

COOS-CURRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR MEMBERS ONLY



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 
The power of human connections®

March 2009

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Closed Fridays and
Holidays

From General Manager/CEO Roger Meader

This year will be a year of change for your electric cooperative as Congress and state legislatures across the country are crafting legislation that will affect the availability and cost of the electricity we purchase to serve your needs. That legislation will be influenced primarily by philosophical views regarding the environment and climate change.

But what does all that mean? We're not exactly sure yet. One thing is for certain. You'll be hearing a lot more about traditional sources of energy, renewable energy alternatives, constraints on transmission, escalating energy costs, the importance of energy conservation and the role each of us is presented with in shaping our nation's future energy policy.

We're paying close attention. Here's why. Whether or not you believe climate change is real, the fact is the decisions that are made with regard to climate change will affect your way of life, including how much you pay for electricity. Our job is to look out for your best interests and keep you informed. To get you the information you need to make your own decisions about what is best for you and your family. And to help you understand how the various proposals will affect your electric cooperative and the energy you use.

These issues, and others, are discussed monthly at our Town Hall meetings and will be the topic of discussion at our upcoming Annual Meeting of the membership scheduled for May 2nd at Pacific High School, just north of Port Orford. Our Town Hall meetings are usually held the first Thursday of every month. We rotate the location. In March, we'll be in Gold Beach; and April in Port Orford. We hope you will attend; however, if you are unable to do so and want information about our future energy supply, please feel free to give us a call.

Climate Change. Emission Reductions. Protecting the Environment. Renewable Energy. Our Energy Future. How does it all fit together and how do we learn more about it?

Join Power of Community — learn more — and have a voice.

Call any office for more details or sign up online at <http://oreca.org/powercom.php>



Empty House, High Bill?

By Megan Walters, Energy Conservation Specialist

We often get asked why an electric bill doesn't go down when a consumer leaves home for a week or two — or even a whole month — even when they have turned the thermostat down to 50 or 55 degrees. Even a house left vacant can still cause your electric bill to stay the same or be even higher. Here's why.

A vacant house at 55 degrees will not use much less energy for heating than an occupied one at 68 degrees. One reason is that the activity of an occupied house will radiate a certain amount of heat; clothes drying, cooking, baths and human activity all give off heat and help make up the difference. An empty house does not have these heating agents, and your heating system must maintain the 55 degree temperature.

It is also possible that your home could be vacated a full month, and have the electric bill go up. Let's assume, for example, you were home one month during relatively mild weather, and your bill for that month is close to normal. Then the next month, you decide to take a vacation. If the weather turns extremely cold, your bill could go up instead of down, even though you're not home.

Such things as water heaters, clocks, instant-on televisions, refrigerators and freezers will continue to operate regardless of whether they are being used.

If you plan to leave your home for an extended period of time, we recommend that you turn down or shut off everything you possibly can, but remember that lower settings do not eliminate all usage. If you shut off everything, remember to winterize and drain all water lines.

More energy savings tips may be found on our website at www.ccec.coop.

Are Your Records Up To Date?

Last year, we upgraded our customer information system (CIS) after more than 15 years. The system was out of date and was no longer going to be supported by the software provider.

We are still working through conversion challenges and getting accustomed to what the new system is able to do to make our job of providing service to you even better.

In the process, we are also taking the time to clean up old records and make sure the information we have in our CIS is as up-to-date and accurate as possible — for your electric account as well as your capital credits account. So, please give us a moment of your time to update your contact information — just in case we need to get in touch with you regarding your account.

..... For Members Only Newsletter

Published by Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, Inc. Member and Public Affairs Department