

Want your voice heard?
Join Power of Community.

As a member and owner of Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CCEC) you have a vested interest in protection our fundamental cooperative principles – such as local control. And, you have a right to have your voice heard. Contrary to what you might believe at times, elected officials are interested in what you – the voter – have to say on issues that are important to you.

A few years ago, the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association started a grassroots network called Power of Community (POC) to educate consumers of electric cooperatives in Oregon about issues that affect us and to activate members who are willing to provide input from the grassroots level. POC members are automatically members of People Power, a grassroots organization focused primarily on Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) issues.

Why is this important? Because the laws that are made in Washington, DC and in Salem, Oregon with regard to electricity directly affect the price you pay for that electricity. And, because CCEC purchases the majority of its wholesale power on your behalf from BPA, that federal agency's actions also affect the price you end up paying for the electricity you use.

The article entitled “The Current State of Climate Legislation” provides an update on the legislative efforts at the federal level to address climate change. POC has provided an update on another important issue – a recent agreement between BPA and Alcoa that may harm members of consumer-owned utilities such as CCEC.

Both are important articles. The climate change debate is far from over and your voice in that debate as legislation is being crafted is more important than ever. The same holds true with regard to the contract between BPA and Alcoa. That article states that for months, consumer-owned utilities protested the contract. But, in the end the collective voice must not have been loud enough. Another opportunity may arise next year; and consumer-owned utilities need to be ready.

POC is your opportunity to get involved. There is no charge for membership and you will be joining others in making sure you keep your power supply reliable and affordable. Sign up online at www.oreca.org and click on Power of Community or send an e-mail through the CCEC website at www.ccec.coop and click on the Contact Us icon.