

Meeting financial obligations and budgetary needs

In November, the Clarke-Washington EMC auditing firm, Jackson and Thornton, Co., completed a cost of service study for our cooperative. The study showed that we were under collecting by some \$500,000. Our budget process for 2008 also pointed to the need for additional revenue. The budget projected a loss in operating income, which is the amount left from the electric revenue once the expenses (which include maintenance, operations, interest and other operating costs) are met. Only after adding in non-operating income, such as interest, did our budget project margins.

Faced with the recommendations of the auditing firm to raise revenue to meet financial obligations and budget needs, it is necessary to increase the facility charge from \$10 to \$12 and to establish a minimum bill of \$15, effective April 1.

This adjustment will bring in some \$398,000 in 2008. For an average bill of 1,000 kwh, the increase will be \$2 or about 1.8 percent. The percentage increase lessens when kwh usage is greater than 1,000 kwh. The \$15 minimum bill will only be applied to about 2,316 accounts which are billed currently less than \$15. Once



reaching \$15, the normal bill will apply.

It is never easy to ask for more from our members, nor is it done very often. In fact this is only the second time the facility charge has been increased in 25 years. We've all seen cost going up. It's no different in the electric world. Gasoline and diesel prices have gone up as the price of a barrel of oil rises. We've all seen it at the pumps. Also, equipment and material have escalated in price. This is not just at Clarke-Washington EMC but throughout the electric business.

Wholesale power cost took another increase this year because

of generating fuel (gas and coal). This increase was .00109 mills per kwh (\$1.09/1,000 kwh). The increase is a pass through from PowerSouth (formally AEC).

On a more positive note, our service is among the best anywhere. That's the service you expect, and we will deliver. Clarke-Washington EMC is also one of the safest utilities around.

In the magazine this month we are providing you with more information regarding your electric bill. If you have any questions or need help regarding energy conservation, please call us.

Thank you.



Stan Wilson

is the General Manager/CEO of Clarke-Washington Electric Membership Corporation



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Cooperatives



democracy in action

Editor,
Anna Wright

Warm house, hot showers, clean clothes and sparkling dishes

Here are some tips to help conserve energy with your heating/cooling unit and water heater

Air conditioner

- Heating and cooling account for about 40 percent of your electric bill.
- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees in the warm months and 68 degrees in the cool months.
- Clean or replace air-conditioning filters at least once a month. Keeping the filter clean can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.
- Hire a professional to service your heating/cooling system each year.
- Check your air conditioning unit to make sure it is running correctly. Look for cracks and leaks in ductwork and repair them immediately.
- Keep debris, shrubs and leaves away from your outdoor unit to allow for better air flow and a more efficient operation of your unit.

Water heater

- Water heating accounts for about 13 percent of your bills and it is the third largest energy expense in your home.
- Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees F or at the lowest temperature that provides your household with hot water. Try adjusting the thermostat accordingly, until you find a temperature that satisfies your household use.
- Install a low-flow shower head in your bathroom. These shower heads can reduce your water usage and conserve hot water.
- Wrap your water heater in an insulated blanket if it is warm to the touch. Water heater blankets are available at most hardware stores and cost about \$20. Make sure you do not block air into gas fired water heaters, and never wrap them in combustible materials like old blankets.
- Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when you have a full load.
- Wash clothes in cold water when possible. Switching your temperature setting from hot to warm can cut a load's energy use in half.

Conserving energy at home

Spring into action by taking time to make sure your home is energy efficient

March is a perfect time to inspect your home to make sure it is as energy efficient as possible. The mild weather of the spring and fall seasons usually result in some of the lowest electric bills of the year.

These tips are just a handful of the easiest and most common methods of conserving energy in your home.

1. Find a comfortable level to set the thermostat on for your home. Ideally, setting it to 78 degrees in the warm months and 68 degrees in the cooler months and leaving the thermostat alone can reduce heating and cooling bills substantially.
2. Inspect caulking and weather-stripping around your windows and doors. If there are cracks or peeling, replace the stripping as soon as possible.
3. Keep blinds, draperies and indoor shades closed during the heat of the day. Drapes and curtains can become a valuable help in the warmer months. Having them closed during the day, may reduce up to 25 percent of your air-conditioning usage.
4. If you leave your home for an extended time (depending on the season) turn the thermostat higher or lower than normal and close all the drapes and blinds to conserve energy.
5. Invest in a programmable thermostat. These thermostats can be timed to turn on and off, change the temperature in the house and can really aid in reducing your energy costs.
6. Have the refrigerator temperature set between 38 and 40 degrees and the freezer to 5 degrees. For separate, freezers set the temperature at 0 degrees.
7. Check to make sure that you have a minimum of 12 inches of insulation in your attic, which is equal to an R-38 factor. Make sure the floors and walls of your house are adequately insulated. Wall insulation values should be a minimum of R-16, if possible.
8. Use surge strips to plug in electronic equipment that has a standby mode such as computers, TVs, DVD players, etc. By plugging them into a surge strip and turning it off when electronics are not in use, can reduce kwh consumption considerably.
9. Clean the lint screen in your clothes dryer after each use and clean the outside exhaust on your dryer.
10. Consider installing appropriate ventilation in your attic. Attic vents increase ventilation, reduce humidity and decrease the moisture load on your cooling system.
11. Keep fireplace dampers closed. If the damper is left open, inside air will escape through the chimney.
12. Activate your computers' sleep setting. This mode causes your computer and monitor to automatically shut down after any prolonged period of inactivity.
13. When considering to purchase new appliances or replace old ones, look for those marked ENERGY STAR®. ENERGY STAR is a program sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For more information about this helpful program, go to their Web site at www.energystar.gov.

Home Energy Audits

Clarke-Washington EMC wants to make certain that your home is as energy efficient as possible. Please call our office at 1-800-323-9081 and talk with Bobby Farish, member services representative at Clarke-Washington EMC, about making a visit to your home for a free, home energy audit. He can help you find ways to conserve more energy and locate where energy is being lost.





Which CFL equals my old 60-Watt bulb?

Choose a compact fluorescent light bulb between 13 watts and 15 watts if you want it to light your room about as brightly as your traditional, 60-watt incandescent light bulb.

Most manufacturers include “product equivalency” numbers on the package, so you might see a label that says “soft white 60” or “60-watt replacement.”

Here’s a guideline for CFLs that replace incandescent bulbs of other wattages:

Incandescent	CFL
40 Watt	7-9 Watt
60 Watt	13-15 Watt
75 Watt	18-20 Watt
100 Watt	23-25 Watt



Estimating Appliance and Home Electronic Energy Use

If you’re trying to decide whether to invest in a more energy-efficient appliance or you’d like to determine your electricity loads, you may want to see some common household appliances energy consumption.

- Aquarium = 50 to 1,210 Watts
- Clock radio = 10 Watts
- Coffee maker = 900 to 1,200 Watts
- Clothes washer = 350 to 500 Watts
- Clothes dryer = 1,800 to 5,000 Watts
- Dishwasher = 1,200 to 2,400 Watts (*using the drying feature greatly increases energy consumption*)
- Ceiling Fans = 65 to 175 Watts
- Hair dryer = 1,200 to 1,875 Watts
- Iron = 1,000 to 1,800 Watts
- Microwave = 750 to 1,100 Watts
- Personal Computer –
 - CPU - awake/asleep = 120/30 or less Watts
 - Monitor – awake/asleep = 150/30 or less Watts
 - Laptop – awake/asleep = 50 Watts
- Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic-feet) = 725 Watts
- Televisions =
 - 19 inch = 65-110 Watts
 - 27 inch = 113 Watts
 - 36 inch = 133 Watts
 - 56 inch to 61 inch Projection = 170 Watts
- Flat screen = 120 Watts
- DVD player = 25 Watts
- Vacuum cleaner = 1,000 to 1440 Watts
- Water heater (40 gallon) = 4,500 to 5,500 Watts

Use this formula to estimate an appliance’s energy use:

$(\text{Wattage} \times \text{Hours Used Per Day} \div 1000 = \text{Daily Kilowatt-hour (kwh) consumption (1 kilowatt (kW) = 1,000 Watts)})$

Multiply this by the number of days you use the appliance during the year for the annual consumption.

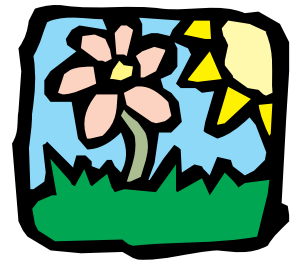
Example:

Personal Computer and Monitor:

$(120 + 150 \text{ Watts} \times 4 \text{ hours/day}) \div 1000 = 394 \text{ kwh consumed.}$

Source U.S. Department of Energy

2008 Planting Guide



Vegetable	Days to Maturity	Cultivars	Spring Planting Dates	Fall Planting Dates	Seeds or Plants (100 feet)	Spacing Rows/Plants (inches)
Beans						
Bush Snap	50-60	Contender, Green Crop, Derby	April	Aug. 5-20	.075 lb	36/2-3
Pole Snap	60-75	Dade, Kentucky Wonder, Kentucky Blue	Apr. 10-30	July 20-Aug. 5	.5 lb	36/6-8
Lima	65-75	Fordhook 242, Baby Fordhook, Henderson	Apr. 10-May 10	July 20-Aug. 5	.075 lb	36/3-6
Pole Lima	80-85	Carolina Sieva, Florida Speckled, King of the Garden	Apr. 15-May 15	July 15-Aug. 1	.5 lb	36/6-8
Cabbage	60-85	Bravo, Charleston Wakefield, Round Dutch, Stonehead Savoy Cabbage: Ace	Jan. 1-Feb.15*	July 25-Aug. 10	.5 oz	36/12
Collards	60-80	Champion, Georgia Southern, Vates, Top Bunch	None	July 1-Sept. 15	.5 oz	36/12-18
Corn						
Sweet	65-90	Silver Queen, Golden Queen, Seneca Chief, How Sweet It Is, Merit, Snow Belle	Mar. 15-June 1	None	.25 lb	36/12-18
Cucumbers	50-65	Pickling: Calypso, Explorer; Slicing: Dasher II, Fanfare, Salad Bush, General Lee	Apr. 15-May 15	July 1-20	1 oz	60/24
Eggplant	65-85	Black Beauty, Black Belle, Classic, Ghost Buster, Ichiban	Apr. 15-May 15*	July 1-20*	50 plants	36/24
Mustard	40-50	Florida Broadleaf, Giant Southern Curled, Red Giant	Feb. 1-Mar. 15	Aug. 15-Sept. 5	.5 oz	20/2
Okra	50-65	Clemson Spineless, Emerald, Lee, Burgundy	Apr. 10-June 30	None	1 oz	36/12
Onions						
Bulb	100-120	Fresh Bulb: Granex 33, Grano 502, Grano 1015; Long-Storing Bulb: Yellow, White, Red	Jan. 15-Mar. 15*	Sept. 15-Oct. 15	.5 oz	30/2-4
Green	40-55	Multiplying: Evergreen	None	Oct. - Feb.	1 qt.	30/2-4
Peas						
Southern	60-70	Pinkeye Purple Hull, Mississippi Purple, Mississippi Silver, Freeze Green	Apr. - July	None	.5 lb	42/4-6
Peppers	65-85	Hot: Cayenne, Super Chili, Habanera, Hungarian Wax, Jalapeno; Sweet: Sweet Banana, Gypsy, Keystone Resistant Giant, Golden Summer, Chocolate Beauty, Purple Beauty, King Arthur, Bell King	Apr. 1-May 10*	July*	50 plants	35/24
Potatoes						
Irish	70-90	Red LaSoda, Red Pontiac, Sebago, Superior	February	Aug. 1-15	12 lbs	36/12
Sweet	90-120	Beauregard, Georgia Red, Red Jewel	Apr. 15-June 15	None	100 plants	36/12
Radishes	25-30	Cherry Belle, Scarlet Globe, White Icicle	Feb. 1-Apr. 1	Sept. 1-Oct. 15	.5 oz	24/1
Rutabagas	90-120	American Purple Top	None	July	.5 oz	36/6-12
Squash						
Summer	40-55	Dixie, Yellow Crookneck, Yellow Straightneck, Cocozelle, Freedom III, Lemondrop (straightneck), Prelude III (crookneck), Sundrops, Tivoli; Zucchini: Elite	April	Aug. 1-15	1 oz	36/15
Winter	85-100	Acorn, Cream of the Crop, Butternut, Vegetable Spaghetti	April	July 15-Aug. 1	.5 oz	60/36
Tomatoes	70-90	Atkinson, Better Boy, Big Beef, Celebrity, Husky Gold, Monte Carlo, Small Fry; Cherries: Sweet Chelsea	April*	July*	35-50 plants	60/24-36
Turnips	40-60	Purpletop, Shogoin; Roots: Just Right	Feb. 1-Apr. 1	Aug. 10-Oct. 1	.25 oz	30/2
Watermelon	80-90	Bush, Sugar Baby, Charleston Gray, Crimson Sweet; Yellow: AU Golden Producer	April	June 15-30	.5 oz	96/96

*Transplant.

Days to maturity are from planting seed or setting transplants. The number of days will vary.

Cultivars listed in this chart represent a few of those recommended for Alabama. There are many other good cultivars that are worthy of trial in the home garden.

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An Osmose crew member wraps a waxy type paper around a treated power pole. Three, two-man crews inspected about 5,000 poles in the areas north and east of Millry in December.

CWEMC maintenance continues with pole inspections

Part of Clarke-Washington EMC's maintenance program is to routinely have our power poles inspected to make sure they are in good condition. Decay is a major threat to the life and strength of a power pole, especially the area of the pole that is underground.

In December, approximately 5,000 power poles were inspected for decay by an Osmose Utility Service crew in Millry and all surrounding communities north and east.

Three, two-man crews inspect-

ed each power pole older than 10 years by digging around the portion of the pole that is below the ground. The crews also visually inspected poles for split-tops, woodpecker holes and other signs of wear.

The life of a power pole with this treatment is about 50 years, otherwise poles would have to be replaced about every 15 years.

Restoring and maintaining our power poles is one way Clarke-Washington EMC is striving to maintain convenient and affordable electricity, while keeping costs down.