

Electric Line



Special points of interest:

Roundup Scholarships Available

Operation Roundup scholarship applications are being accepted through July 1st.

Any co-op member or their dependent child that will be attending college including technical college this fall is eligible to apply. Please contact Mark Forseth at the co-op to receive an application.



- Don't forget to see us for all of your cell phone needs!

Summer Work, Rates & Climate Change

By: Greg Blum, CEO

Summer is here already and we are very busy with construction projects in Wittenberg and Hwy J north of Iola. Our brushing continues to progress and we will start spraying soon.

June also marks the time when Alliant fills in their costs from last year into the formula rates they charge us. I don't expect them to go down. High natural gas prices continue to drive our power cost adjustment higher so we will see a small increase in rates this summer.

The biggest impact on rates will come next year if or when Climate Change Legislation is passed. As I mentioned before, please contact your representatives and tell them our electric rates are high enough. Passing irresponsible legislation which will do nothing for the environment and cost us lots of money is not a thing to do when we are already running out of generation capacity of electricity. We will be short of reserve margins within 2 years.

Ask your legislator how we are going to supply the electricity we need over the next 10 years if we cannot build coal or nuclear power, site wind projects, or improve hydro. Ask them what the benefits of climate change legislation are and what it will cost you. If they can't answer those questions, they better start. Be involved. Your voice matters.

Thank you for being part of our coop and a voice for rural America.

Energy Conservation Not just for adults!



Energy conservation is not only limited to adults but kids can also do their part. Listed below are ten easy things kids can do to help lower the family's electric consumption. Not only will these help (your parents) save money but they will also benefit the environment.

10 Ways to Reduce Electric Usage

- 1) Turn off lights when leaving a room if no one else is in the room.
- 2) Turn off televisions, computers, stereos, video games and other energy users when you are done using them.
- 3) Make it a family project to replace existing light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL's)
- 4) Keep drinking water in your refrigerator. Running faucets until the water cools down wastes 3 to 7 gallons of water per minute.
- 5) Speaking of the refrigerator, open and close the door quickly when choosing a snack.
- 6) Close doors when going outside or coming inside when the heat or air conditioning is on.
- 7) Use cold water to wash your hands instead of waiting for it to heat up.
- 8) Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- 9) Take shorter showers or if you take a bath try one with less water.
- 10) Walk or bicycle instead of asking for rides in the car. This won't save electricity, but it will save gas and make you healthier.

Please cut and place on your refrigerator!



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Electric Line is published quarterly by Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. This publication is designed to provide information about the cooperative to our member-owners.

President & CEO..... Greg Blum
Editor Mark Forseth

If you have questions or comments please contact us at 1-800-377-2932.

Email: mark.forseth@cwecoop.com

150 Depot Street
PO Box 255
Iola, WI 54945

Test Your Lightning IQ

Answer True or False

- 1) Lightning kills more people per year than either tornados or hurricanes.
- 2) If it's not raining and it isn't cloudy, I'm safe from lightning.
- 3) If I'm in a house, I'm safe from lightning.
- 4) You should never touch a lightning victim or you will also be electrocuted.
- 5) Phone use is the leading cause of indoor lightning injuries in the U.S.
- 6) If trapped outside and lightning is eminent, lie flat on the ground.



Answers on back

Digital Broadcasting Coming to Your TV

By now you may have heard about the switch from analog to digital television broadcasting. At midnight on February 17, 2009, all television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting. You may be asking “what does this mean?” and “what do I need to do?”

Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders. This switch will only affect those who have an older picture tube type television that uses an antenna to receive their television programming. If you have satellite television or cable TV you won't have to do anything as your signal is already digital. The only exception is for satellite television viewers who receive their local channels via an antenna.

If you have an older television and you receive your television (local channels for satellite) through an antenna, you have a variety of options.

1) Keep your existing analog television and purchase a TV converter box. Congress has approved a program that allows each household to obtain up to two \$40 coupons that can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes. The boxes cost between \$50 and \$75 and are available at most national retailers including Best Buy, Circuit City, K-Mart, Radio Shack, Sears and Wal-Mart. We suggest you call ahead to confirm availability of coupons and converters.

2) Option 2 would be to connect to satellite or cable. If satellite interests you or if you want to add local channels to your current satellite system we can help as we are a certified installer of DirecTV. Please contact Mid-Wisconsin DBS at 1-800-895-2001 for more information.

3) The last option is to purchase a television with a digital tuner.

You can find more information at www.dtv.com.



Are You Interested in Renewable Energy?

To aid you in finding more information about renewable/alternative energy sources we have compiled the following list of Web sites:

Midwest Renewable Energy Association –
www.the-mrea.org

Wisconsin Geothermal Association –
www.wisgeo.org

American Wind Energy Association –
www.awea.org

Solar Electric Power Association –
www.solarelectricpower.org

National Biodiesel Board –
www.biodiesel.org

National Hydropower Association –
www.hydro.org

Focus on Energy –
www.focusonenergy.com

Although we don't participate in Focus on Energy their site is an excellent information source.

Coalition for Affordable and Reliable Energy – www.careenergy.com

U.S. Department of Energy/Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy –
www.eere.energy.gov

Test Your Lightning IQ Answers

1) **True.** Often underrated, lightning does kill more people than either tornados or hurricanes. Given those statistics, it's extremely important to take lightning seriously.

2) Tricky question but the answer is **False.** Lightning can strike up to ten miles from the area in which it is raining and you do not have to see clouds. This means that if you can hear thunder, you're within striking distance. A good idea is to use the 30-30 rule. According to this rule, if you count less than 30 between a lightning flash and thunder following it, you should seek shelter.

3) Another tricky one, for the most part **True.** Your safest location is indoors (basements are the best) but stay away from doors and windows. Avoid water, electric appliances and other objects that can conduct electricity.

4) **False.** If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being electrocuted by the victim.

5) **True.** A direct strike is not necessary for lightning voltage to enter your home through phone lines. During a storm use cordless or cell phones.

6) Believe it or not it is **False.** If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Squat (don't lay) down low to the ground with your head between your knees making yourself the smallest target possible.

Just for Fun

Ole goes into a lumber yard. “May I help you?” asks the clerk. Ole replies “I need some 2 x 4's.” “How long to do you want 'em?” says the clerk. Ole answers “Oh, for a long time. I'm building a house.”

Ole was on his deathbed and implored his wife Lena, “Lena, ven I'm gone, I vant you to marry Sven.”

“Vy Sven?” Lena asks. “You've hated him all of your life.”

“Still do” gasped Ole.

Every year for the 4th of July parade the Norwegians would line up on one side of the street, the Swedes on the other. Those crazy Norwegians would throw firecrackers at the Swedes. Of course the Swedes would get mad and light the firecrackers and through them back.

In the middle of the show, Ole stands up and yells at the ventriloquist “HEY! You've been making too many jokes about us Norwegians. Knock it off you bum!”

The ventriloquist replies “Take it easy, they're only jokes.”

Ole replies “You idiot, I'm not talking to you. I'm talking to dat little guy standing on yer knee!”