

NOLIN News



Editor, Patsy Whitehead, CCC
Featured above: Nolin RECC Accountant
Andrea Pelley, 9 years of service

News you can use

We're Different: always have been...always will be Looking out for you and your best interest

Cooperatives like Nolin RECC are different from other types of businesses because we're *Looking Out for You*. Now, more than ever, that's important because we need to work together to keep your electric bills affordable.



meter infrastructure system helps us control operating costs and improve service reliability. Nationally, cooperatives are meeting members' power needs with a diverse fuel mix, including renewable energy.

While we're affordable and innovative, above all else we're member-focused. No matter what comes our way we'll continue to put you, our members, first. Nolin is member-controlled and locally operated. As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates. At our annual meeting each year, you have the opportunity to elect fellow members to our board of directors to represent your best interests. Don't miss our next meeting in June!

Congress did not pass a comprehensive climate bill last year. In January the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began regulating greenhouse gasses—an action made possible by a 2007 Supreme Court decision, followed by rulings allowing the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions. Policies dealing with coal ash, even more stringent controls on other power plant emissions, and state renewable energy requirements could also lead to higher costs. It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain: government regulations are going to increase the cost of doing business.

Member control means we are accountable to those we serve, and are dedicated to assisting our communities—your money stays at work close to home. Costs are rising for all of us, but when it comes to your electric bill, our rates are set simply to cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders.

New regulations won't be the only culprit. Prices for fuel, materials, and equipment will continue to rise. Although the recent economic slump and corresponding drop in electricity use provided some much-needed breathing room, soon we will need to build new power plants, requiring a significant, long-term investment of time and money.



Mickey Miller
President & CEO

We're committed to keeping you informed about policy changes that will impact your electric bill through publications like *Nolin News*, which appears each month in your *Kentucky Living* magazine, and on our Web site, www.nolinrecc.com.

The bottom line? We exist only to serve you and meet your needs for safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

We're going to do everything we can to keep your electric bills affordable.

As you can see, we're different. We're working together to keep your electric bills affordable. We're controlling costs through innovation. And we're continuing to put you, our members, first. No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain. We're *Looking Out for You*.

To accomplish that, we're controlling costs through innovation. Our energy-efficiency programs help you manage your energy use. Nolin's Web site features a virtual tour explaining how you can save energy dollars. Just click on "Together We Save" and start learning how to reduce energy consumption. We also offer home energy audits to make sure you're getting the best value out of the energy you use every month.

Deploying state-of-the-art solutions like our automated

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How much is too much?

Learn how to estimate your home appliances' energy use to see if it's time for an upgrade

You've had your refrigerator forever. With the exception of some crumbling parts of the seal, it's in pretty good shape and keeps your food cool. Why worry about budgeting for an upgrade?

Some homeowners forget the impact inefficient appliances have on a home's monthly electric bill. Replacing a refrigerator made before 1993 with a new, ENERGY STAR-rated model could reduce your electricity bill around \$65-\$100 each year.

Do you ever wonder how much your existing older appliances cost to operate? How much energy use is too much? To estimate the energy use of an appliance, use this formula:

Wattage x hours used per day x days used per year ÷ 1,000 = kilowatt-hour (kWh) used annually

For example:

Standard, large-screen television (214 Watts)

214 watts x 4 hours per day x 365 days per year ÷ 1000 = 312 kWh

Then calculate the annual cost to use an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by \$0.089 (this amount represents Nolin's residential rate per kWh).

312 kWh x \$0.089 = \$27.77 per year

In contrast, an ENERGY STAR-rated standard, large-screen TV (151.5 watts) costs \$19.67 to power annually.

You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance, or on its nameplate. The wattage listed is the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Since some appliances have a range of settings (i.e., hairdryers), the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time.

Here are examples of the range of wattages for common household appliances:

- Clothes washer: 350-500 watts
- Clothes dryer: 1800-5000 watts
- Dishwasher: 1200-2400 watts (heat drying feature increases energy use)
- Hair dryer: 1200-1875 watts
- Microwave oven: 750-1100 watts
- Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet): 725 watts

Once you calculate how much money you spend to run aging home appliances, compare this to what it would cost to use more efficient models. Also consider that clothes washers have become 64 percent more energy efficient since 2000—the tub

size increased by 9 percent. With a new model you can wash more clothes for less money every month!

While you are visiting the Nolin Web site (www.nolinrecc.com) click on "Together We Save" and see how small changes like replacing an appliance or unplugging electronics lead to big energy savings. On the Web site under "Add Up Your Savings," you can walk through a typical home's kitchen, living room, and other common areas. Upgrade appliances and make other energy-smart choices in each room. Each time you make a change, you're shown how much money you could save on your annual electric bill!

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; U.S. Energy Information Administration, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, Natural Resources Defense Council, U.S. Energy Information Administration



The Web site www.TogetherWeSave.com demonstrates how small changes like replacing an appliance or unplugging electronics lead to big energy savings. You can also access this Web site through www.nolinrecc.com.





**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Call 811 before you dig

Planning a home improvement job? Working on landscaping, or maybe installing a fence? Be sure to call 811 before you dig.

Nolin RECC has partnered with the 811 service, and any co-op member who needs to locate underground electric service or other utilities should call 811, which is the national "Call before U Dig" call center. 811 is a toll-free number.

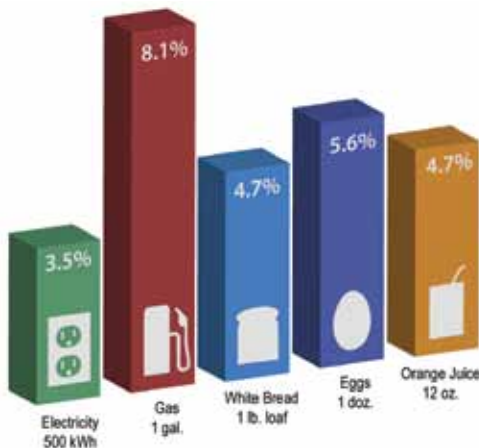
For your safety and to avoid service interruptions, it is important to locate utilities before you dig by calling 811. When you call, be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your name
- Address where digging or excavating will be done
- Telephone numbers to reach you
- Directions to the property

For more information, you can visit www.call811.com or call (800) 752-6007.

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Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; NRECA

Average annual price increase over the past decade

Electricity Remains a Good Value

Electricity continues to be a bargain, especially when compared to other consumer goods. As demand for energy rises and fuel prices increase, your electric cooperative is committed to providing safe electricity at the lowest possible cost.

13-13-0020-03

Learning about the American Private Enterprise System

APES come to life in the classroom



Last November, 42 local students participated in a two-day education seminar that allowed them to learn about corporations, cooperatives, individually owned businesses, legal aspects of doing business, and diversity. These elite students consistently scored high on quizzes and a 50-question final exam, and at the end of the program, six of the teens were awarded a trip to the State Youth Seminar in Lexington this June.

APES, which stands for American Private Enterprise System, offers students from each Hardin County high school (E-town High, Fort Knox, North, Central, and John Hardin), as well as two students from the home school sector, the opportunity to come together at an off-site location to learn about business and the free enterprise system. The program has been around more than 40 years, and has gained a reputation among students as being one of the top five things to put on a résumé.

Nolin RECC has been a sponsor of the Hardin County, as well as LaRue County, APES program since they began. Electric cooperatives throughout Kentucky are helping to sponsor APES programs in about 35 different counties.

These students achieved the highest test scores throughout the seminar and will travel to Lexington to earn a chance to compete for cash awards and college scholarships, and a trip to the National Institute on Cooperative Education at Purdue University. They are front (left to right) Skylar Jeffries (Central Hardin), Matthew Moreman (Elizabethtown High), and Lindsey Clement (Elizabethtown High). Rear (left to right) Sean Deaton (Ft. Knox High), Caleb Moore (Faith Home School), and Reza Haider (Elizabethtown High). People's Choice award was presented to Sean Deaton and the Cooperative Spirit award was awarded to Matthew Moreman.

APES also offers youth motivation and self-confidence. The teens are encouraged to network with students from other schools as they work together in groups. One popular exercise is the board case studies. This session allows participants to resolve real-life issues that may arise in a business. Boards present their dilemma and resolution to their peers, and then must face opposing boards as they explain and support their decisions during the debate session.



Left, Kelsi Ryan of Central Hardin takes part in a diversity and bias workshop during the APES program. During the exercise, students are asked to write down thoughts associated with stereotypes. At the conclusion of the lesson, the teens tear down the sheets and rip the harsh words into pieces! This is always a favorite and is presented by Elizabethtown Community and Technical College professor Michael Coyle.

Taking home the seminar's mascot is always a special treat for one of the APES students. Below, Whitley Blair from Central Hardin High School was selected by her peers to keep the class monkey!



Clark Jewelers has traditionally donated watches to the outstanding young male and female participants of APES. A special thank you goes to Clark Jewelers from two remarkable students, Matthew Moreman and Skylar Jeffries.

APES Say Thanks to Community Sponsors

Clark Jewelers has been providing watches for more than 40 years to the outstanding young female and male at the conference. That adds up to a lot of watches throughout the years! The Clark family is greatly appreciated for their support and generosity to the APES program.

Many community leaders volunteer their time to speak to the APES students. Presenters this year include John Scott, Debbie Horn, Lt. Col. Phillip Mitchell, Toni Wiley, Dana Bowers, Michael Coyle, Trooper Bruce Reeves, and Patsy Whitehead. Without the support of the local community, APES would not be possible. The program is totally supported by businesses in Hardin County including Nolin RECC, Clark Jewelers, Coca-Cola of Elizabethtown, Magnolia Bank, Don Pierce & Associates, Hardin County AM Rotary Club, First Federal Savings Bank, Cecilian Bank, The Lincoln Trail Home Builder's Association, Preferred Memorials, Faith Home School, and the Hardin County Cooperative Extension Service. A special thanks to Zaxby's and Radcliff Walmart for sponsoring lunch during the seminar!



Don't Generate Danger

When it comes to generator safety, your safest call is to a licensed electrician

When it comes to generator safety, your safest call is to a licensed electrician.

When the power goes out, a portable generator can make life a lot easier. But if it's used improperly, that generator can make life a lot more dangerous!

Always have a licensed electrician hook up the standby electrical system and portable generator to your home. Your electrician can determine the proper size generator required to meet your individual needs.

Keep these tips in mind when you're using a portable generator:

- Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load.
- Observe the generator manufacturer's instructions for safe operations.
- Do not plug the generator into a wall outlet.
- Never use a generator indoors or in attached garages.
- Only operate the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated dry area, away from air intakes to the home, and protected from direct exposure to rain and snow, preferably under a canopy, open shed, or carport.
- The generator cannot be connected directly to the housing wiring. Regardless of generator size, you must contact a licensed electrician to install a generator transfer switch and to hook up the generator. This will protect your cooperative's workers from being shocked by power from your generator while doing repairs to the line.
- Never store gasoline in the home. Gasoline, kerosene, and other flammable liquids should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass safety containers. They also should not be stored in an area near a fuel-burning appliance: the vapor from gasoline can travel invisibly along the ground and be ignited by pilot lights or arcs caused by activating electric switches.

For code compliance on portable generators, contact Nolin RECC at **270-765-6153**, e-mail comments@nolinrecc.com or visit our Web site at www.nolinrecc.com.

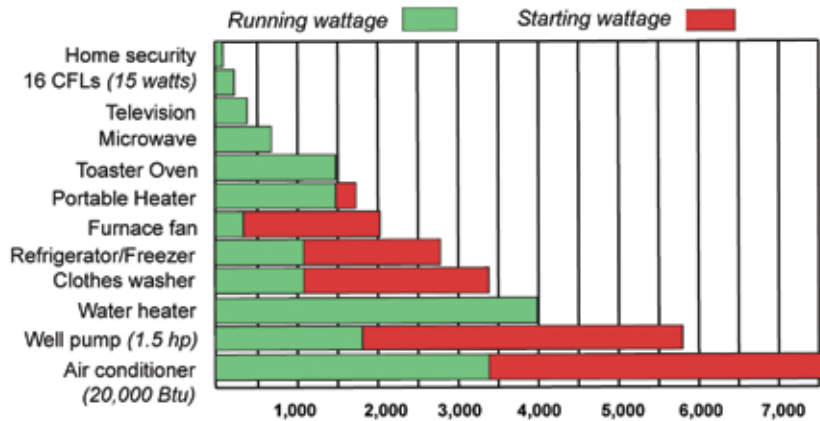
NOLIN
Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

The Right **Portable Generator** for the Job

Before purchasing or operating a portable generator, make a list of the appliances you will need to run at the same time. Find both starting and running wattage requirements on appliance nameplates or in owner's manuals; add them up to determine the total wattage your generator should handle.

Sample running wattages, as compared to spiked starting wattages:



Sources:
North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

08-25-0008-01



College Scholarships through Nolin

Nolin RECC awards six college scholarships of \$1,000 each to graduating seniors and another to an adult going back to school after spending time in the work force or after raising a family.

Why not take advantage of this opportunity your cooperative offers to its members by completing an application and returning it to the Nolin RECC office by March 31. Visit our Web site at www.nolinrecc.com or call (270) 765-6153 for an application.

Caleb Givan is a 2010 graduate of Central Hardin High School. He is currently taking advantage of his \$1,000 Nolin RECC scholarship by attending Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.

NOLIN RECC's HOME ENERGY MAKEOVER

Home Energy Makeover Winners Announced

Congratulations to our Home Energy Makeover winners, Sharon Pinkham and Pablo Michel. Both members have their choice of ENERGY STAR appliances or a home energy makeover (each worth up to \$1,200). Thanks to everyone who entered the contest in October as we celebrated Co-op Month!

Check next month's issue of *Nolin News* as we bring you ongoing updates of the winners and their home energy makeover!

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, **Patsy S. Milliner, of Radcliff.**

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."



Give space heaters space

Electric space heaters can warm a small space. Use them safely so they don't turn your comfortable room into a fire hazard.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that space heaters cause more than 25,000 house fires and 300 deaths every year.

Here's how to use your space heater safely:

- Choose heaters that are rated as safe by Underwriters Laboratories.
- Keep all bedding, drapes, pets, and people at least three feet away from a space heater that's turned on.
- Buy a space heater with a thermostat to avoid overheating the room.
- Get a heater that's the right size for the room. Oversized heaters waste energy.

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

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