Global Swarming

Those of us in the electric utility industry have heard the phrase “global warming” enough to spell it backward in our sleep.

People feel strongly about this subject. Many believe our climate is warming rapidly, and that much of the cause is manmade. Others believe the warming is part of a recurrent change that faces our world on an infrequent but periodic basis, through solar activity.

Nolin believes in a clean and sustainable environment. We also recognize the tremendous cost increases proposed legislation can bring. One bill in Congress would establish a $30 per ton carbon emissions tax. If that were levied on just the residential customers of Kentucky’s electric utilities, electric bills would go up at least 50 percent.

There is considerable legislative effort at the state level on incentives to build plants to convert coal into natural gas. We generate an increasing amount of electricity through landfill gases as a fuel. Solar and wind power are greatly limited in Kentucky and cannot be relied on currently for the bulk of our needed supply of electricity. For the short term, coal has to remain our primary fuel for generation.

We would like to know how you feel about these issues. Because each of your opinions can be so different, and because the co-op is owned by the members, your comments are highly valued. In this month’s Kentucky Living you’ll find a survey touching on the topic of climate change and other issues important to all of us as Kentuckians.

On the issue of global climate change, I personally don’t believe there is a magic bullet that will easily or quickly resolve the questions. The contrasting opinions involved now with “global swarming” is not unlike a nest of bees. Emotions are high and the agitation can be painful.

In the electric cooperative family, we are doing everything we can to deal with this huge issue. One good step is to ask you to fill out and return the enclosed survey, so we can gather the best ideas of local electric co-op members.
This is the time of year most members see a lower than average electric bill simply because the weather is not too cold and it’s not too hot—it’s just right! But don’t get too comfortable, the bitter cold will be here before you can turn around.

Today is the day to start getting your home ready for the upcoming winter months. The work you do now will pay off this winter in lower energy consumption.

Nolin looks out for your best interest, and we want to help you get ready for winter by offering some free services. Already, some energy-conscious members have cashed in on some of these services.

We’ve been looking out for Rineyville resident Kelly Bewley Mooney’s best interest for years. In 1989, when Kelly was just 17 years old, she traveled to Washington, D.C., as a Youth Tour delegate from Nolin. The year after, Kelly was a beauty pageant contestant at the co-op annual meeting. Today, Kelly and her husband, Scott, are taking advantage of a cash rebate Nolin offers to members who make their home more energy efficient.

“We added insulation to our attic this spring, replaced our windows, and changed our lighting to compact fluorescent,” says Kelly. “With a little help from Nolin, we’re ready for winter!”

The program is called Button-Up, and the process is simple. Members call the co-op for a free energy audit that identifies areas in the home that need to be upgraded. Once work is performed, a Nolin representative will revisit the home and calculate the amount of energy saved. Based on the savings, members like the Mooneys receive a cash rebate up to $600. And the best part of this program is that the return on investment keeps coming back to you year after year in lower energy consumption.

Another Rineyville couple, Don and Pam Sheroan, took advantage of Nolin’s Button-Up program...on two separate occasions! The couple replaced windows and doors in their existing home this year, and a few years back the Sheroans received a rebate from Nolin for making their previous home more energy efficient. “I guess you could say we double-dipped on the program,” says Mrs. Sheroan. “In our previous home we added much needed insulation, windows, and a new heating and cooling system—it really made a difference in lowering our energy usage. The upgrades also added to the resale value of our home.”

After reading how co-op members earned cash to make their homes more energy efficient, Roy and Jeanette McClellan of Vine Grove cashed in on the benefits of their membership with Nolin. They added insulation in the ceiling, installed double-pane windows, replaced old leaky doors, and even removed a wood burning stove after adding a new energy-efficient heat pump. Mr. McClellan remarks, “I wish we had done it 20 years ago—think of the money we would have saved over the years.” Roy and Jeanette say they don’t dread their electric bills since making home improvements in 2006. Mrs. McClellan has to watch for the mail carrier and UPS truck—now that her home is airtight, she can’t hear outside noises, but says the trade-off is well worth the lookout!

You have just read testimony from fellow co-op members who have benefited from some of the free services and rebates Nolin offers. Join other members and get your home ready for winter NOW! Call energy management coordinator Todd Drake for your free home energy audit at (270) 765-6153.
Nolin wants to show our appreciation to you by celebrating National Cooperative Month with a special gift for members. We have declared every Friday in October as “Fluorescent Friday.” Members who visit the Elizabethtown or Radcliff office on Fridays during the month of October will receive a FREE compact fluorescent light bulb!

These are the same energy-efficient bulbs we give to members at the Nolin annual meetings. The compact fluorescent bulbs last up to 6 times longer than standard bulbs and you save 75% on energy usage every time you turn on the light.

Please stop in the Nolin RECC offices during October to celebrate your cooperative—your ownership!

We Need YOU for Nolin RECC’s Member Advisory Council

The Member Advisory Council (MAC) is made up of interested Nolin members from throughout the service area. Are you willing to give the management and directors of Nolin your ideas and opinions about how the cooperative can best serve the members? Are you willing to help your cooperative better understand the needs of the membership? Are you willing to attend at least two evening meetings per year to learn more about your cooperative’s operations?

If you are interested in helping your cooperative and serving on the Member Advisory Council, please complete the form below and mail it to: Member Services Department, Nolin RECC, 411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767, or call (270)765-6153.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 16, 2007.
Riding for a cause

Touchstone Energy generates dollars for sick children

Most riders traveled from areas throughout Kentucky, many traveled more than 100 miles, and one traveled from Arlington, Virginia (nearly 600 miles), to ride in the Touchstone Energy Motorcycle Charity Poker Run. Some rode in from the East and some from the West, but regardless of starting points, all of the riders agreed the cause was well worth the distance. This year’s run generated $4,026 for the WHAS Crusade for Children, a Louisville-based charity for sick and handicapped children.

Now in its eighth year, the Touchstone Energy Charity Run has proved to be one of the most popular in the state, with all rural electric cooperatives joining forces to contribute funds and manpower. Over the years, more than $30,000 has been raised and donated to the Crusade for Children.

For some, like Mike and Kathy Asberry of Lancaster, this is the first year for the ride. Others are returning year after year. Bonnie and Frank Springer of Richmond say they will be back next year after riding in their third Touchstone Energy Run. The Springers usually try to participate in four or five runs a year. “I have always been sensitive to helping special-needs children, and this is one of the best ways I can help,” says Bonnie Springer. “I feel like I’m riding for a great cause. My nephew passed away in 1989 of cancer—he was just 13 years of age.” Bonnie says this is her way of giving back and helping others as a special tribute to her nephew.

Prizes were plenty at the conclusion of the run that ended at Central Hardin High School in Elizabethtown. Approximately 200 bikers packed into the school’s cafeteria to compare poker hands and win a little cash. Many of the door prize winners donated their funds back to the Crusade.

Mike Lynch of Big Clifty received several second looks along with a $50 cash prize, when he rode his 1956 Panhead in the poker run. The oldest-bike prize money is just one of the many categories up for grabs at the Touchstone Energy Run.

Event coordinator Frank Owen Brockman (Farmers RECC employee) says he believes the crowd was down a little because of the high temperatures on the day of the run. “All in all, the weather was good—no rain, but with temperatures in the mid-90s and competing rides, our numbers were down this year,” says Brockman. He adds, “It doesn’t matter if it’s hot or cold, rain or shine, bikers love to ride for a good cause.”
Farmers RECC employee Frank Owen Brockman had a dream eight years ago about starting a poker run and donating the proceeds to the WHAS Crusade for Children. Today, his dream is a reality with more than $30,000 raised for the Crusade.

A crowd of nearly 200 filled the Central Hardin High School cafeteria at the conclusion of the run to compare winning poker hands and cool off from mid-90s temperatures.

Mike Lynch of Big Clifty rebuilt this 1956 Panhead piece by piece. He has owned the bike for 22 years, and it won him $50 at the Touchstone Energy Motorcycle Charity Poker Run for the oldest bike ridden.
Fifty easy dollars

It didn't take much effort for Nolin RECC member Tonya Thomas of Magnolia to win a $50 electric bill credit. She simply identified the most people pictured at the annual meeting in the August Nolin News on pages 2A and 3A. The contest was open to all co-op members. Tonya, who usually goes to the annual meeting but this year had a conflict, recognized 14 people to win the bill credit.

The Thomases have been members of Nolin RECC for 14 years and have lived in the community for many years. In addition, Tonya works at Wal-Mart and says she meets a lot of people every day during work. So she was not surprised to recognize many of her friends in the newsletter.

Congratulations, Tonya! This $50 bill credit will help take the heat off some of those hot temperatures we had in August!

Buzz and Sparky Halloween bags available

Once again this year, Nolin RECC will provide members with colorful trick-or-treat bags, decorated with Buzz and Sparky in a swashbuckling pirate theme. Stop by either of Nolin's offices (Elizabethtown or Radcliff) during regular office hours and pick up your bag today. It's our way of wishing you and your children a safe and happy Halloween.

Meanwhile, keep in mind these safety measures from the Kentucky State Police when you’re out and about with trick-or-treating youngsters:

- Trick-or-treaters should carry flashlights or "glow sticks."
- Dress in costumes that are light-colored and clearly visible to motorists.
- Costumes should be no longer than ankle length to prevent tripping, entanglement, or contact with flames.
- Use face paints or make-up rather than masks that could impair vision.
- Wear light-colored clothing or add reflective tape to costumes and trick-or-treat bags.
- Children should wear comfortable, well-fitting, sturdy shoes.
- Wear flame-resistant costumes. Avoid paper costumes.
- Small children should be accompanied by adults.
- Older children should stay in groups.
- Avoid capes that could pose strangulation risks by getting caught on structures or protrusions your child may encounter.
- Make sure props such as toy swords, scythes, pitchforks, spears, wands, or knives are flexible (not rigid) with smooth or rounded tips to prevent eye or other injuries if fallen on.
- If driving children to trick-or-treat, make sure they exit the vehicle on the curb side and not the traffic side.
Larry Hodge bids farewell to Nolin RECC

After working 32 years at Nolin RECC, 60-year-old materials supervisor Larry Hodge is retiring—or is he? Although he is leaving his position at the co-op, Larry says he is not really retiring from work. “I am trading one job for two,” says Larry. “Instead of purchasing supplies for Nolin, I am going to form my own excavation business (to be called Jaked Rock) and do a little marketing work for a local company.” It sounds like Larry is going to be a very busy man during his retirement!

A job change is not the only new adventure in Larry’s life. He and his wife, Drenda, are building a new home, so their immediate future will most likely be exciting and unpredictable.

The Hodges have two grown children, Ellie and Andy, who are both married with families of their own. Larry says his children and grandchildren will remain a priority in his life regardless of his business ventures.

Larry will miss the relationships he has built with co-workers at Nolin and with others at the state and national level. Larry has traditionally played a major role in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Foundation, a program that extends a helping hand to form cooperatives and build electric utility systems in developing countries. “The services we take for granted mean the difference between life and death for those living in poverty conditions,” says Larry. “The International Program has provided me with the greatest joy in life—helping someone else.”

As Larry Hodge begins his retirement from Nolin RECC, with a serious voice, he states, “Co-op life is the best life in the world, and if I were to start over tomorrow, I would go to work for an electric cooperative—I mean those words.”

Congratulations on your retirement, Larry Hodge—don’t work too hard in your leisure time!

Prevent a fire

October is Fire Prevention Month. Here are some tips to keep the electricity in your home from starting a fire.

• Do not plug space heaters into extension cords.
• Exchange blown fuses with appropriately sized replacements. Using higher amperage fuses than you need is a fire hazard. A penny is not a safe substitute for a fuse.
• Buy outdoor appliances, outlets, and cords that are rated for use outside.
• Equip outdoor outlets—and those in kitchens, bathrooms, and laundry rooms—with ground-fault circuit interrupters. Test them regularly.
• Keep dust from building up on appliances. Give electronics likely to generate heat—TVs, stereos, toaster ovens, and lamps, for instance—enough room to “breathe.”
• Use light bulbs with wattages that are recommended for your lamps.
• Choose electronic appliances that bear an Underwriters Laboratories label.
• Don’t fold or roll an electric blanket while it’s plugged in. Turn off an electric blanket or heating pad after 30 minutes. Set an alarm to remind you if you’re likely to fall asleep.

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Attention Children! Win $25

It’s Time for the Annual Christmas Contest

WHAT’S YOUR STORY?
You may win $25 in cash by sending in your story about “The Best Christmas.” Take a few minutes to think about your very best and most special Christmas and write a short story for our Annual Christmas Story Contest.

The rules are simple:
1. The story must be your original work (no editing from parents, please).
2. Mom or Dad must be a member of Nolin RECC.
3. You must be between the ages of 6 and 14.
4. Deadline for entry is Friday, October 19, 2007.

Three winners will be declared, one from each age group (6, 7, 8); (9, 10, 11); (12, 13, 14). Each winner will receive $25 from Nolin RECC.

SEND ENTRIES TO:
Patsy Whitehead, Nolin RECC
411 Ring Road
Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767

Don’t forget to include your name, age, address, phone number, and parent’s name.

We’ve Got Your Number! $25

WIN $25 Worth of FREE Electricity
Nolin News features a contest called “We’ve Got Your Number.” Hidden inside this issue are two randomly selected member account numbers. If you spot your account number, contact the Member Services Department at 765-6153, and win a $25 CREDIT on your electric bill. You must identify your number and call by the 15th day of the month’s issue containing your number. Account numbers could be anywhere in your Nolin News!

New Member Credits
All members signing up for new service with Nolin receive a short survey. Members who return the completed survey to Nolin are automatically eligible to win a $20 credit on their electric bill. Each month, one name is drawn and a lucky Nolin member receives a bill credit on their next statement. Congratulations to our latest winner, Rhonda Weidman, of Elizabethtown.

E-mail payments
Access your Nolin RECC account through our Web site at www.nolinrecc.com. Click on “MyAccount” to check your consumption history and to make payments by check, debit card, or credit card. To apply for budget billing and automatic draft on line, click on “Nolin @ Home.”

HOW TO REACH NOLIN RECC
ELIZABETHTOWN OFFICE
411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri • (270) 765-6153

RADCLIFF OFFICE
101 West Lincoln Trail Blvd., Radcliff, KY 40160
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri • (270) 351-2199

TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS — 1-888-637-4247
EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER — (270) 769-6396
EMERGENCY TOLL-FREE CALLS — 1-800-572-1147

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