

NOLIN News



News you can use

Editor, Patsy Whitehead, CCC

Featured above: Nolin RECC Maintenance Technician
Tony Owens, 18 years of service

Time's Running Out: Filling the Generation Gap

Electric co-ops have important energy choices to make. We can't stall or wait for a magic "electricity" bullet. Tighter government regulations—and the high cost to comply with new rules—may signal lights-out for many of the nation's older coal-fired power plants at a time when forecasters predict energy demand will eventually outpace supply. We're approaching crunch time on our ability to keep the lights on. We need to build new power plants.

The recent economic turmoil, terrible as it was, provided some much-needed breathing room on addressing our growing energy needs. But as the economy rebounds, so will our nation's hunger for electricity. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) predicts when the final 2010 numbers are tallied, energy use will shoot up 5 percent from 2009 levels.

We've encouraged you to be energy efficient both for your sake (lower electric bills) and to help minimize the need to build new generation sources. You've certainly done your part; between 1980 and 2006, the average amount of energy each American used dropped 2.5 percent. But with an ever-expanding population, these measures are not enough to completely offset escalating energy demand.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's bulk power grid watchdog, estimates we need to build 135,000 megawatts (MW) of new generation by 2017 to meet demand. Generation facilities on the drawing board, though, will only deliver 77,000 MW—leaving a generation gap.

Compounding this issue, some of our current power plants may soon be shut down by federal regulations. One NERC-commissioned report claims new government rules could force utilities to retire or retrofit 33,000 MW to 70,000 MW of generating capacity by 2015. Meanwhile, every year we delay building new plants drives up construction costs. If we wait too long, we could see power shortages by the end of this decade.

Traditional power plants (coal, natural gas, nuclear) take between three years and a decade to build—not leaving much wiggle room before shortages become a reality. Renewable energy resources, notably wind farms, can be constructed more

quickly, but they're not perfect options. Wind doesn't blow everywhere and it can't be relied on as a steady source of energy. Even in areas with strong wind resources, an active wind turbine typically only generates 20-30 percent of its capacity factor.

Our nation needs to build new power plants before the need for electricity outstrips current generation resources. Although Nolin doesn't build and operate power plants (as a distribution cooperative), we focus on delivering power to you. We're working with our wholesale power supplier, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, to find the best fuel mix solution for your future. We appreciate your support as we make these critical and time-sensitive choices. Balancing your energy needs with electricity reliability and affordability is one more way we're looking out for you.



Mickey Miller
President & CEO

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Button-Up for year-round energy savings

Delfred Clemons likes to keep on top of energy savings. When he built his home in Elizabethtown in 1986, he was one of the first in the area to install an energy-efficient geothermal system. Twenty-five years later, he's still looking for ways to curb utility costs. That's why he recently turned to the Button-Up program offered by Nolin RECC.

At his request, Nolin sent an energy advisor to his home to perform a complete audit of his energy usage—checking for missing insulation, air leaks, and the other common problems leading to energy loss. Oftentimes, a house will leak heating and cooling, which reduces the energy efficiency of a home.

Other problems the advisors look for include leaking duct work, which can usually be corrected at a relatively low cost. “The main thing they found at my house was that I needed more insulation in the attic,” Clemons said.

He hired a contractor to add more blown-in cellulose at a cost of \$665. But he and his wife, Charline, have already recouped a big chunk of this initial investment.

“It’s surprising how cheap I got by with the help of my co-op,” Clemons said. His improvements qualified him for a \$147 rebate from the co-op. “We have really been satisfied with the evenly distributed heat in our home since adding insulation—my wife and I stay comfortable in every room of the house now.”

Because of the extremes in temperatures this past year, Clemons isn’t sure how much he’s saved on his electric bill, but compared to his neighbors, he said, he is paying less. There’s also a different kind

of payoff—increased comfort in any kind of weather.

“We’ve seen a big difference,” he said. “Our sunroom stays so much more comfortable now.”

How the program works

It’s easy to participate in Button-Up. If you’re a Nolin member, your home is at least two years old, and electricity is the main source of heat for your home, you may qualify. Just call (270) 765-6153 and ask to schedule an energy audit.

Nolin’s energy management coordinator Todd Drake will perform a home energy analysis to determine ways to improve energy-efficiency. He will give you simple, low-cost ideas on how to save energy dollars. Leaking ducts, for example, can often be improved dramatically by applying mastic to the duct work seams with a paint brush.

After the home improvements are made, Drake will return to your home and calculate the energy savings. If the results show that you qualify for a rebate, we will credit your electric bill. Nolin will pay members \$40 for each 1,000 BTUs decrease in heat loss, based on our before-and-after tests. Be sure to call Todd Drake before you make improvements in order to verify whether you might qualify for a rebate.

The cost of materials can often be paid back in energy savings in a matter of months. A few hundred dollars of insulation in a poorly insulated attic can make a dramatic difference in your comfort level. Just ask Delfred and Charline Clemons.



Delfred and Charline Clemons spend 50 percent of their time relaxing in the family’s sunroom that overlooks their property.

Copper Theft can be Deadly

Copper theft has reached an epidemic level that is not only affecting the United States, but has become an international problem. According to the U.S. Department of Energy the theft of copper costs the national economy around \$1 billion per year. The increase in copper theft has disrupted the flow of electricity, created electrical hazards, slowed down construction projects, and knocked out irrigation networks across the United States.

Safe Electricity offers these tips to help safeguard against electrical dangers and to help prevent copper theft:

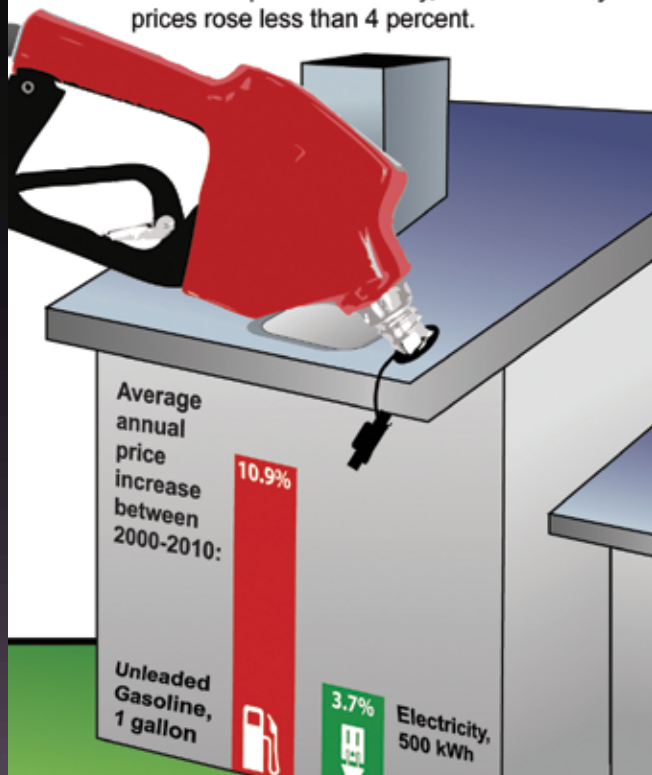
- Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, hanging wire, etc., contact Nolin RECC immediately.
- If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities other than utility personnel or contractors, call the police.
- Install motion-sensor lights on the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.
- Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while away.

- If you work in construction, do not leave any wires unattended or leave loose wire at the job site, especially overnight. Consider hiring a night security guard.
- Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper.

Safe
Electricity.org[®]

Filling Up on VALUE

Electricity continues to be a bargain, especially when compared to other consumer goods. Imagine if your electric bill fluctuated as much as prices at the pump. On average, over the past decade gas prices have risen almost 11 percent annually, while electricity prices rose less than 4 percent.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Mainstream Graphics

15-16-0136-00



RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The power of human connections



Children's Entertainment
Rick Arnold

Annual Meeting

Friday, June 10

John Hardin High School
Elizabethtown, KY
Registration: 5:30 p.m.
Business meeting: 7:00 p.m.



Featured Entertainment
Clay Underwood

**Free!
Energy-saving
light bulbs**

for members who attend!



- *entertainment*
- *free health fair and exhibits*
- *door prizes*
- *games and rides*
- *food and ice cream*



Caricaturist
Denny Whalen

Kentucky Native is Featured Entertainment at Annual Meeting

He may be new to the music industry, but Kentucky native and country music singer Clay Underwood is well on his way to becoming a star. Underwood's debut hit single *Behind These Walls* held a spot in the Top 40 for four weeks on the Nashville Music Row charts.

Underwood is currently working on other singles that will release in the near future. Nolin RECC members have an opportunity to hear Clay Underwood sing on June 10 during the Nolin RECC annual meeting at John Hardin High School.

The annual meeting will also feature some familiar favorites like caricaturist Denny Whalen, children's games and rides, and a health fair.

Don't miss your opportunity to win the annual meeting grand prize—you get to pick from an iPad or a laptop computer!




Don't forget your member registration card


Members were very pleased last year when they discovered how easy it was to register for the annual meeting. Those who remembered to bring their registration cards did not have to wait in a long line to register!

When you receive your ballots in the mail, tear off the top portion of your official annual meeting registration card, and bring both address cards with you to the annual meeting. **Do not separate the two address cards.** The cards will be scanned electronically and members will be automatically registered for the meeting and all prize drawings.

Don't forget to cast your vote for two directors. All ballots must be received at the Nolin office no later than **5 p.m., June 9.**



John Doe 123 Circle Rd. Elizabethtown, KY 42701	DO NOT TEAR	John Doe 123 Circle Rd. Elizabethtown, KY 42701
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TEAR HERE


THIS IS YOUR OFFICIAL ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION CARD

TEAR THE ABOVE SECTION OFF AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR YOUR FREE BUCKET, BULBS, AND TO REGISTER FOR DOOR PRIZES.

DO NOT SEPARATE THE TWO CARDS AT THE TOP. BRING BOTH CARDS TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.

NOLIN RECC ANNUAL MEETING
 FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2011
 JOHN HARDIN HIGH SCHOOL
 W. A. Jenkins Road, Elizabethtown

REGISTRATION: 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

See reverse side for director elections

Registered builders attend ENERGY STAR conference

A Star Conference

Leading energy-efficiency authorities discussed energy-efficiency “best practices” for residential new construction and retrofits for existing homes at the Midwest Regional ENERGY STAR Conference on March 24 & 25.

Learning sessions at the conference included heat flow and control, moisture control, comfort issues, and home performance with ENERGY STAR. Builders, HVAC contractors, and others were able to earn continuing education credits by attending the sessions.

The conference was sponsored by Nolin RECC and Kentucky’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, along with the Home Builder’s Association of Lexington and others. The Lincoln Trail Home Builder’s Association sponsored breaks during the conference.

More than 350 building professionals and business leaders attended the conference at the Hyatt Regency hotel in downtown Lexington to hear what the experts had to say about the future of the building industry.



Attending the conference as guests of Nolin RECC were (front, left to right) Clay Smith, Randy Weedman, Jason Phillips, Ed Cecil, and Paul Brantingham. Rear, left to right: Bobby and Patsy Whitehead, Ken Leasor, Todd Drake, Ronnie Ellis, Joe Pearman, W. R. Cecil, Rick Ryan, Jimmy Howard, and Jerry Phillips. Larry Ireland attended the conference but is not pictured.

2011 Theme Park Discount Tickets



Nolin RECC members can save money by purchasing theme park tickets at discount prices. Parks include Kings Island and Holiday World. Discount tickets can be purchased at the cooperative offices in Elizabethtown and Radcliff during normal business hours.

	Nolin Discount price	Regular price
Adult	\$24	\$51.99
Children under 48"	\$24	\$31.99
Senior 62 and up	\$24	\$31.99
Children under 3	FREE	

These tickets are available only to members of Nolin RECC.



	Nolin Discount price	Regular price
Adult (one day)	\$36.50	\$42.95
Children under 54"	\$31.50	\$32.95
Senior 60 and up	\$31.50	\$32.95
Children under 3	FREE	

Admission to park includes free soft drinks while in the park. These tickets are available only to members of Nolin RECC.

Practice Safe Habits around Electricity

May is National Electrical Safety Month, but Nolin urges you to practice safe habits every day of the year. We continually provide lessons on electrical safety for schools, civic groups, and other organizations. Nolin publications routinely include articles and ads on electrical safety, and we distribute handbooks and fact sheets on staying safe around electricity. Also, the Nolin Web site has an entire menu on electrical safety at www.nolinrecc.com.

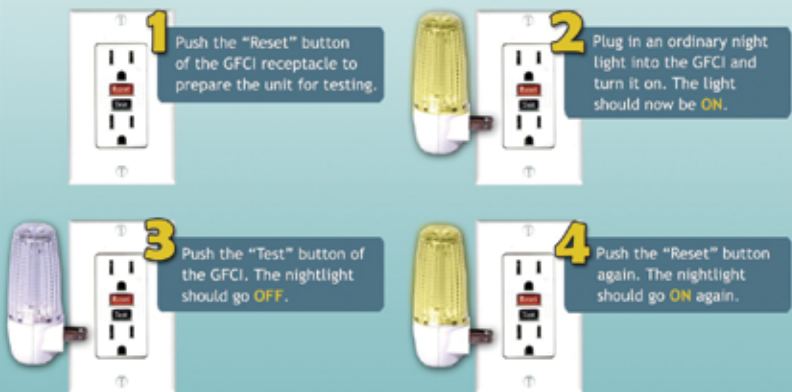
This month, as we focus on staying safe around electricity, let's also remember to practice safe habits around electricity every day of the year.

16-28-0020-01

How to test electrical outlets

Since the 1970s ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) have saved thousands of lives, helping cut the number of home electrocutions in half. The safety devices prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs from the amount returning. The safety devices should be used in any indoor or outdoor area where water may come into contact with electrical products.

GFCIs should be tested once a month to make sure they're working properly. To test a device, follow these four steps:



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International



Jim Flach, age 8

Jim Flach
1943 - 2001



TLC Teach what you know.
Learn what you need to.
Care enough to share it.

"Steer" Clear of Power Lines

Jim Flach left his mark on his family and the thousands of people he taught to prepare livestock for show.

Tragically he was killed when his farm equipment made contact with an overhead power line.

Flach's family is adding to his legacy with education about power line safety. They urge all who work with farm equipment to look up and avoid power lines, to learn about staying safe and to share that information with others.

Teach, Learn and Care – for Jim's sake.

We've Got Your \$25 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, **Frances B. Thomas**, of **Hodgenville**.

Online payments

Access your Nolin RECC account through our Web site at www.nolinrecc.com. Click on "YourAccount" to check your consumption history and make payments by debit card, Visa, or MasterCard. To apply for budget billing and automatic draft online, click on "Residential Bill Payment."

Saving with Co-op Connections



Bill and Marie Brown of Elizabethtown save on prescription drugs with their Co-op Connections Card.

The Co-op Connections Card serves as much more than a Nolin RECC membership card.

Last year, nearly \$100,000 was saved by Nolin members using the pharmacy discount for prescription drugs. The card is also honored at several local, state, and national restaurants and businesses.

For a complete list of businesses that honor the Co-op Connections Card, log onto www.locateproviders.com or www.nolinrecc.com. If you do not have Internet access, call the Nolin RECC office at (270) 765-6153.

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
(Office closed from 12:30-1:30 daily)

TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS — 1-888-637-4247

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER — (270) 769-6396

EMERGENCY TOLL-FREE CALLS — 1-800-572-1147

Web site: www.nolinrecc.com
e-mail: comments@nolinrecc.com

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