet engines on blocks—can be built in approximately 18 months; a combined-cycle unit that creates steam for extra generation can be up and running in just two years. But natural gas also has its drawbacks.

The price of natural gas has tripled since 2002 and jumped 93 percent since August 2007. These price fluctuations combined with limited domestic reserves and a greater reliance on imports make natural gas highly volatile. As more natural gas is used for electricity, we're likely to see electric bills increase as well.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, if natural gas consumption continues at its current rate without an increase in imports, national reserves will be tapped out within 10 years. And by adding more gas-fired power plants, the nation's 300,000 miles of natural gas pipelines—already operating close to capacity—will come under further strain. If you use natural gas for heating and cooking, those costs will significantly increase,

too, as more supply is used for power generation.

At Union Power, it has been our ongoing mission to provide you with reliable and affordable electricity. To ensure that we can continue to meet your

energy needs, we have joined with other electric co-ops across the country in a grassroots campaign called "Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America."

This campaign seeks to engage policymakers on critical energy questions, such as how to balance growing electricity needs and environmental goals, and how much this will increase electric bills. Please join me in starting the conversation by visiting www.ourenergy.coop.

"...if natural gas consumption continues at its current rate without an increase in imports, national reserves will be tapped out within 10 years."

Productive dialogue begins by asking tough questions and requiring straight answers.

Start by asking your elected officials these questions to get the dialogue about energy and climate issues headed in the right direction.

Experts say that our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation and efficiency can provide; What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we need in the future?

What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions free electric plants an affordable reality?

Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?

Take Advantage of the Sales Tax Holiday on Energy Star Products



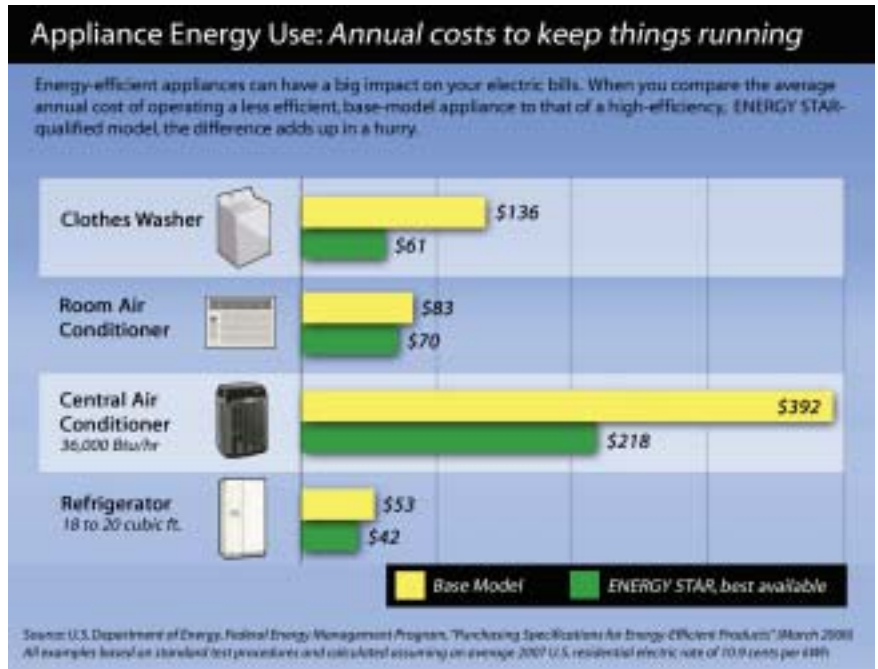
According to the Department of Energy, the average home spends about \$2,000 in energy bills every year.

Change to appliances that have earned the Energy Star, and you can save \$75 a year in energy costs, while saving the environment.

The North Carolina Department of Revenue has authorized a new sales and use tax holiday for specific Energy Star qualified products sold during the first weekend in November. Qualified products are exempt from all state and local sales and use taxes if sold between Friday, November 7 through Sunday, November 9.

Only the following Energy Star qualified products will be exempt from tax during the holiday period: clothes washers, freezers, refrigerators, central air conditioners, room air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, geothermal heat pumps, ceiling fans, dehumidifiers, and programmable thermostats.

The exemption does not apply to rentals of qualified products and to



sales of qualified products for use in a trade or business, including sales to contractors or products that will be installed in buildings and structures. Rentals of qualified products and sales

of qualified products for use in trade or business, such as sales to contractors, are subject to sales and use tax even when rented or sold during the holiday period.

The average pile of laundry contains \$3.12 in change.

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Union Power Cooperative
A member-owned energy provider

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Right-of-Way Clearing



During the month, you may see our tree-trimming crews in your neighborhood. Carolina Tree Care and ABC Tree Professionals will be working in the following areas of Union, Stanly and Cabarrus counties:

Union County: Haigler Gin Road, Highway 200 North, Zebulon Williams Road, Love Mill Road, AGR Nance Road, Haigler Baucom, Henry Baucom, Old Camden Road, Sikes Mill Road, East Lawyers Road, West Lawyers Road, Friendly Baptist Church Road, Pennigar Road, West C. J. Thomas Road, East C. J. Thomas Road, East Unionville-Indian Trail Road, and Concord Highway.

Stanly County: Bridge Road, Finger, Finger Road, Hugh Road, Farmwood Lane, Nance Road, Browns Hill Road, Meadow Creek Road, North Central Avenue, Quail Run Road, Coley Store Road, Bethel Church Road, Austin Road, Banks Road, Bridge Road, Herrin Grove Road, and Five Point.

Cabarrus County: Paige Road, Cauble Road, Bowman Barrier Road, Lambert Road, Hahn-Scott Road, Hahn Road, South Lentz Harness Shop Road, Dutch Road, Banks Road, and Pickens Road.

This list is also available at www.union-power.com. Click on the Vegetation Management tab. For more information about Union Power's vegetation management program or tree trimming practices, please call (704) 289-3145 and speak with Wil Ortiz (ext. 3323) or Carrie Lorenz (ext. 3291).

Cooperative Review is published monthly by

**Union Power
Cooperative**
A member-owned energy provider

Energy for today, power for tomorrow.

Union Power Cooperative provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to over 64,000 members in Union, Stanly, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Rowan counties.

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SERVICE CHARGES:

Security Deposit—charges vary

\$0, \$175, \$375

Connection Fee

\$25

Late Payment Charge

\$5 or 1.5% of past due balance, if greater

Returned Check Fee

\$25

Meter Test

\$75 (refunded if not accurate)

Dual Meter Comparison

\$50 (refunded if not accurate)

Field Collection Charge

\$25 (only checks or money orders accepted, no cash)

RECONNECT CHARGES: (collected in advance)

Normal Hours

\$50 (if called in *before* 4:00 p.m.)

After Hours

\$100 (if called in *after* 4:00 p.m.)

Weekends and Holidays

\$100

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