

Sent to you by Gibson EMC – your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

# The Tennessee Magazine

February 2010

**Cyber Learning**  
*Higher Education Online*

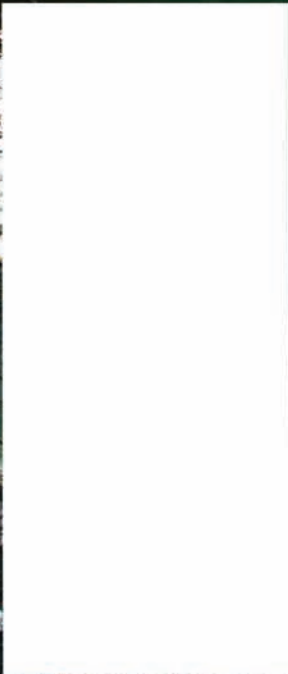
**Paying for College**

**History for Kids:**  
*General Zollicoffer*

**The Census Counts**

**Photography Contest Begins**

**Loafing Around in the Kitchen**



# Be a superhero with energy efficiency in the laundry room

**W**ashing machines perform a fairly simple function — getting dirty clothes clean. Yet prospective buyers today can be overwhelmed with all of the different models and “bells and whistles” available — top-loading, front-loading, high-efficiency (HE), water-saver, steaming and wrinkle-removing, to name only a few.



Energy-efficient washing machines, easily identified by the Energy Star label, are a priority for any cost-conscious consumer’s list. About 93 percent of all American households have a clothes washer, adding up to 102 million units

across America. About 9 million washing machines are sold each year — efficient models account for slightly more than one-third of sales.

Energy Star-rated washing machines cost slightly more than their less-efficient counterparts — anywhere from \$400 to 1,500, depending on other features selected. To get a handle on how much electricity a particular unit will use, study the yellow energy guide before making a purchase.

An energy-efficient washing machine can save the typical homeowner around \$50 a year, or \$540 to \$600 over the life of the appliance. Efficient machines also save more than 5,000 gallons of water annually.

The energy and water efficiencies of clothes washers are measured according to their modified energy factor (MEF) and water factor (WF). These criteria generally limit Energy Star

qualification to front-loading and advanced top-loading models.

Front-loading clothes washers use a horizontal or tumble-axis basket to lift and drop clothing into the water, instead of rubbing clothes around a central agitator in a full tub. These units use less energy than conventional clothes washers by reducing the amount of hot water needed to clean clothes.

Front-loading models also squeeze more water out of clothes by using spin speeds that are two to three times faster than conventional washers, reducing both drying time and energy use.

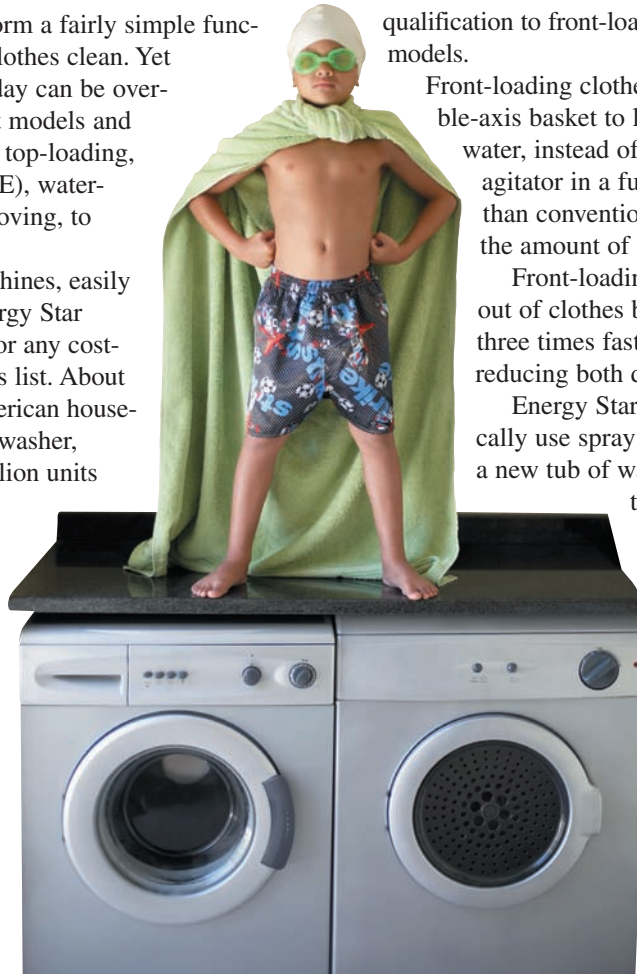
Energy Star-qualified top-loading models typically use spray valves to rinse clothes, rather than a new tub of water. This method not only reduces the energy required for water heating, but typically saves an average of 15 gallons of water per wash, compared with conventional clothes washers.

Qualified top-loading models also boast sensors to monitor and adjust incoming water temperature. This keeps water hot enough to dissolve the detergent and provide high-performance cleaning, but cool enough to save energy and minimize hot water damage to fabrics. One limitation of efficient top-loading washers is that many models do

not offer a high-temperature standard wash option.

By looking for the Energy Star logo and shopping at a store with knowledgeable staff, you should be able to leave with a new washing machine that will, over time, pay for itself.

*Source: NRECA’s Cooperative Research Network*



## Statement of nondiscrimination

**G**ibson Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this organization is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability.

The person responsible for coordinating this noncompliance effort is Gibson EMC President and CEO Dan Rodamaker. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or call 202-720-5964 (voice or telecommunications device for the deaf). Both USDA and the Gibson Electric Membership Corporation are equal-opportunity providers and employers. Complaints must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.

Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



# We'd love to have your number

**G**ibson Electric Membership Corporation will select a customer-owner to receive a \$100 electric bill credit on March 2, 2010. To enter your name in the drawing, all you need to do is call our toll-free number, 866-420-6128, and confirm your telephone number(s) by Feb. 28.

Having your updated phone number(s) will help us to help you. Our outage management and voice recognition systems use caller identification technology to link your telephone number(s) to your address.

This means that if you have a power outage and call to make us aware of it, your outage location can be pinpointed based on your caller ID and the associated phone and location information in your Gibson



EMC customer data file.

And, when multiple calls come in from the same area, our automated systems aid Gibson EMC personnel in gauging the magnitude of the outage. This important information determines the manpower and equipment to be dispatched, and it helps us to restore your service faster.

Remember, call Gibson EMC's toll-free number at 866-420-6128.

You'll be asked to leave a message, including your name, your address and the home and cellular telephone numbers from

which you might report an outage.

So take a moment, make the toll-free call and give yourself a chance at that \$100 electric bill credit.

## Free energy conservation kit promotion extended

**C**omplete an *energy right*® Home *e*-Valuation questionnaire in the privacy of your home to receive a free report with customized recommendations for saving energy dollars.

It takes only about 20 minutes to answer the multiple-choice questions about your current energy use, and your responses will be carefully analyzed. In only two to three weeks, you'll receive a detailed report pinpointing the sources of major energy use in your home and providing expert suggestions on how you could use that energy more efficiently.

If you submit your questionnaire response by Sept. 30, 2010, you will receive a free energy conservation kit.

The kit includes ...

- Two compact fluorescent lightbulbs

- Outlet and light switch gaskets
- Filter whistle
- Two faucet aerators
- Hot water temperature gauge
- Home thermometer
- "How to Save" brochure

We offer two easy ways to complete your *energy right* Home *e*-Valuation ...

■ Online at [www.gibsonemc.com](http://www.gibsonemc.com). Simply click on "Home *e*-Valuation" on the home page, and you can complete and e-mail your response.

■ By mail. Fill in the information at the bottom of this page and mail it to us or drop it by any Gibson EMC customer service center.

You'll receive your questionnaire in the mail. Once you've completed it, just mail it back in its self-mailer. (Postage is prepaid.)

Please send me a free *energy right* Home *e*-Valuation questionnaire.

Customer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Gibson EMC Account No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the information, above, and drop this form off at any Gibson EMC customer service center or mail to: Gibson EMC, Home *e*-Valuations, P.O. Box 47, Trenton, TN 38382.



# 'Thank you' to employees, trustees

## 45 Years



Kenneth Rose

*Gibson Electric Membership Corporation recognizes, in five-year segments, the service of its employees and trustees to our customer-owners. Those celebrating service anniversaries are pictured under the headings that mark their years of service.*

## 25 Years



Amy Lomax

## 35 Years



Don Humphreys



Danny Riggsbee

## 15 Years



Cynthia McClure



Robert Woodruff

## 30 Years



Judy Cutler



Jerry Hill



Linda McNeely

## 10 Years



Keith Heglar



# celebrating service anniversaries

## 20 Years



**Greg Bryant**



**Jeff Fox**



**Curtis Mann**



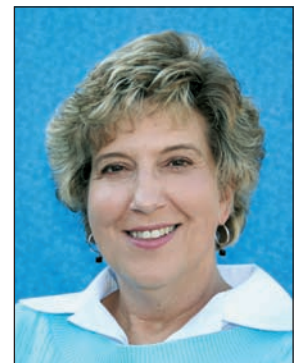
**Jim Patton**



**Emily Sullivan**



**Sandy Thompson**



**Nancy West**

## Five Years



**Angie Dean**



**Keith Forrester**



**Philip Jewell**



**Charles Lamb**



**Mark Perry**

# Carbon regulation likely to increase electric bills

Federal curbs on emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas blamed as a principal cause of climate change, are quickly becoming a reality. It's just a matter of which government branch gets there first: legislative, executive — or both.

In December the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), part of the executive branch, declared that six key greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, are endangering public health and welfare. Emissions from motor vehicles of four of those greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, are also said to contribute to dangerous air pollution under this “endangerment finding.”

“This action puts a ‘foot in the door’ for EPA to promulgate sweeping new regulations that could impose strict limits on carbon emissions from power plants, driving up electric bills,” warns Glenn English, CEO of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which represents the interests of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned and governed electric cooperatives.

The concern is that with carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles falling under federal Clean Air Act regulation, other emitters of carbon dioxide — fossil fuel-fired power plants included — may also soon be subject to EPA oversight. “The Clean Air Act as written was never designed to deal with carbon, and it would be awkward at best and probably a disaster at worst,” English adds.

Electric co-ops believe that any controls on carbon dioxide should be established by Congress, where the impact of these proposals can have a full public debate. Unfortunately, a climate-change bill passed by the U.S. House last summer (H.R. 2454) and another reported by the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in November (S. 1733)



**Our Energy, Our Future**  
A Dialogue With America

include unachievable goals and timelines for reducing carbon dioxide emissions, inadequate technology development incentives and no guarantee that electric bills will remain affordable.

Current proposals will unfairly penalize consumers in fossil fuel-dependent states by saddling them with higher bills to

essentially subsidize and lower electric bills for those in other regions.

What's more, Senate leaders have admitted that climate-change legislation has stalled and will likely be picked up sometime in the spring. This legislative logjam makes it all the more important for co-ops and consumers to pay careful attention to EPA's current efforts.

English insists that any climate-change legislation should protect consumers and pre-empt use of the federal Clean Air Act and any other existing laws. Otherwise, utilities and businesses could be burdened with the task of trying to comply with more than one set of regulations.

“Regulation of carbon dioxide as a pollutant will occur with or without congressional input,” English explains. “But Congress must not simply add new legislation on top of old regulations. Any climate-change bill should become the roadmap — the single strategy — for reducing carbon dioxide emissions at federal, state and local levels.”

He continues: “By staying engaged in the process, electric co-ops can have a measureable impact on the outcome.”

Electric co-ops are fighting to ensure that any climate-change policy goals adopted are fair, affordable and achievable. To make your voice heard in this debate, join NRECA's Our Energy, Our Future grassroots awareness campaign at [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop). To date, more than 600,000 of your fellow co-op consumers across the country already have done so.

## Gibson EMC ends year with no lost-time accidents

Each of Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's four customer service centers has been recognized for completing a full year without a lost-time accident. This means that none of Gibson EMC's 81 employees has missed a day of work due to a work-related accident.

“We're extremely proud of our employees for this important accomplishment,” says President and CEO Dan Rodamaker. “Our Vice President of Operations Barry Smith and Safety Coordinator Billy Porter have done an excellent job of promoting safe work practices and equipping our employees to perform their work safely, but it takes everyone's effort every day to reach a milestone like this. We truly appreciate our employees and their dedication to safety and to their jobs.”



**Dan Rodamaker**  
Gibson EMC  
President and CEO



**Energy Efficiency**

*Tip of the Month*

When washing clothes, use less water by running full loads. In addition, approximately 80 percent of the energy used by washing machines heats water, so by using cold water and cold-water detergents, you can cut a load's energy use in half.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy