

# COOS-CURRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. ..... FOR MEMBERS ONLY



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives   
The power of human connections®

**May 2010**

## **Contact Us**

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### **After Hours**

### **Emergency and Outage**

866-352-9044

[www.ccec.coop](http://www.ccec.coop)

### **Office Hours**

**7:00 AM—5:30 PM**

**Monday—Thursday**

**Closed Fridays and Holidays**

## **From General Manager/CEO Roger Meader**

This year will be another challenging one for keeping the price of electricity affordable. As of this writing, we continue to get disturbing news about the inadequate snow pack and outlook for power generation as a result.

As you are aware, the Pacific Northwest is fortunate to be able to generate electricity through our clean, renewable and reliable hydropower system. Water is the “fuel” that keeps generators turning and electricity flowing to your homes. And, snow in the Canadian Rockies is where it all begins for our system.

Seems strange for me to be saying that we don’t have enough snow pack and we’re headed for perhaps one of the lowest water years in decades when at the same time, we have seen record low temperatures here on the southern Oregon coast. But, it’s true.

Unfortunately, challenging water years mean higher prices for wholesale power. We adjusted rates last October to help manage the wholesale power outlook, pass along the increase in wholesale power rates from the Bonneville Power Administration and implement more conservation-minded rate structures. We had originally planned to adjust rates again in April of 2010; but postponed the adjustment until October. The water situation will impact the adjustment in October.

But wholesale power cost, while about 50 percent of our cost of doing business is only one part of your overall electric bill. The other factor that impacts your electric bill is the weather. Over the past six months, the average temperature along the southern Oregon coast ranged from 43 to 57 degrees. That means even if you kept your thermostat at 65 degrees, your heating system was working to keep the house at a constant 65 degrees even when the temperatures outside were colder.

We understand how important electricity is in your daily lives and how you feel when you get those winter bills. They always seem to arrive in the mail on a day the sun is shining, don’t they? We also appreciate what you may be juggling in your personal lives — especially given the rate of unemployment in our state and general economic times. If you are having difficulty paying your bill, please call one of our offices to discuss options. Don’t wait. We may be able to refer you to agencies that are there to assist those in need or we may be able to help you identify ways you can conserve. We can’t control the weather; however, we will continue to fight to keep rates affordable and the electricity we provide reliable.

*Climate Change. Emission Reductions.  
Protecting the Environment.  
Renewable Energy.  
Our Energy, Our 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>**



## SPRING “TIPS” TO SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

Spring is a perfect time of year to make your home more energy-efficient. Here are five quick tips that will save both energy and money. To learn about additional ways to cut your energy bill, click on the Together We Save banner on our website at [www.ccec.coop](http://www.ccec.coop).

**1. Seal the cracks and gaps around your home.** Spring may be the right time to put away those storm windows, but it is also a good time to add weather-stripping and caulking around leaky window panes. The Together We Save information shows how easy it is to use a caulking gun to seal up leaks around your house around doors, vents, ductwork and windows. Sealing cracks and gaps could save as much as \$200 annually.

**2. Change filters regularly.** Furnace and air conditioner filters need to be changed monthly and this can really help lower monthly energy bills. Dirty filters can restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your cooling system and make it work even harder on hot summer days.

**3. Clean the refrigerator inside and out.** Now is a good time to not only throw out the leftover fruit cake from the holidays, but also to check the temperature settings on your refrigerator. Ideally, a refrigerator’s temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum operating efficiency. When it’s time to replace that old refrigerator, be sure to buy an ENERGY STAR® rated appliance. Energy-efficient appliances can save as much as \$100 a year based on calculations in the Together We Save information.

**4. Think sun block.** TogetherWeSave.com demonstrates that by pulling the shades on your windows this spring and summer, you could save about \$35 a year. Your local hardware or do-it-yourself stores has lots of inexpensive window coverings. Best of all, by blocking the sun, your house will stay cool and comfortable year-round.

**5. Enjoy the spring Breezes.** Use a clothesline throughout the warmer months to let the sun and breeze dry clothes naturally. This will reduce both energy and water bills, and add a genuine clean scent to your family’s laundry.



You can learn more about ways to lower your monthly energy bill by visiting our website or [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).

## PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY

Identity theft can happen to anyone. It seems like every day thieves try new ways to steal information — and your identity — from you. If your credit card is stolen, you’re at risk for an “account takeover.” The thief uses your credit account information and purchases products and services using either the actual credit card or simply the account number and expiration date.

When your name or Social Security number is stolen, then you can become the victim of “true name fraud.” The thief uses your Social Security number and other identifying information to open new accounts in your name, usually without your knowledge.

That’s why we take extra precautions to make sure we know it’s “you” before we conduct business with you. In general, beware of giving out your personal information such as name, address, social security number or date of birth to anyone over the telephone unless you are sure you know the caller. Computer passwords should never be given to callers. If you have any doubt, here’s a website you can use to check out what’s the “real deal” and what is a hoax. Protect yourself — and your identity.

<http://www.hoax-slayer.com>

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