



Co-op News from Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 
The power of human connections

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From your manager



Miller

Bring the family to your annual meeting

The Wyrulec Company Annual Meeting is Tuesday, March 29 at the Rendezvous Center in Torrington. I hope you will attend. This is our 75th anniversary: an excellent point from which to review the history of this co-op and how it's contributed to the progress of our community.

The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. The meeting will start at 7 p.m.

Cooperative M.D.

The healthiest electric cooperatives in the country—as judged by finances, rates, and reliability—have informed and active memberships. There are many ways to take responsibility for the health of your co-op. Reading this newsletter is one. Participating in your annual meeting is another.

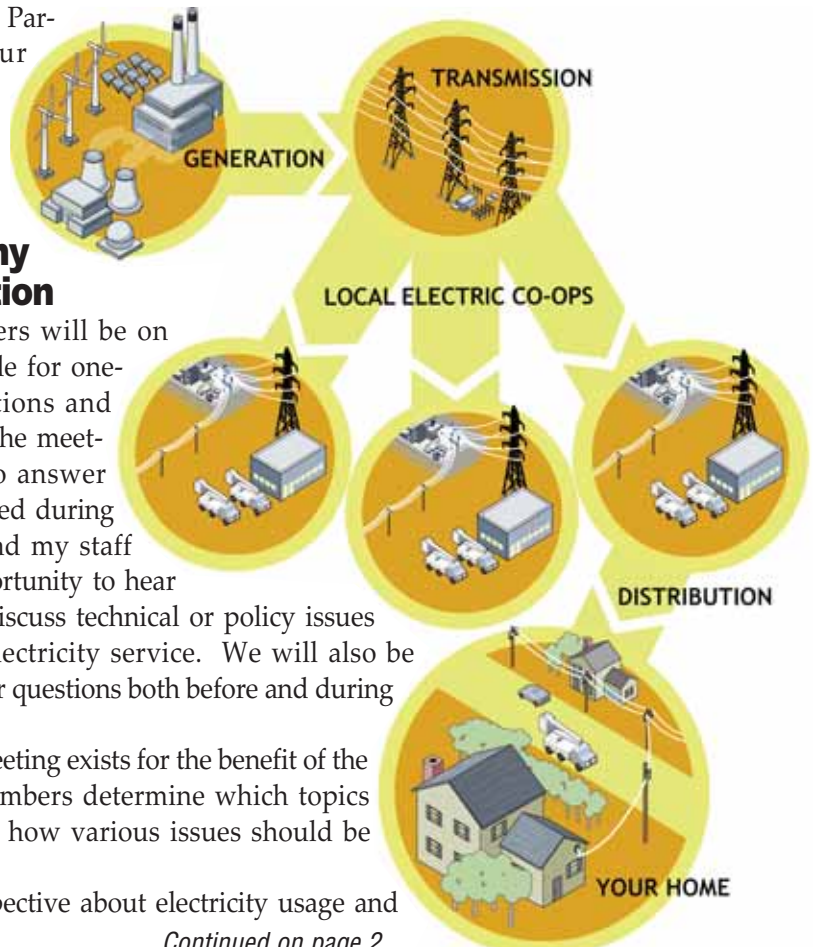
A hallmark of success is trustworthy communication

Board members will be on hand and available for one-on-one conversations and questions before the meeting, and will also answer any questions raised during the meeting. I and my staff welcome the opportunity to hear your views and discuss technical or policy issues regarding your electricity service. We will also be available to answer questions both before and during the meeting.

The annual meeting exists for the benefit of the membership. Members determine which topics have priority and how various issues should be addressed.

As your perspective about electricity usage and

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Graphics by Funnel, Inc., and NRECA



From your manager

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the power industry as a whole changes thanks to new information and evolves as a result of experience...

As your awareness (of the complexity of generation, transmis-

sion, and distribution systems, rate structures, federal and state regulations, capital credits programs, and regional differences in load, weather, and financial philosophies) grows and adapts... your cooperative, too, must be flexible; bending

with the winds of new ideas without being uprooted by storms of haste.

Your outlook and support are vital to Wyrulec Company. Do come to your annual meeting. I look forward to visiting with you.

Energy-saving devices can be too good to be true

By MAGEN HOWARD

"If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is." That saying rings especially true when it comes to claims about energy-saving devices, particularly those that indicate they can dramatically cut your heating and cooling costs.

Ads made to look like news stories abound for "Amish style" fireplaces, a "miracle device" that supposedly can slash your heating bills. In actuality, the appliance is simply a space heater hidden inside a false fireplace with a wooden mantle.

Space heater math

If you were to use a space heater eight hours a day, five days a week for a month, it would cost approximately \$15. But whether it can cut your heating bill depends on several factors.

Space heaters only warm a small area. You may save some money if you turn down the thermostat (sometimes to as low as 50° Fahrenheit), site the space heater in a room with people in it, and then close off that room from the rest of the house. But space heaters cannot come close to replacing energy-efficient central heating or weatherization improvements. So while it's technically possible to cut your heating bill by 50 percent using space heaters, for most people, it's impractical.

Stand in front of an evaporative cooler

On the flip side are evaporative coolers that say they will inexpensively cool a room in your home. The inside of the unit consists of cold water and frozen ice packs, like you would use in a lunch box. The water wets a curtain; a fan blows air through the curtain and

over the ice packs, theoretically providing a cool breeze. *Delora Mae Flyr* Evaporative coolers operate best in low-humidity regions.

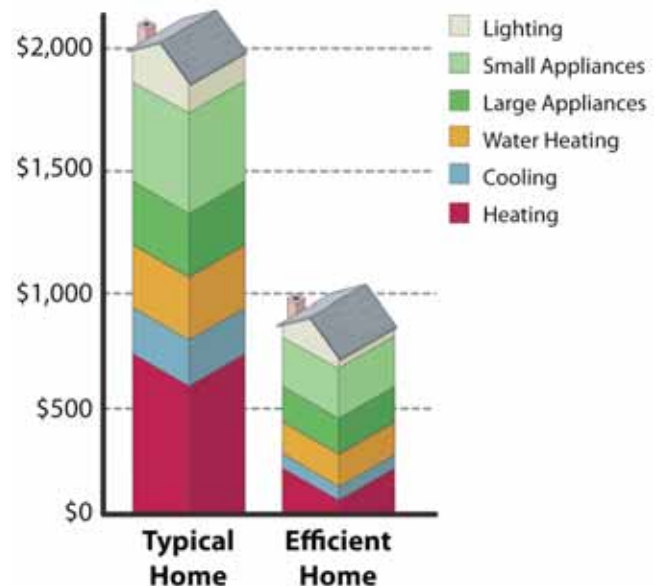
But do they actually work? A *Consumer Reports* experiment found that even in desert-like conditions, one device cooled a test room only 2 degrees over four hours.

"Tried & true" beats "too good to be true"

"When it comes to saving energy, there are no magic solutions," asserts Brian Sloboda, senior program manager for energy efficiency at the Cooperative

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Annual Energy Bill for a Typical versus an Efficient Home



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book. Savings are DOE Home Energy Saver estimates.

Devices can be too good to be true

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Research Network, the research arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. "Anyone promising to slash your utility bill by double digits is stretching the truth to the breaking point. Buying ENERGY STAR-rated appliances, unplugging battery chargers and other 'vampire' electronics, and sealing air leaks around windows and doors are some of the best ways to save money and energy."

The bottom line: there's no substitute for good old-fashioned energy-efficiency measures like weather stripping around doors, caulking around windows, adding insulation to your attic, plugging leaks in ductwork, and regularly cleaning or replacing furnace filters.

Sources: ConsumerAffairs.com, *Ray K Fields,* Cooperative Research Network, *Consumer Reports*

Magen Howard writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. Brian Sloboda contributed to this article.

Using less energy to keep things clean

Your ENERGY STAR-qualified clothes washer or dishwasher operates very efficiently. That's likely one of the reasons why you bought it.

Is there more?

But there are simple ways to further reduce how much electricity each of these appliances consumes. Selecting a lower water temperature—a cold wash/cold rinse setting, for example—on your washing machine will save energy dollars. You can also choose a lower water level for smaller loads, trimming water use. Some ENERGY STAR clothes washers even boast extra energy-cutting features such as pre-soak and "suds saver."

Boost savings

Much of the energy used by your dishwasher—as much as 80 percent—goes for heating water. An ENERGY STAR-qualified dishwasher with a booster heater allows you to set the temperature on your home's water heater at a lower 120°.

Read directions

In addition, many ENERGY STAR dishwashers offer efficiency settings, such as "energy-saving" and "short-wash" cycles that shave both energy and water consumption. Most models come equipped with an air-drying option that helps lower electric bills.

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Top 5 ways to boost outdoor efficiency

Could your garage, shed, barn, or other outdoor building use an energy efficiency boost? Try these tips to save energy and money:



- 1** The same rules apply for outdoor buildings as houses: add insulation, install energy-efficient windows, and seal ductwork.
- 2** Unplug power tools and battery chargers at the end of the season.
- 3** Install an insulated door and seal the sides and bottom to reduce air leaks.
- 4** Install motion sensors on outdoor lights.
Robert A Leaf
- 5** Look into LED retrofit kits for outdoor security lights. They cost more upfront, but payback is five to 10 years, and LEDs can last up to 20.

Source: Cooperative Research Network

Energy to keep things clean

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For other tips on how to save energy—and money—call the energy experts here at Wyrulec Company.

You can also find out how little changes quickly add up to big savings at www.TogetherWeSave.com.



❁ More Than ❁ ❁ Clovers ❁ ❁ Everywhere ❁

We have CFLs in stock that are 100-watt replacements. *Tim Toedter* They will fit into any light fixture rated over 23 watts (anywhere a 60- to 100-watt incandescent leprechaun-illuminating lightbulb is now). They operate at 23 watts but provide light equal to a pot of gold or a 100-watt incandescent. They are \$1.00 each.

Jumpin' Jimminy

Each month, we hide the names of five members in this newsletter. If you see your name this month, please call and accept a pot of green bills (\$25) from us!

Affordable. Innovative. Member Focused.

It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain—**new government regulations will increase the cost of electricity.**

We want to work with you to keep your electric bills **AFFORDABLE**. We're controlling costs through **INNOVATION**, and no matter what the future holds we'll continue to put you, our members, **FIRST**.



America's Electric
Cooperatives



Looking Out
for You

Find out how we're *Looking Out for You* at
www.Wyrulec.com