




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Happy Father's Day

Don't forget your father this Father's Day, Sunday, June 21.



Holiday Closing

Our office will be closed to observe the 4th of July on Friday, July 3.



FROM THE MANAGER

I attended the NRECA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., in May along with 25 representatives of other Kansas electric cooperatives.

Our objective was to meet with our members of Congress to discuss the impact of several bills that have been introduced in the U.S. House already this year to address the nation's energy and climate change objectives.

Putting a price on CO₂ may cause electricity prices to rise beyond the reach of many Americans. This increase will happen if Congress passes the wrong bill or if the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates CO₂ emissions under the Clean Air Act. Congress must stand with Main Street, not Wall Street. Congress must develop a simple, affordable, flexible, and effective solution.

President Obama's budget jump-started the debate by proposing that Congress auction 100 percent of all emission allowances under a cap-and-trade system and use the tens of billions in revenue to fund low and middle-class tax cuts.

Spurred by a 2007 U.S. Supreme Court decision, EPA has started the process to develop regulations under the Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act was not designed to address global-scale issues, but rather local and regional air quality issues. Rep. John

Dingell (D-MI) warned that EPA CO₂ regulation would be a "glorious mess." We agree. Well-crafted legislation is a better solution.

Under a cap-and-trade plan, Congress would set a national cap on the number of tons of CO₂ emissions that would be allowed each year. The cap would decline over time. EPA would then develop emissions permits, called allowances. The allowances could be allocated to the retail

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electric utilities based on emissions associated with the production of electricity sold by the electric utility to keep the program affordable. Or EPA could auction them to the highest bidder to raise revenue, effectively letting Wall Street speculators set electricity prices.

We asked each member of our congressional delegation to oppose auctioning of allowances in the electricity sector and not to allow Wall Street speculators to set

FROM THE MANAGER CONTINUED

electricity rates by treating CO₂ allowances as just another money-making commodity.

We need a climate change plan that people can live with today even as they deal with the climate change problem of tomorrow. To be successful, the plan must be developed with the input of all parties, especially electric co-op member-consumers, and it must offer a balanced solution to climate change issues.

It is important that you get

Play up outdoor electrical safety to children

Warm, sunny days beckon the child in all of us to head outside and play. Twin Valley Electric recommends that families review and stress to children to follow simple electrical safety rules for safe outdoor play.

Help keep your kids out of harm's way when they play outdoors. Children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. Make them aware of overhead power lines and electrical equipment, and emphasize they should never climb or play near them.

Twin Valley Electric recommends that children be taught to follow these rules:

- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact Twin Valley Electric for assistance.
- Never climb a utility pole or tower.
- Don't play on or around electrical equipment.

When designing an outdoor play area for your children, do not install

involved and communicate with our elected officials and help them understand that when the ink dries on any new legislation addressing climate change, the electric co-ops' twin goals of keeping electricity affordable and reliable must be found sacrosanct.

Go to www.ourenergy.coop and enter your address and send Congress your questions. You can start with asking them questions like: "What are you doing to make sure we'll have the power we need in the future?"



Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can be deadly.

playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Protect all family members from serious shock and injuries by installing and using outdoor outlets with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them. Be careful using electrical appliances outdoors, even if plugged into GFCI-equipped outlets.

Water always attracts kids, but water and electricity never mix. Teach older children to exercise caution before plugging in a radio, CD player, or any electrical gadget outdoors, and keep all electrical appliances at least 10 feet away from hot tubs, pools, ponds, puddles and wet surfaces.

Make sure all of your family members know to stay away from downed power lines and wires, and tell children to report to an adult any fallen or dangling wires.

Load management: A way to level out peak electric use

When your household and family members are consuming electricity at any given time it is known



as "load." When the cooperative adds up the load that each member has at any given time it determines the load for the system.

There comes a time, every day, when the system reaches its peak. That's when all of us, all at once, are using the most electricity. And, of course, Twin Valley Electric must have enough power to meet these needs. It's also the time when it costs the most to provide that power. The way to help keep your electric rates stable is to reduce this peak. It's what we call "load management." There are some things you can do at home that can help.

Since the late afternoon to early evening is the peak time for us, you can help by using major appliances, such as the washer and dryer, in the morning or later on in the evening. When preparing dinner, remember that slow cookers and other small appliances consume less electricity. Using energy wisely helps to reduce the need to invest in new power sources.

You can help promote load management at home. And we can help, too. If you have any questions about load management and how we're doing, or if you need more information about how you can help, just give us a call at 866-784-5500.