South Central Power Co.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Offices

LANCASTER
2780 Coonpath Road NE
P.O. Box 250
Lancaster, OH 43130
740-653-4422
1-800-282-5064

CANAL WINCHESTER
10229 Busey Road
Canal Winchester, OH 43110
614-837-4351
1-800-524-0802

CIRCLEVILLE
2100 Chickasaw Drive
Circleville, OH 43113
740-474-6045
1-800-206-0745

HILLSBORO
110 Danville Pike
Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-393-3421
1-800-207-0020

BARNESVILLE
37801 Barnesville-Bethesda Rd.
Barnesville, OH 43713
740-425-4018
1-800-468-4717

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
www.southcentralpower.com

Keep This Number

When reporting an outage, an automated outage reporting system may answer your call. It may ask for your 12-digit account number to help locate the outage site. This number is found on your monthly bill. It's handy to write it down and keep it near the phone.

Suggestions

Please send your *Country Living* story ideas or comments to the attention of Lisa R. Hooker at South Central's Lancaster office.

SOUTH CENTRAL POWER COMPANY

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Buckeye Power increases wholesale power costs

The cost of generating power and moving it over the grid is on the rise.

Consumers' monthly electric bills now reflect a Generation & Transmission Charge. That's what South Central Power pays Buckeye Power, Inc., for electricity generated on your behalf.

Wholesale power costs have been increasing due to higher fuel costs, the need to meet growing demand and investment in environmental technology at the Cardinal Generating Station to comply with federal Clean Air Act standards.

These factors will combine July 1 to produce a little over a half-cent-per-kilowatt-hour (kWh) increase in the cost of wholesale power. As a result, South Central Power consumers will pay between $5 and $6 more per month for 1,000 kWh on their monthly electric bill.

The Cardinal Generating Station

No one likes to pay more, but this adjustment allows Ohio electric cooperatives to continue to provide members with reliable and affordable electricity.

Fuel, Environment and Demand. In the coming months, a series of articles in *Country Living* will explain the factors affecting the cost of power generation and transmission. South Central Power wants you to be aware of the price pressures on the power industry and why electric rates are increasing.

Fuel, environment and demand—remember them as FED—are the cost drivers behind rising wholesale power costs.

Planning, investment and efficiency mean South Central and Buckeye Power can buffer the effects of FED during volatile economic and regulatory times, such as the industry now finds itself in. Ohio's electric cooperatives want to be proactive and avoid double-digit increases in wholesale power rates that consumers in other states have experienced.

As a not-for-profit company owned and governed by you, the members, South Central Power sells electricity to its consumers at cost.

Yes, prices are going up, but Buckeye Power's wholesale power rate is still the lowest in Ohio. Additionally, South Central Power is doing all it can to manage costs at the local level.

Co-op members may benefit from federal stimulus package's weatherization provisions

The state of our economy has left many members searching for ways to make ends meet. Making the most of each energy dollar is high on many consumers' list of concerns.

A considerable sum was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 to help many Americans weatherize their homes and make other energy efficiency improvements.

Weatherization. Investing in a few basic measures to secure a home from the outside elements could provide major benefits.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) says weatherization, which is the process of sealing air leaks and properly insulating a home, can reduce heating bills by up to 32 percent, resulting in an average energy savings of $358 per year.

Adequate and appropriate weatherization helps consumers be more comfortable and save on their energy bill, while improving the environment.

Most Americans can improve the energy efficiency of their homes. As a result of the ARRA stimulus package, DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program is expanding. Its goal is to weatherize one million homes each year.

In the past, only households that earned up to 150 percent of the national poverty level were eligible to participate.

The stimulus bill extends eligibility to households with incomes below 200 percent of the national poverty level. For a family of four in Ohio, that's an income limit of $44,100.

Eligible program participants receive a professional energy consultation with an analysis of energy bills, a blower-door test to locate air leaks and advice on how to be more efficient. Workers then arrive to make energy upgrades like insulating walls and roofs, sealing air leaks and installing more efficient heating and cooling systems.

The process to weatherize a home through the program usually takes two days with an average cost of $2,500. Since some homes have different needs, the stimulus bill allows up to $6,500 to be spent on each eligible home.

Ohio's Home Weatherization Assistance Program is a federally funded low-income residential energy efficiency program. All measures are provided based upon an on-site energy audit and on cost-effective guidelines.

Individualized client education also is an important component of the program.

Ohio's weatherization funding is managed by the Ohio Energy Office, which is part of the Ohio Department of Development.

However, homeowners must submit their applications to an authorized weatherization provider. **In most counties served by South Central Power, homeowners should contact their local Community Action Agency for an application.**

Homeowners also may go to www.development.ohio.gov/cdd/oee/HWAP_LocateProviders.htm.

Tax credit. For South Central Power members who are not eligible for federally funded programs, the stimulus plan provides a homeowner an efficiency tax credit of up to $1,500, or 30 percent, of the cost for new energy upgrades.

The efficiency upgrades include weatherization activities as well as installation of efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Efficiency tax credits were already available for 2009, but carried a $500 limit (with additional caps for certain types of upgrades) and only covered up to 10 percent of a member's investment.

Homeowners who had previously considered the tax credit but didn't act may now want to reconsider and move forward with their energy efficiency projects for their home.

The stimulus bill effectively triples the amount of financial investment homeowners get credit for.

Couple that amount with how much potentially can be saved on energy costs each year, and it makes energy-efficient improvement measures that much more affordable and financially attractive.

Contact your tax advisor for details about what improvements qualify and how you may benefit from the tax credit.

Co-op awards college scholarships

Rebekah Linton of Logan Elm High School and Maxwell Cothrel of Liberty Union High School are the 2009 recipients of South Central Power's $600 first-place college scholarships. The co-op has awarded scholarships for 49 years.

Students were judged on their academic performance and their school and community activities, as well as their knowledge of electric cooperatives. South Central Power awards scholarships to the first-, second- and third-place girl and boy. Educators Jim Davis and Ed James served as judges. They interviewed 41 students representing 30 high schools. And the winners are:

FIRST PLACE: $600 for each student

Rebekah Linton
Logan Elm H.S., Circleville

Rebekah ranked first in her class with a 4.05 weighted GPA. A National Honor Society member, she participated in student government and the mock trial/debate team. She earned varsity letters in volleyball and track and field. Rebekah was active in 4-H and the Junior Fair Board. She will attend Miami University to study business management. Rebekah is the daughter of Michael and Annette Linton of Laurelville.

Maxwell Cothrel
Liberty Union H.S., Baltimore

Maxwell was third in his class with a 4.076 weighted GPA. He was a National Honor Society member and class vice president. Maxwell was Academic Team captain, band president and soccer team captain. He also attended Buckeye Boys State and participated in 4-H. Accepted at Ohio University, he plans to study journalism. A Baltimore resident, Maxwell is the son of Michele Morrone and Steve Cothrel.

SECOND PLACE: $500 for each student

Alyssa Lauzau
Bishop Hartley H.S., Columbus

Alyssa earned a 3.987 GPA and was a National Honor Society member. She was varsity soccer team captain and student council member. Alyssa attended several leadership events and is a frequent community and church volunteer. She'll study biomedical engineering at Case Western University. Alyssa lives in Pickerington and is the daughter of Dave and Kim Lauzau.

John Seaton
Miami Trace H.S., Washington Court House

John had a 3.946 GPA and was a National Honor Society member and Quick Recall Team captain. He was a member of the symphonic band and the Ohio Music Association's Honor Band. John co-chaired Make a Difference Day and was a 4-H member. He'll study instrumental music education at Wright State University. John is the son of Tom and Cindy Seaton of Greenfield.

THIRD PLACE: $400 for each student

Kallie Telfer
Harrison Central H.S., Cadiz

Kallie had a 3.561 GPA. She was a National Honor Society member, Ruritan scholar and FFA scholar. She was class vice president and volleyball team captain. Kallie also participated in 4-H and the Junior Fair Board. She will study speech pathology/audiology at Kent State University. Kallie is the daughter of Keith and Tenley Telfer of Cadiz.

Justin Fisher
Beallsville H.S.

Justin had a 3.949 GPA and was recognized as a scholar-athlete. He was quarterback of the football team and a four-year letterman. Justin was a volunteer for the Cancer Society's Relay for Life and for Red Cross blood drives. He'll study industrial electronics at Belmont Technical College. Justin is from Beallsville and is the son of Bradley and Brenda Fisher.

In May, Rebekah and Maxwell represented South Central Power in the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives' statewide scholarship contest. They each competed for a top prize of a $2,625 cash scholarship. During the last 49 years, South Central Power has helped more than 275 students (and their parents) with college expenses. This commitment to our members' children is one example of why your electric cooperative is more than just an electric utility. South Central Power is proud of all the scholarship applicants through the years. Congratulations and all the best to the Class of 2009, and the 2009 cooperative college scholarship candidates and winners!

NEWS CURRENTS

Electricity going down the drain

Water use and electricity go hand in hand.

Heating water can account for 14 to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home.

Systems used to clean public water supplies and deliver it to homes also require large amounts of electricity.

If your home receives water from a well or spring, the pump draws power.

Techniques for trimming water use in your home are surprisingly simple.

Start by repairing leaky faucets, showerheads and pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost $1 per month.

Consider lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater. Each 10° F reduction in temperature saves between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs.

A lower setting also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in the water heater and pipes.

Although some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140° F, most households can comfortably set it at 120° F.

However, if you have a dishwasher without a booster heater, you may want to set the water temperature within a range of 130° F to 140° F for optimum cleaning.

Insulating the water heater can save four to nine percent in costs. To determine if insulation is needed, touch it. If it's warm to the touch, insulation may be beneficial.

However, don't set the thermostat above 130° F on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket. The wiring may overheat.

Installing insulation on gas- and oil-fired water heaters is more difficult, so hire a qualified plumbing and heating contractor to perform the work.

For more tips on trimming water use in your home, including pipe and water heater insulation techniques, visit www.energysavers.gov.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, H2OConserve.org

Peak Alert season

When South Central Power issues a Peak Alert, it's to help the electric cooperative and its consumers.

By averting a new peak, our customers can help their co-op keeps costs down.

Peak demand can cost your co-op thousands of dollars annually. Those costs are passed onto our consumers and, in turn, increase consumers' monthly electric bills.

Continued growth on the Ohio electric cooperative lines means more members and more electric use.

A summer peak alert is most likely to occur during the heat of the midday and afternoon hours.

If you hear a Peak Alert radio message this summer, turn your thermostat up three to five degrees.

Consider delaying use of your washer, dryer, dishwasher, electric range and oven, too.

If you have questions about Peak Alert, contact your local South Central Power office.

Independence with peace of mind

South Central Power's Personal Emergency Reporting System (PERS-2400) offers round-the-clock assistance.

It offers older people and those with medical conditions the independence to live longer in their own home, while giving their loved ones peace of mind.

The PERS-2400 unit is an easy-to-use and affordable system.

A simple push of a button activates the transmitter, which can be worn as a pendant, wristband or on a pocket/belt clip. The two-way voice communicator lets you speak with the 24-hour emergency monitoring center. It contacts emergency personnel, or preselected family members and friends.

It's even proven dependable enough to meet the very high standards of Underwriters Laboratories (UL). UL has listed it as a home healthcare signaling device.

Unlike other components offered through the co-op's Security Division, the PERS-2400 system can be leased for the low monthly fee of $30.95 for a minimum three-month contract.

The personal emergency reporting system also is available to those who do not live on South Central Power electric lines.

Contact the Security Division at (740) 689-6153 or 1-800-282-5064 ext. 6153 for details.

There's no obligation.