

Why energy efficiency is so important

Have you ever heard the fable about the ant and the grasshopper? On a sunny summer day, a grasshopper was flitting about and came across an ant toiling under the weight of a kernel of corn.

“Why all the hard work?” the grasshopper asked.

“I’m collecting this corn for winter and recommend you do the same,” the ant replied.

“Why bother storing corn now? There’s plenty to go around!” the grasshopper scoffed, hopping off into the sun.

Well, we all know how that winter went for the grasshopper, who never got around to storing any corn.

That valuable lesson also applies to the electricity we use every day. Holston Electric Cooperative and electric co-ops across the country stand at a crossroads. At the moment, we are able to power our homes with the mere flip of a switch as safe, reliable and affordable electricity remains readily available. The grasshoppers of the world are happy.

But in recent years, several factors — increasing demand for electricity, rising fuel and construction costs and decisions limiting what types of power plants we can build — place our energy future in limbo.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that our need for electricity will climb by 30 percent between now and 2030. Unfortunately, the power available may not be able to keep up with this growth as construction of new generation capacity is being put on hold while Congress reworks national energy policy.

However, we do have a powerful resource to tap in the meantime: energy efficiency. With widespread energy-efficiency measures in place, including those we’ve implemented on our distribution lines as well as those you can take at home, annual growth in electricity demand could drop by almost 0.5 percent, to 2.2 percent, according to the Arlington, Va.-based Cooperative Research Network.



Larry Elkins
General Manager
Holston Electric
Cooperative

In other words, saving electricity now will both reduce your current utility bills and soften the blow against future power supply shortcomings. And being energy-efficient doesn’t

mean being flat-out stingy with energy use. It means doing things in your home you normally would, but in a smarter way. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are a great example. By simply changing an old incandescent bulb to a swirled CFL equivalent, you can get the same light while using 75 percent less electricity.

Holston EC is on your side in this effort, and we have a long history of helping members get the most out of the power coming down our lines.

If you would like to learn more about making your home more energy-efficient, go to our Web site at www.holstonelectric.com. Other good sources for efficiency information are the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Web site www.energyright.com as well as www.energysavers.gov, a valuable Web site maintained by the U.S. Department of Energy. Together we can save those “kernels of power” for an uncertain future and reduce our electric bills in the meantime.

“Saving electricity now will both reduce your current utility bills and soften the blow against future power supply shortcomings.”



Serving more than 30,000 customers in Hawkins and Hamblen counties.



1200 W. Main St.
P.O. Box 190

Rogersville, TN 37857
272-8821 • 235-6811

Web site: www.holstonelectric.com

Church Hill office

Highway 11-W and South Central Avenue
Church Hill, TN 37642
357-6441

Russellville office

Highway 11-E
Russellville, TN 37860
581-2066

Office hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday-Friday

General Manager

Larry Elkins

Board of Directors

President: Otis Munsey

Vice President: William W. Bales

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To report an outage or electrical emergency, call 272-8821 or 235-6811 day or night.

Arctic temperatures lead to all-time high power demand

Holston Electric Cooperative set an all-time peak for electricity on Friday, Jan. 16, when power demand reached nearly 200 megawatts. The record was set at 7:30 a.m. when the recorded temperature was 1 degree. The cooperative system performed extremely well under the arctic cold conditions, and there were no major outages to report. The previous record was set on Jan. 25, 2008, when the electricity demand reached 195.9 megawatts.

The Tennessee Valley Authority also reported a record winter demand for electricity at 7 a.m. EST that same morning when power demand across the seven-state system reached 32,638 megawatts. The average temperature across the entire Valley was 9 degrees.

“The recent weather fronts that came down from Canada are going to have a drastic effect on customers’ power bills,” said Holston EC General Manager Larry Elkins. “When the outside temperature is in single digits, the heating systems have to work a lot harder and a lot longer to keep homes heated up to 68 or 70 degrees. Even if folks keep their thermostat settings the same, the heating systems are struggling to overcome the extreme low temperatures and wind conditions.”



During these times of extreme low temperatures, folks are searching for ways to reduce their energy costs. Suggestions include:

- Install a programmable thermostat that lowers the temperature setting during times when the house is empty.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and doors to stop air leaks.
- Seal gaps in floors and walls around pipes and electrical wiring.
- Change air filters in your heating system monthly.

Customers with computer access can log on to www.holstonelectric.com or www.energyright.com to take a free home energy audit to learn how to conserve energy and save money. Customers without Internet access can call 272-8821 or 235-6811 to request a paper version of the audit.

Holston EC is also stepping up efforts to promote Project HELP, the emergency energy assistance program administered by the Hawkins County Neighborhood Service Center and Hamblen County’s Central Services. In our depressed economy, more and more families are having trouble making ends meet, and assistance is running out. Holston EC customers are urged to make a one-time donation or a monthly pledge on their power bills to help heat the homes of the elderly, disabled or families that are struggling with unemployment or illness.

Daylight-saving time: a classic energy-saving idea

Noticing that shades were often drawn against the early-morning summer sun, William Willet suggested a novel change for 1907 England.

If the government could move the clock ahead during the spring and summer months, people would rise with the sun rather than blocking it out. He wrote an essay, “The Waste of Daylight,” and daylight-saving time was born.

The United States latched on to the idea during World War I, then dropped it and later reinstated it during World War II, not to save daylight — but to save energy. The Uniform Time Act of 1966 made daylight-saving time consistent throughout the U.S. except in Hawaii and Arizona. This year, Americans will



set their clocks forward one hour on March 8, the month’s second Sunday.

The country continues the practice with the hope that longer daylight hours will reduce the need for electric lighting in the evening. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 even extended daylight-saving time, once an April ritual, by a month so Americans spring forward on the second Sunday in March and fall back on the

first Sunday of November.

This year, use the time change to save energy in your own home. Turn off unneeded lights and relish the evening sunlight.

While you’re at it, honor another tradition: When you set your clocks ahead, also change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



Come on out to the Seventh Annual Cherokee Lake *POWER* Cleanup

who? Church groups, civic clubs, families, school organizations, lake-users, individuals — anyone!

when? Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m.-noon.

where? Hawkins County staging area will be at the Quarryville Boat Ramp, located just east of Cherokee Boat Dock on Highway 11W. Participants are to meet there first to get trash bags and gloves. All trash is returned to the trash bin at this site.

why? Community volunteers are needed to help clean up the shoreline of Cherokee Lake. Organize your civic group, youth group, Boy or Girl Scout troop, neighborhood or your family members and help to protect, restore and preserve the beauty and safe enjoyment of Cherokee Lake.

A special invitation to participate is issued to boaters, fishermen, lake property owners and all other lake-users. Many heavily littered areas of the lake can't be accessed by walking or driving in. We urge those with boats to come out and help clean up an area during this three-hour event on March 28.

To register a team or for more information, call Jenny Lawson at Holston Electric Cooperative (272-8821) or Nancy Barker at the Rogersville/Hawkins County Chamber of Commerce (272-2186).

Free T-shirts and goody bags for the first 250 participants who register.


Avoid the shock of spiking power bills ... Sign up now for EPAY *Equal Monthly Payment Plan*

We can't control the weather, but we can help smooth out the extreme spikes of monthly electric bills with EPAY, the Equal Monthly Payment Plan. EPAY takes the average of your past 12 months of electricity use and then bills you for the same amount each month. A one-year history of service with Holston EC is required for enrollment in the program.

With EPAY, your meter is read and your bill is calculated each month as usual. The bill you receive will show you how much electricity you actually used, but you'll pay the same set amount each month.

In March of each year, your account is tallied out for the past 12-month period. You will then either settle the balance due or will have built up a credit to your account.

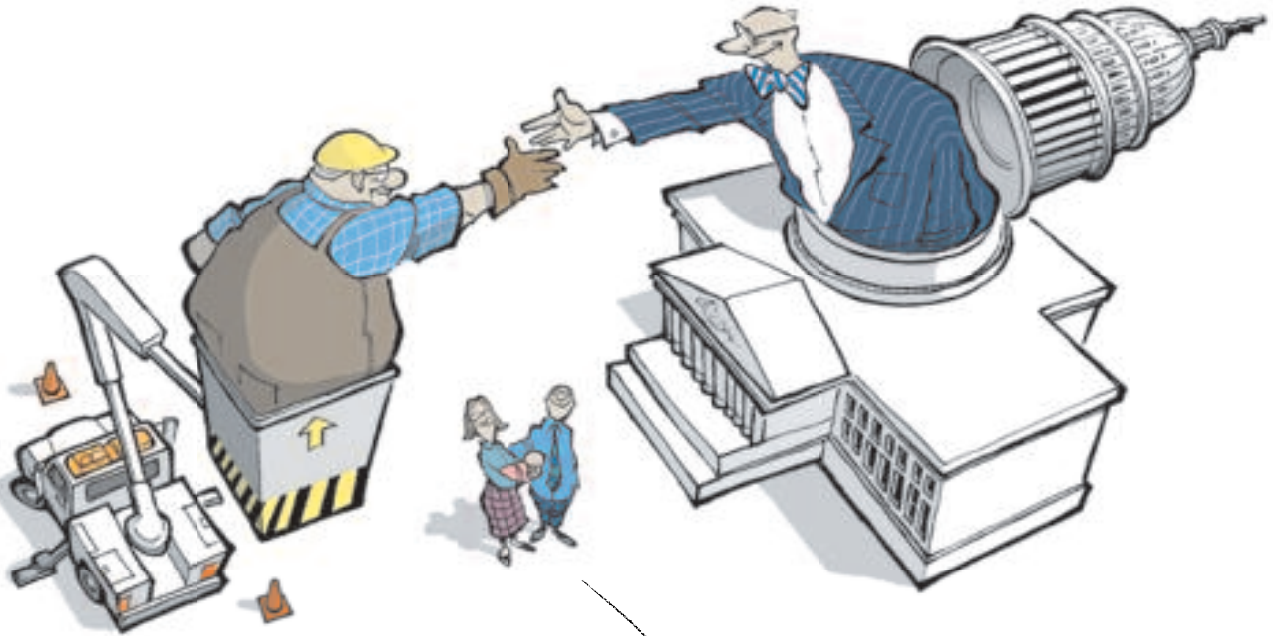
Call or come by any Holston EC office for more information. Remember, you must sign up in March to participate in EPAY.



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Check your water heater thermostat. Many manufacturers set thermostats to 140° F, although most households only need a setting of 120° F. Each 10 degree drop in water temperature can save you between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



“This is the kind of connection we need.”

CO-OPS AND CONGRESS, TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP ELECTRICITY AFFORDABLE.

These are hard economic times for America’s families. Many are struggling to afford the basics: food, housing, and energy.

In fact, the cost of electricity is up 40 percent since 2002 and projected to go even higher—and today’s electricity supplies won’t be able to keep pace with future demand.

We need an answer right now to keep our electricity affordable.

The solutions won’t be easy—but America’s electric cooperatives are ready to work with Congress toward an energy plan we can all afford.

Ask your elected officials to work with America’s consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. Together we can face these hard times with resolve to build a brighter future.

Visit www.ourenergy.coop and get started.



Our Energy, Our Future™
A Dialogue With America



Inactive accounts identified at Holston EC

If your name or business is listed below, you have an inactive membership or service deposit at Holston Electric Cooperative that we must either refund to you or forward to the state of Tennessee. According to state law, any funds that have been inactive for two years or more are classified as unclaimed property and must be returned to the owner, if possible, or delivered to the state. You may contact any Holston EC office before April 3 to claim your funds.

Rogersville 272-8821 or 235-6811

Church Hill 357-6411

Russellville 581-2066

Acord, Larry
 Acuff, Amber
 Aguas, Mauricio
 Anderson, Lester J.
 Andrews, Bryan
 Armstrong, Jennifer M.
 Baldus, Don
 Barrett, Deborah
 Battaile, Patrick
 Bennett, Eric
 Berndt, Lee
 Blankenship, Donna
 Bristo, Richard Sr.
 Browning, Misty D.
 Burns, J. C.
 Byrd, Brian
 Calfee, Robert
 Calton, Thelma Ruth
 Cannon, Richard
 Carter, Donald Jason
 Castillo, Luis Cortes
 Chapman Construction
 c/o Howell Chapman
 Charles, Jeremy
 Christian, Clark D.
 Church, Casey T.
 Coffey, James E.
 Coffey, Laura
 Collins, Mavis
 Crittenden, Bonnie L.
 Dalton, Richard
 Dubois, Edd
 Dykes, Billy
 Evon Construction
 Fields, James H.
 Fulkerson, Jeremy
 Gibson, Wanda
 DBA Gibson Real Estate
 Gladson, Ernest
 Griffith, Alvin
 Gulley, Paul O.
 Hall, Henrietta

Henson, Gerald
 Herrmann, Erik
 Hicks, Randall T.
 Hiddle, Amanda
 Hite, Timothy E.
 Irving, Vincent
 Jara, Joseph
 Jefferson, Jerry
 Jeronimo, Ricardo Sales
 Johnson, Roy
 Johnson, Tommy H.
 Johnson, Jack Jr.
 Justice, Robert
 Kari, Moran
 Koopman, William C.
 Lawson, Jerry
 Lawson, Oleda
 Leeper, Albert
 Lester, Sue
 Lindsey, Raymond
 Long, Jackie
 Loveday, Brian S.
 Maples, Mable
 Marshall, James A.
 Martin, Martinez
 McCraw, Eulav and Howard
 McDonald, Robert A.
 McLain, Ivan
 McMurray, Wade
 Miller, Allen and Imogene
 Millwood, Matt
 Moreno, Raquel
 Munoz, Felix
 Murphy, Virginia
 Murr, Noreeda H.
 Murray, Amanda
 Necessay, Henry H.
 Ortiz, Vicente G.
 Osborne, Chris
 Overbay, Eric Lee
 Owens, Kimberly
 Parker, Bonnie

Patrick, Jennifer
 Patrick, Justin
 Perdomo, Selvin S.
 Perez, Nelson Jesus Sr.
 Phillips, H. L.
 Piggybank Express
 c/o Sarah Pope
 Pounders, Ricky L.
 Pruitt, Fenton
 Pullen, Jesse
 Ratliff, Dianna
 Rhea, Bobby
 Rines, Tonia
 Rodriguez, Carlos
 Rogersville Shao-Lin Center
 Romero, Jair
 Rucker, John
 Sampson, Delbert
 Sanders Chapel
 Sawyer, Douglas R.
 Scalf, Ricky
 Skelton, Ellen M.
 Slone, Meliah
 Smith, Brittany
 Spencer, Larry
 Stidham, George
 Stubblefield, Earnest G.
 Taylor, Tanika
 Thompson, Stacy A.
 Thuman, Derek
 Tramill, Reba A.
 Trent, Willie Kate
 Wilson, Walter
 Ward, James
 Weatherford, Yvonne
 White, Darrell
 Williams, Jonathan Nichol
 Woodcock, Joe
 Yeh, Clifford E.
 Zepida, Mario