

Sent to you by Gibson EMC – your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

The Tennessee Magazine

July 2009

Why is this man so steamed?

See Page 12

History for Kids: The Farm

Co-ops Bring Energy Efficiency Home

5 Chefs Serving Southern Hospitality

What is Cap-and-Trade?

Tennessee Peaches

50th
1958 • ANNIVERSARY • 2008



Gibson EMC leaders call on Washington

Representatives from Gibson Electric Membership Corporation recently joined 3,000 other co-op leaders in Washington, D.C., to meet with elected officials. Their primary message was that maintaining affordable and reliable electricity must be at the core of climate-change legislation.

"If members of Congress don't fully understand the ramifications of the votes they cast, we could find ourselves back to those days when certain segments of our population could not afford electric power on a regular basis," National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Glenn English told co-op leaders.

Climate change

Seventy-seven years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made clear that electricity had gone from being a luxury to a necessity. Electric co-ops remain committed to that ideal. Today, that means working with Congress to ensure that any climate-change bill keeps electricity affordable. Co-ops are urging lawmakers to reject cap-and-trade auctions, which have the potential to put electric rates at the mercy of Wall Street speculators.

Adding to the concern is the 2007 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the Environmental Protection Agency has authority to regulate carbon dioxide (CO₂) under the Clean Air Act, a measure not well-suited to addressing global climate change. Electric cooperatives need legislation that will stop EPA from regulating CO₂ under the Clean Air Act and that will keep electricity affordable.

Energy efficiency

Electric cooperatives are committed to supporting federal extensions of consumer tax credits for appliances and home improvements that promote energy conservation. Seventy-seven percent of the nation's electric co-ops offer free or low-cost energy audits to their consumer-members, and 92 percent regularly provide energy-efficiency messages to their members.

Gibson EMC and other electric co-ops are urging Congress to pass legislation that encourages the development of new technology and offers incentives to utilities and consumers for implementing efficiency.

However, we oppose an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS), contained in a draft bill, which would require electric distribution companies to annually certify electricity savings equal to a specified percentage of their retail costs. Not only would an EERS impose costs on consumers, electricity experts say an EERS is not achievable. The mandate also punishes Gibson EMC and other electric co-ops that have made efficiency a long-time goal and that have fewer commercial and industrial customers where the top efficiency gains will be achieved.

Renewable electricity

While the nation's electric cooperatives support efforts to



Gibson Electric Membership Corporation leaders meet with Rep. John Tanner while in Washington, D.C. From left are Gibson EMC President and CEO Dan Rodamaker, Tanner, board member Joan Mouser, Board Secretary-Treasurer Don Leathers, Kathy Forrester and board member Keith Forrester. Gibson EMC's group thanked Tanner for his help in securing FEMA assistance after January's ice storms left millions of dollars in damage.

expand the availability of renewable electricity as a segment of the nation's power supply, they see significant challenges in availability and affordability. Renewable resources are not uniformly distributed across the country, and some regions lack adequate transmission capacity.

Electric cooperatives are calling for flexibility in renewable electricity standards so that energy efficiency can count for at least 25 percent of the mandated requirements. The cooperatives also back provisions allowing states to determine which eligible resources will provide the first 50 percent of renewable electricity to meet the federal standard.

Rural Utilities Service

Faced with a growing demand for power and the ongoing credit crunch, co-ops need Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loans to ensure adequate electric infrastructure and the availability of cleaner technologies. Along with adequate funding for the Rural Electric Loan Program, co-ops want lawmakers to restore the RUS generation loan program. It remains shelved while investor-owned utilities and municipalities continue to reap tax benefits off-limits to co-ops.

Railroad policy

Co-ops that depend on a single railroad to transport coal to power plants are not receiving reliable rail service at reasonable rates. Railroads are exempt from antitrust laws. Co-ops support legislation to mandate that railroads bring their anticompetitive practices into line with antitrust laws or become subject to the same penalties as other industries.

All of these issues are impacting your cooperative and you, the customer-owner. Please speak to, call, write or e-mail your legislators. Encourage them to do what is necessary now to ensure a balance of clean, safe, reliable and economical electricity. Visit www.ourenergy.coop for more information.



Fun for the Whole Family

Gibson EMC Annual Members' Meeting
Saturday, Aug. 8
Obion County Central High School
528 North U.S. Highway 51, Troy

Make plans to join in the fun at Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's annual members' meeting on Saturday, Aug. 8. In appreciation for our customer-owners' patience and support during the ice storm recovery, we're returning to the northern area of our system. This year's meeting will be in Troy at the Obion County Central High School.

"Annual meeting is an opportunity for all of us at Gibson EMC to say 'thanks' for allowing us to provide your electric service, and it's an opportunity for you to participate in your co-op's business meeting and enjoy a morning of family fun," says Gibson EMC President and CEO Dan Rodamaker.

Registration, health fair and exhibits

Registration, the health fair and exhibits will open at 8 a.m. Customer-owners will receive a free gift at registration, while the health fair and exhibits will be available to all who attend. The health fair will offer a variety of testing; some tests will be free, while others will require a small fee.

The exhibits will include information on Gibson EMC's many programs and services, with an emphasis on how you can conserve energy and save on your electric bill. Next month's *Tennessee Magazine* will have more details.

Top-notch entertainment

The Standards will take the stage at 10 a.m. This critically acclaimed vocal group offers a "dynamic music experience," featuring nonstop, energetic vocal performances packed with choreography, comedy and audience interaction. The quintet of brothers, made up of Morgan, Nathan, Jordon, Nicholas and Quinn Williams, is known for amazing a cappella performances. Sharing the stage with music sensations like Lonestar, the Oak Ridge Boys and Manhattan Transfer, the Standards bridge the gap found in common music genres.

This talented group gets its name from its music. The Standards perform songs known as the "standards." Mix great timeless music with a new generation sound, and you have an electrifying performance. To learn more about the Standards and to listen to a sample of their harmonies, visit thestandards.com.

Business meeting

During the business meeting, scheduled for 11 a.m., Gibson EMC's leaders will provide an update on the co-op's operation. They will present a financial report and talk about the significant activities that have taken place during the past fiscal year as well as their expectations for Gibson EMC's future.



OFFICIAL NOTICE Annual Meeting

**Saturday, Aug. 8, Obion Co. Central High School
528 North U.S. Highway 51, Troy, Tennessee**

The annual meeting of the Gibson Electric Membership Corporation will be Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009, in the Obion County Central High School, 528 North U.S. Highway 51, Troy. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., and the business meeting will begin at 11 a.m., at which time the following actions will take place:

1. Report of officers, trustees and committees.
2. Any unfinished or new business.

If you are a member with special needs and you plan to attend this meeting, please contact the cooperative at 731-855-4740, ext. 1611, by Aug. 5 so we can try to accommodate you.

Sincerely,

DON LEATHERS, Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Trustees

Fantastic door prizes, free food and more

Children and the young at heart will enjoy face-painting, Louie the Lighting Bug, a clown, a magician and more. Members' children in attendance can register to win a Nintendo Wii and an electric scooter. Adult customer-owners will be eligible to win other great door prizes, including five \$100 electric bill credits, an electric grill, an electric smoker and a Jiffy Steamer.

We'll have free sack lunches: a barbecue sandwich or hot dog, a bag of potato chips and a soft drink or bottle of water. So mark your calendar for Saturday, Aug. 8!



Help us be ready when you are

Tips for scheduling your electric service during construction or renovation

When building or renovating, include Gibson Electric Membership Corporation in your planning so that we can provide you with electric service when you need it.

Gibson EMC requirements

- Notify Gibson EMC 30 days before you need electricity so we can obtain underground utility clearance and complete engineering and construction work.
- We will need your billing information: name, Social Security number, phone number, mailing address and credit information.
- We will need location information: the 911 address and directions to the site.
- The site must be marked to show where the new construction will stand. Manufactured homes should be onsite.

Once Gibson EMC has the above information, our field engineer will visit the job site within five working days. Once engineering is complete, a letter will be sent advising you of any construction charges and your available methods of payment.

State requirements

- State law requires that a sewer permit be obtained from either the health department or local city hall. You must present this sewer permit at Gibson EMC when purchasing your electrical permit.

- Electrical permits may be purchased at any Gibson EMC customer service center and may be paid for by cash, check or money order. A copy of the electrical permit should be placed in the meter base for the state electrical inspector.
- You must call Tennessee One Call (dial 811) no later than 72 hours before excavation so that all underground utilities can be located and marked. Tennessee One Call notifications for excavation performed by Gibson EMC will be handled by our employees.
- A state deputy electrical inspector will conduct an electrical inspection after the wiring is roughed in (before insulation and wall covering) and when the wiring is complete and all panel covers and face covers are installed.

When your wiring is complete

- Call Gibson EMC to schedule an inspection by a state deputy electrical inspector.
- Gibson EMC will schedule your meter to be set after the final electrical inspection is passed and arrangements are made for payment of charges.
- If your inspection does not pass, you are required by law to purchase another permit for reinspection.

We want our part of your building or remodeling process to be a pleasant experience. Please contact any Gibson EMC customer service center if you have questions or need more information.

TVA decreases fuel cost adjustment

The Tennessee Valley Authority is decreasing its fuel cost adjustment (FCA) July 1, 2009.

As a result, the FCA charge shown on Gibson Electric Membership Corporation residential customer-owners' bills will move from \$8.66 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours to \$5.62 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours. While the FCA is shown as a charge on Gibson EMC customer-owners' bills, it does not create additional revenue for Gibson EMC.

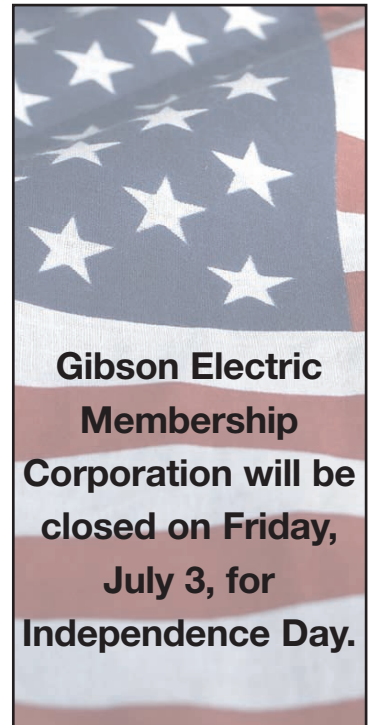
"It is welcome news that our customer-owners will be charged a lower FCA for the next quarter," says Gibson EMC President and CEO Dan Rodamaker.

The FCA is a routine rate adjustment TVA uses to help manage the cost volatility of fuel used in power generation (coal, natural gas and nuclear) and recover the cost of power purchased on the open market. The

FCA allows TVA to reconcile its forecasts for fuel and purchased power costs with actual costs.

Visit www.tnelectric.org/fca.aspx to learn more about the TVA fuel cost adjustment. For information on how you can save energy and energy dollars, visit www.gibsonemc.com and complete the online home energy audit. For a mail-in survey, call 731-855-4740, ext. 1611.

Energy-efficiency tax credits also are available for some projects through the federal stimulus package. For example, you can get a tax credit up to \$1,500 for insulating, sealing and weatherstripping your home. The credit is for 30 percent of the cost of qualifying improvements made to an existing home in 2009-2010. Visit www.energystar.gov, keyword "tax credits," to find out which projects qualify for the tax credit.





Being **GREEN** isn't all that hard

With the Green Power Switch program, you have the power to help make renewable energy a way of life.



The Center for Resource Solutions (CRS), an independent, nonprofit organization, performs an annual audit of Green Power Switch to verify that power from green power sources is sufficient to supply the amount of power sold.

During fiscal year 2007, green power contributed slightly more than 0.01% to the TVA generation mix. Of the eligible renewable power mix, totals were 0.5% solar, 62.8% wind and 36.7% methane.

For comparison, the FY 2007 average mix of resources supplying the TVA region was 64% fossil, 30% nuclear, 6% hydro and less than 1% other.

Solar generation resources are located in Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and Virginia. Wind and methane generation resources are located in Tennessee.

For information about Green Power Switch, contact your local Gibson EMC customer service center or visit www.greenpowerswitch.com.

Kermit the Frog may lament the difficulties of being green, but Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's Green Power Switch program makes it easy. You can invest in the Earth's future and in protecting the environment by purchasing blocks of green power with payments added to your monthly electric bill.

Candi Via, who works her family's 1,200-acre farm with her father, thinks the program is something everyone should consider to promote the growth of alternative energy sources.

"Everybody uses electricity; it is one thing we all have in common," Via says. "Buying green power each month is one thing we can all do to help the environment. I look at it as my monthly contribution to the environment that is easy to do."

Green power is electricity generated by renewable and cleaner energy resources such as wind, solar power and methane gas. The Tennessee Valley Authority adds the green power it generates to its total power mix.

"I read about the program online as I was paying my electric bill," says Julia Lovett of Troy, who has been participating in the program for a couple of years with her husband, Dwight.

"I did not know there were wind farms in Tennessee. I think wind farms are a great idea, one that I would love to see expand

across the state. I believe green power is the way we should be headed and wanted to contribute in some way."

"Even though I am only buying one block a month," says Via, "I know I am playing a part in finding additional sources of power that are good for the environment and do not contribute to the serious issue of global warming our planet faces."

Green power is available for purchase in blocks of 150 kilowatt-hours; each block adds \$4 to your monthly Gibson EMC electric bill.

Making the Green Power Switch is easy; just fill out the coupon below and mail it to Gibson EMC, P.O. Box 47, Trenton, TN 38382.

To learn more about the program or using renewable energy resources, visit www.gibsonemc.com or www.greenpowerswitch.com.

I want to make the Green Power Switch...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 150 kilowatt-hours (\$4) | <input type="checkbox"/> 600 kilowatt-hours (\$16) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 300 kilowatt-hours (\$8) | <input type="checkbox"/> 750 kilowatt-hours (\$20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 450 kilowatt-hours (\$12) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Name _____ Phone _____

Account number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Signature _____ Date _____





This pilot program offers you another way to save money when making energy-efficient improvements to your home

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation and the Tennessee Valley Authority have partnered to offer you an opportunity you won't want to pass up!

With the In-Home Energy Evaluation Program pilot, a TVA-certified evaluator assesses your home's energy efficiency and makes recommendations for energy-related home improvements. You pay just half the cost — \$75 — for this assessment, which is valued at \$150.

However, you'll pay **nothing** for the assessment (we'll waive the \$75 fee) if you make at least some of the recommended improvements, using one of our certified Weatherization Quality Contractors.

Better yet, you also will be eligible for reimbursement of 50 percent of installation costs (up to a maximum reimbursement of \$500).

That means you can get a **FREE** evaluation, save future energy dollars, improve the value of your home and receive cash incentives of up to \$500.

Here's how it works:

- If you are a Gibson EMC member, own a single-family residence and/or multi-family dwelling and wish to participate in the In-Home Energy Evaluation Program pilot, contact your local Gibson EMC customer service center. Because this is a pilot program, participation is limited to the first 100 qualified applicants.

- You will be contacted for more information and to set up a convenient appointment for your in-home evaluation.

- The evaluator will review your home and create a report outlining potential energy-efficiency modifications. Cash incentives may then be earned for modifications made that qualify under the program. (Contact us for details.)

- To be eligible for qualified cash incentives and waiver of the \$75 evaluation fee, you must spend at least \$150 on the recommended energy-efficiency improvements, and the improvements must be made by one of our certified Weatherization Quality Contractors. (We'll share this list with you when you apply.)

All home improvements must be completed within 90 days of the in-home evaluation. Once the work is finished, the evaluator will make a follow-up, in-home visit to inspect the work. This is to ensure that everything is installed properly for maximized savings.

- After the inspection, you submit receipts for the completed work in order to receive the cash incentives and waiver of the \$75 evaluation fee. No matter how many modifications are made, \$500 is the maximum reimbursable amount per dwelling for all work completed.

- If you make no improvements within 90 days of the in-home evaluation, the \$75 fee is added to your electric bill.

For more information on the In-Home Energy Evaluation Program and incentives, call your local Gibson EMC customer service center or 731-855-4740, ext. 1611.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

A combination of proper insulation, energy-efficient windows and doors, shading and ventilation will usually keep homes cool with a lower amount of energy use in all but the hottest climates.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy