

"Our members are the most important part of our electric Cooperative"



# Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Visit our website at [www.weci.org](http://www.weci.org)

## Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

406 Colegate Drive  
P.O. Box 664  
Marietta, OH 45750

Phone: 740-373-2141

Toll-free in Ohio: 877-594-WECI



## Board of Trustees

### Frank Haught

President  
740-473-2424

### Paul S. Fleeman, CCD

1st Vice President  
740-934-2306

### David P. Miller, CCD

2nd Vice President  
740-732-5402

### Jody Parrish-Polen, CCD, BL

Secy.-Treasurer  
740-732-2112

### Dale S. Haught

Assistant Secy.-Treas.  
740-865-2950

### Daryl Bowersock

Trustee  
740-473-1560

### William Bowersock

Trustee  
740-373-5861

### Eldon E. Miller

Trustee  
740-373-8594

CCD - Certified Cooperative Director; BL - Board Leadership

## General Manager/CEO

**Kenneth J. Schilling**

## Energy efficiency and conservation are critical to our future

While our power supply is in great shape today, we must pay close attention to our future. Today's technology-driven world relies heavily on electricity, thus our consumers' demand for electricity continues to increase. Sure we can build more generation, but that is a very expensive long-term process and the permitting of new coal-burning power plants has been challenged extensively in recent months across our country. What is a solution?

The most cost-effective, near-term option for managing electricity use is energy efficiency. It can reduce the need to build new power plants and lower emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that are blamed for contributing to climate change.

Washington Electric Cooperative, as well as all electric Cooperatives nationally, promotes energy efficiency to help our consumer-members reduce electricity consumption and thus save money. At the most recent Home Show in Marietta in mid-March, Washington Electric promoted the use of Marathon® electric water heaters (the most energy-efficient electric water heater on the market today), high-efficiency heat pumps coupled with fossil fuel furnaces and geothermal systems. The Cooperative offers rebates on all of these systems to our members. More information on these products is available by contacting the Cooperative or visiting its Web site at [www.weci.org](http://www.weci.org).

In addition, your electric Cooperative attempts to keep a lid on wholesale generating costs — by controlling when electricity gets used. With Buckeye Power spearheading this effort, Washington Electric offers various load management programs for our members. These programs simply interrupt electric service to water heaters, air conditioners, heat pumps, geothermal systems and furnaces for short periods of as little as a few minutes to a few hours. This control generally takes place during peak demand — the electric industry's equivalent of rush-hour traffic when power costs can skyrocket. Most of this participation has rewards offered to members for their voluntary participation. Air conditioner and heat pump participation offers a summer discount on your electric bill, while electric water heater participation offers a monthly discount of \$2 per month. If you have questions about our load management programs and discounts, just call or e-mail the Member Services Department and check out the Cooperative's Web site at [www.weci.org](http://www.weci.org).

Last year, electric Co-ops nationally shaved off demand by 2,200 MW (comparable to a commercial nuclear power plant) saving \$50 million in fuel costs and offsetting more than 2,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

The biggest bang from energy efficiency involves easing pressure on constructing new power plants. One of the simplest energy efficiency projects for our members is to replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. In future articles, the Touchstone Energy® Home Program will be discussed to provide more ideas for energy efficiency in a home.

— Ken Schilling,  
General Manager

## Co-op rebate programs

**Water heater** — rebates from \$150 to \$400 for qualifying 50-gallon or larger new electric water heaters.

**Dual Fuel** — rebates of \$600 for new heat pumps installed with a fossil fuel furnace system and Co-op load management switch.

**Geothermal** — rebates of \$700 for new geothermal systems installed.

*Call for details.*

## Co-op products available

**Marathon® water heaters** — Your Co-op offers its consumers the best-insulated water heater (50- or 85-gallon) on the market with a lifetime warranty against leaking. Your cost is \$200 after the rebate on the 50-gallon or \$300 after the rebate on the 85-gallon unit.

**Outdoor lighting** — Your Co-op offers a high-pressure sodium light for just \$9 per month. Call or stop by your Co-op office for details on the installation.

**EnviroWatts®** — Ohio's "green energy" now available to Washington Electric Cooperative members. Call for more details.



## Co-op services available

**Automatic Bill Payment** — Make paying your electric bill easy — call your Co-op for details.

**Meter readings** — Use your Co-op Web site at [www.weci.org](http://www.weci.org).

**E-billing** — Stop by or call for details.

**Energy audits** — Your Co-op provides in-home energy audits and can give you energy-saving ideas for your home. Call for more details.



## Discounts from your Co-op

**Water heaters** — \$2 per month if you have a Co-op radio-controlled switch installed.

**Air conditioning** — \$5 per month during the summer if you have a Co-op radio-controlled switch installed on your A/C or heat pump.

## Nominating Committee

The Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc., Board of Trustees has appointed the following members to serve on the 2008 Nominating Committee: Cecil Cline, Wingett Run; Gale D. DuPuy, Marietta; Earl Arnold, Waterford; Laverne Wentworth, Caldwell; Earl Way, Dexter City; Betty Martin, Marietta; and Ralph Hercher, Jr., Sycamore Valley. 1080256800

## Capital credits

Washington Electric Cooperative Inc. refunded capital credits in the first two months of this year to 10 estates that totaled \$14,003.35.

If you know of a deceased member, please have the executor of the estate call our office for information on the member's capital credits.

## Community Corner

**4-H Endowment Dinner and Auction** — April 5 at the Washington County Junior Fair Building, Washington County Fairgrounds. Phone 740-376-7431

**Bloodmobile** — April 10 at the Noble County Community Center. Phone 740-732-2667

**"Elvis, Diary of a King"** — April 10-12 at Caldwell High School. Phone 740-732-2071

**4-H Horse Council Tack Auction** — April 18 at Noble County Fairgrounds. Phone 740-732-5681

**Youth Season Turkey Hunting** — April 19 and 20. Register a week prior at Estadt's Store. Phone 740-732-1315

**CTA Spaghetti Dinner** — April 19 at Shenandoah Elementary School. Phone 740-732-5661

**Soil Stewardship Week** — April 28-May 3, nationwide. Call Noble County Solid Waste Authority at 740-732-4318 for information.

## Credit for account number

If you find the number of your account in the local (center four) pages of this magazine, call the Co-op office; you will receive at least \$10 credit on your electric bill. In February, Donald Kitts did not find his account number. If you find your account number, call the Co-op office by the 16th of the month in which it is published.

# Look up before you plant that tree

Spring is a time for planting and the beginning of yearly beautification projects for the home and property. Surrounding your home with ornamental trees enhances the appearance of your property and provides summer shade and year-round windbreak. Good tree placement and landscaping also can enhance your property's value and prevent costly maintenance or damage to your home. But the wrong tree can create havoc if it grows into utility lines where it may create a safety hazard or interrupt power.

Trees are the major cause of power interruptions, both prolonged and momentary, for Washington Electric Cooperative members. The Cooperative spends hundreds of thousands of dollars cutting and trimming trees that threaten electric service. The Cooperative's first charge is to keep power flowing. If your tree intrudes into power line space, it may need to be pruned to minimize the potential for causing an outage. This process may reduce the aesthetic value of the plant.

The obvious way to avoid this is to make careful selections on the type and placement of trees on your

## Mark your calendar!



Join your fellow members, the Cooperative Board and employees at the Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 7, at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Marietta.

This year's Annual Meeting will offer something for the entire family. There will be activities for the children, a health fair sponsored by Selby General Hospital, live entertainment and a free KFC lunch. Door prizes and gifts also will be available. Numerous vendors will offer energy-saving ideas, renewable energy updates, generator information, home heating and cooling updates, Energy Star appliances and much more. Mark your calendar! We hope you and your whole family can spend two hours with your electric Cooperative family.

property. First, make sure that any tree you plant within 20 feet of an overhead power line has a mature height of no more than 25 feet. Trees such as crabapple, serviceberry or dogwood fit that description.

Trees such as linden or magnolia that have a mature maximum height of 40 feet should be planted between 20 and 50 feet from the line. Taller trees such as maple, oak or pine should be at least 50 feet from the nearest line.

When planning to plant trees near long-distance high-voltage transmission lines, you will need to add more clearance, and it is a good idea to check the easement requirements.

Common sense should guide your tree selection. Before planting, research the mature characteristics of the tree you are considering. Your OSU Extension agent or a tree nursery staff can provide professional help.

## Life support update

If you are dependent on life support equipment operated by electricity, please call, e-mail or write and provide us with the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Account number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Give details on the type of unit in use.

This information will help us serve you better during certain outage situations. Because unplanned outages occur due to accidents, weather conditions and vandalism, please make appropriate provisions in advance for such circumstances.

If you presently are on our life support list, please contact us to confirm your need to remain on the list or to be removed from the list if your needs have changed.

Please help your neighbor/relative living on our lines who is dependent on life-support equipment operated by electricity, who may need assistance in contacting us with their information.

**Mail to: Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.,  
406 Colegate Drive, P.O. Box 664,  
Marietta, OH 45750**

# BUDGET BILLING OPTIONS

*Do your electric bills go up and down with the changing seasons?*

Washington Electric offers two different budget billing plans:

## 1. Fixed Budget Plan

- a. Apply between Sept. 12 and Oct. 5 or between June 12 and July 5.
- b. Fixed budget amounts will be calculated on 12 months' average use.
- c. Catch-up months — Any difference between the budget billed and actual use for the previous six-month period will be billed or credited in the catch-up month.
  - **CYCLE 1 Catch-up months are**
    - Bill received in late May due on June 15
    - Bill received in late October due on Nov. 15
  - **CYCLE 2 Catch-up months are**
    - Bill received in mid-June due July 5
    - Bill received in mid-November due Dec. 5
- d. Eligible members must have resided at their present location for at least one year and not have a balance due as of the date of application for the fixed budget plan.

## 2. Levelized Budget Plan

- a. Make application anytime.
- b. Your monthly budget amount is calculated every month based on the previous 12 months' average, and thus, will vary slightly each month but still minimize large swings in the balance due each month.
- c. There is not a catch-up month because the budget amount billed is reviewed and revised each month.
- d. Eligible members must have resided at their present location for at least one year and not have an outstanding balance due as of the date of application for the levelized budget plan.

To remain on ANY budget plan, the budget billed must be paid in full every month on or before the due date.

*Please complete and return the form below to apply for a budget plan.*

Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
P.O. Box 664 • Marietta, OH 45750

### BUDGET BILLING APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to enroll in (check one)     Fixed Budget Billing     Levelized Budget Billing

My home is equipped with the following (please check ALL that apply):

Electric heat     Electric water heater     Central air conditioning

Window air conditioners (please note how many)     Gas heat

ETS unit     Geothermal unit     Heat pump

## Welcome new members for January 2008

Travis Tatalovich	Megan N. Smith	Ronald Selsor	Chris Noland
Esther Barnett	Richard L. Thomas	Willard D. Baker	Alisa Walters
Landon B. Hurst	Scott Hogan	Mitch Maifeld	Andy Rataiczak
Robert L. Reed	Sarah Wise	Virginia Heiss	Jason Canterbury
Doug Avery	Christina Ward	Carrie Datkuliak	
Amber Richards	Danny Helms	Dennis Henniger	
Matthew T. Berga	Elizabeth Rochus	Stephanie Sklenar	