

## Inside:

Learn how to ...

Have a Voice in Your Energy Future

Save Money on Energy Bills, Today and Tomorrow

RSVP for Our Annual Meeting



P.O. Box 329  
Parker, PA 16049  
www.central.coop



Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
A Touchstone Energy® Coop

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YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

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### “Watts” Inside

Have a Voice in Your Energy Future, Page 2

Finance Energy Efficiency Projects, Page 3

Save Money with a Programmable Thermostat, Page 3

2009 Annual Meeting, Page 4

National Electrical Safety Month, Page 5

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## Our Electric Future

As I write this article, a debate is taking place in Congress. Regardless of the outcome, American electric consumers will be paying for this legislation for many years. The only question is how, and how much we will be paying.

This isn't a new opinion for me. If you read our newsletter regularly, you know I've said before that I expect the cost of all energy, especially electricity, to increase dramatically in the future.

The current debate in Congress about climate change legislation and increasing renewable energy in our generation supply is bringing the time closer. I'm not saying this is wrong; in fact, I believe the debate is necessary and critical to the future of our country and its energy needs.

I also believe we all need to stay aware of the issues and have our voices heard in the debate.



**Larry Adams**  
CEO & General Manager

### Demand for Electricity Growing

One thing that is agreed upon, the country needs additional electric generation and transmission to meet growing demand and to replace aging generation plants. But that's all the further you get before the disagreements begin.

At the center of the controversy is the effect electric generation has on climate change and how to minimize it.

**See Electric Future/Page 2**



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Possible solutions include a tax or trading market for carbon emitted into the atmosphere, increasing generation from renewable sources, and energy efficiency and conservation. The last two will become more important to consumers as electricity prices increase. Some incentives, funded by tax dollars, are already in place to help consumers use electricity more efficiently (see Financing Energy Efficiency Projects, Page 3). Energy efficiency and conservation will be only part of the solution.

New generation will be more expensive than the generation plants currently operating just because construction costs have increased. However, a major new dynamic in the process is climate change. The technology to reduce the impact of new generating plants on climate change will further increase their cost. And legislation being considered will likely place an additional cost on the generator (both new and old plants) for the carbon dioxide that the plant emits into the atmosphere. The cost to the electric consumer is likely to be significant. The revenue from this carbon tax or trade allowance is intended to be used to fund cleaner generation technologies research. We need to improve the technology we use to generate electricity to reduce the impact on the environment, but how much are we willing for it to cost?

Legislation has been enacted in Pennsylvania, and is under consideration in Congress, to require a portion of future electricity generation be from renewable resources.

While renewable energy should be part of the solution, there are two major problems: it's not equally suitable in all parts of the country (solar makes more sense in Arizona than Pennsylvania), and it usually is more expensive than other forms of generation without some tax incentive. So again, how much are we willing to pay?

## A Complex Issue

This is a complex problem: meeting the need for new electricity generation, limiting its impact on climate change, and keeping the cost affordable. Special interest groups are all over on this issue. Renewable energy advocates say it's the only solution, while coal companies tell us how clean and affordable coal really is. We need to be sure that our interests are considered. I believe it will take a combination of all of these approaches to solve the problem as economically as possible for all of us. A balance needs to be found that addresses the need for new generation, protects the environment, and keeps electricity affordable for all. In the end, compromise will be necessary to arrive at the best solution to address all these interests.

The common denominator in all of this is us. We need to be aware of, and involved in, the debate. The cooperative will continue to work along with our national and state associations to assure that your voice is heard. I encourage you to also be involved. You can learn more by visiting [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop).

## Have a Voice in Your Energy Future

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) is a bi-partisan, political action committee representing the interests of cooperatives and their members. ACRE brings important issues to the attention of your representatives on both the state and federal levels. Join ACRE today. For details, call Chris Panian at 724-399-2931 x2171.



## Financing Energy Efficiency Projects

### Federal Income Tax Credit

A federal income tax credit (ITC) is available for high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, water heaters, windows, doors and insulation for qualified home improvements placed in service in a principal residence from Jan. 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2010. This is for existing homes only. The maximum credit is \$1,500.

There is also a tax credit of up to 30 percent of the total cost (no maximum) to install geothermal pumps, solar water heaters, and photovoltaic whole and residential energy systems. Systems must be placed in service from 2009 through Dec. 31, 2016. For details visit <http://energystar.gov>.



### State Loans and Rebates

The Keystone HELP™ program is for ENERGY STAR™ rated, high-efficiency appliances and whole-house energy improvements. Loans from \$1,000 to \$35,000 can be secured from AFCFirst ([www.afcfirst.com](http://www.afcfirst.com)). Rebates (\$250 or \$500) can be obtained if loans are not sought. If you are interested in taking advantage of this program visit [www.keystonehelp.com](http://www.keystonehelp.com) for more information *today!*



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[www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop)  
Check it out!  
By Ken Maleski  
CEC Consumer  
Marketing Representative



Heating and cooling make up half of a home's energy requirements. A programmable thermostat will make saving money easy. Lowering the thermostat setting saves approximately 3 percent for each degree dropped. The same value can be obtained in summer by increasing the air conditioner setting. Experts recommend a minimum set-back period of at least four hours.

Programmable thermostats are user friendly. Many models permit multiple weekday settings and at least two weekend options. The device is great for those homes where both parents work while the kids are in school. Temperature changes can occur upon awakening, leaving and returning home during the day. Bedtime changes occur automatically.

## Saving Money with a Programmable Thermostat



All models come with easy-to-read digits and instructions. Some even are equipped with lighted background displays and touch-screen programming. Fancy models can provide outdoor temperatures and Internet accessibility to remotely change settings.

Don't let the technology scare you. They are actually easy to learn. Heck, even I have one!



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# Power Lines

## 2009 Annual Meeting

Central Electric Cooperative's 2009 Annual Meeting dinner is on Aug. 28, 2009 at the Whitehall Campground in Emlenton. The KFC dinner is served from 5 to 7 p.m. and free to all members and their families.

Please return this coupon to reserve your seat today, or call in your reservations at 800-521-0570. Pick up your dinner tickets at the reservation table when you arrive.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Map No. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners for me.

*By attending the Annual Meeting, I grant CEC permission to use my likeness in photographs in any and all of its publications, including internal and external newsletters and Web site entries, without payment or other consideration.*

**Return coupon by July 31, 2009 to:  
Central Electric Cooperative, Annual Meeting,  
P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049**

### Tellers Needed for Annual Meeting

The co-op board of directors invites members to serve as tellers for the Annual Meeting. A tellers' committee tabulates director election ballots returned prior to the meeting by mail or Internet, and for those voting at the meeting. Eight tellers are needed: one from Armstrong County, two from Butler County, two from Clarion County, one from Forest County and two from Venango County. If more members volunteer than are needed, a drawing will be held. If there are no volunteers from any of the counties, the co-op directors will appoint needed tellers.

#### 2009 Tellers Committee

I will attend the Annual Meeting and serve on the tellers' committee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Map No. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

## Power Lines

### Shocking? May is National Electrical Safety Month

*Protect your home and family from fires and electrocution*

Electrical problems in older homes account for nearly 55,000 fires every year. These blazes cause more than 500 deaths, injure more than 1,400 people and cost \$1.4 billion in property damage. The risk of these fires is significant since half of all homes in the United States were constructed and wired prior to 1973, according to the U.S.



Census Bureau, before hair dryers or electric can openers were even invented!

“As each year goes by Americans consume more energy in their homes,” remarks Brett Brenner, president of Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). “Many homes and electrical systems are simply being overburdened, which leads to fires, injuries and deaths.” ESFI has created a checklist that lets consumers identify electrical dangers commonly found in each room of their home. Owners of older homes can upgrade their electric systems with newer fire prevention technology such as arc fault circuit

interrupters (AFCIs). These advanced electronic circuit breakers detect dangerous conditions in a home’s wiring and cut off power before a fire develops. Additionally, those living in older homes with children can install tamper-resistant receptacles. These devices look like normal electrical outlets, although they have a built-in shutter system that prevents children from inserting foreign objects into the slots. Use of tamper-resistant receptacles would prevent most of the 2,400 burns suffered by children each year from outlets.



More information and resources relating to National Electrical Safety Month can be found at [www.electricalsafety.org](http://www.electricalsafety.org).

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) exclusively promotes electrical safety. Established in 1994, ESFI proudly sponsors National Electrical Safety Month activities each May, which focuses on reducing electricity-related deaths, injuries, and property loss.

Article supplied by Cooperative.com.

### Tree Trimming for Reliability

To improve reliability we conduct right-of-way maintenance on an eight-year cycle. We trim trees year-round, but this time of the year is our busiest. Earlier this year we used an aerial patrol to identify danger trees, or trees that must be addressed immediately. This year contractor Davey Tree will trim about 415 miles of right-of-way in the Rockland, Coal Hill and parts of Wolfs Corners areas. Thank you for your understanding for any temporary inconvenience and your cooperation in helping us maintain reliable service for all members.



# Power Lines

## Recipe of the Month

### Grilled Bacon-Cheeseburger

#### INGREDIENTS:

- \* 3 pounds lean ground beef
- \* 2 small onions finely chopped
- \* 3/4 tsp pepper
- \* 12 hamburger buns, split and toasted
- \* 1 cup blue cheese dressing
- \* 12 slices of bacon, crisply cooked and broken in half



#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat coals or gas grill for direct heat. Mix beef, onions and pepper. Shape into 12 patties, each about 3/4-inch thick.
2. Cover and grill patties on medium heat for 10 to 11 minutes, turning once, until no longer pink in the center and juice is clear.
3. Place burgers on bottom half of buns. Spoon dressing onto burgers; top each with two pieces of bacon. Place top half of bun over bacon.

For more great recipes visit:  
[www.bettycrocker.com](http://www.bettycrocker.com)

Send recipes to: Jessica Brison  
Central Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049  
E-mail: [jbrison@central.coop](mailto:jbrison@central.coop)

## CEC Staff

**Larry S. Adams**  
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**Christina J. O'Donnell**  
Director of Communication & Marketing

**Fred E. Terwilliger**  
Director of Engineering & Operations



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To observe Memorial Day,  
Central Electric's office will  
be closed on Monday, May 25  
and reopen May 26.



March contest winner:  
**Janet Murray of Chicora, Pa.**

Read Power Lines and



Read your issue of Central Electric Cooperative's Power Lines and win! It's simple: you can win a \$50 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading Power Lines and then completing the quiz that appears below. Answer the questions (answers are contained in each issue of Power Lines), complete the quiz and personal information, and return it with your bill payment. For a faster entry you may complete the survey online at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

### Important Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to all Central Electric Cooperative members with active accounts as of the drawing date.
2. Only one entry per member is permitted.
3. Employees and directors of Central Electric, along with members of their immediate families, are not eligible.
4. The winning entry will appear as a credit on the member's bill and may not be redeemed for cash.

*Complete, clip, and enclose the survey and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment!*



1. True or False: Due to new regulations, electric rates will increase.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. True or False: The federal government is offering loans for ENERGY STAR™ rated appliances.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. True or False: CEC's Annual Meeting will be on Aug. 28.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone no: \_\_\_\_\_

Account no: \_\_\_\_\_