



NEWS

From the Manager... Climate Change

Pressure is mounting in Congress to do something about climate change. And while political debates in Washington, D.C., may seem far away, the outcome will have a direct impact on our cooperative and each of your electric bills.

Climate change is but one aspect of a looming energy crisis created by increasing demand and decreasing capacity to meet that demand. Experts now say some areas of the country will be short of power within one or two years.

And yet energy supply isn't

an issue our elected representatives are spending a lot of time on. These forces, the desire by government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions quickly and the growing demand for power by consumers, are about to collide.

Some people say we can meet demand through efficiency and renewable energy. The reality is that we need all the efficiency and renewable energy we can get, but that will not be enough.

To avert an energy crisis, the federal government must exercise true leadership. Without that leadership – without a sound, responsible plan – government risks not only the reliability of our electric system, but literally the ability of many Americans to be able to afford to pay their electric bill.

When it comes to energy, electric co-ops recognize that our members ultimately pay the freight for whatever public policy decisions are made. As our commitment to you, we will work to ensure that folks in positions of power understand this fact as well, and advocate practical, affordable, long-term remedies based on new technology. Through it all, the co-op drumbeat will be loud and clear: “We’re looking out for you.”

But I also want to encourage

each of you to contact your elected officials. Right now!

Members of Congress, as well as state elected officials, are hearing from lots of different interest groups who have ideas about how to address climate change. But no one is talking to our members. We need a plan people can live with today while we deal with the climate change problem of tomorrow.

To make things easy, we have a web site that will send an e-mail for you. Go to www.ourenergy.coop and plug in your address. There you'll be able to ask a series of questions to your representatives in Washington. We're kicking off this effort with a basic but critical question: What are they doing to make sure we'll have the power we need in the future?

Far too often questions don't get asked by policy makers until plans go wrong. We believe it makes sense to know the answers before the laws are passed. You can help your elected officials and yourself by having this conversation. The electric bill you save will be your own.



Ron Holsteen

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Contact Us

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Twin Valley Annual Meeting 2008

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative had its Annual Meeting on April 4 at 7 p.m. with 72 registered members in attendance.

The early bird drawing was won by J. Irwin Diediker who chose the generator transfer switch.

Rick Hines conducted the election for the directors. All incumbents had been nominated. At the meeting, Larry Lutz was added as a write-in candidate by petition for District 1.

Dan Peterson, Board Presi-

dent; Larry "David" Hubbell, Board Treasurer; and Ron Holsteen, General Manager, all gave speeches about energy issues.

The 2007 Youth Tour winners, Kendra Rice and Charity Frazier, reported on their travels. Peterson introduced the winners for the 2008 youth tour trips: Keith Geren and Cole Penrod.

Steve Parr, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo), spoke about what has been happening in the state of Kansas with coal plants and energy efficiency

items.

Norman Leistikow and Holsteen presented employee recognition to Kelly Walker for 25 years of service and Dean Jones for 10 years of service.

Hines then gave the results from the election. District 1, Wayne Revell; District 2, Tom Ellison; and District 3, Mike Allison.

The meeting concluded with a drawing for the door prizes and an invitation for our members and their families to enjoy ice cream and cookies.

Twin Valley Supports ElectroRally at Local Schools

How many laps around a track can a fleet of student-built electric vehicles make in an hour? That was the question at the Touchstone Energy ElectroRally, on March 26 at Brit Spaugh Park in Great Bend.

This is the 12th year of races in Kansas. This competition is designed to introduce and raise awareness of alternative energy sources – namely electricity – to high school students.

This event involved teams from high schools throughout Kansas that have spent this past school year designing, raising funds, and building electric race cars.

From our area, Labette County High School participated in this year's ElectroRally. This is the



Students from Labette County High School prepare their vehicle for the Great Bend ElectroRally.

second year that Labette County has participated in the ElectroRally competition. The students at Labette manufactured their electronic car in the high school shop and were very proud to say that no parts came from a kit.

The electric car project is, however, an expensive one, but

fund-raisers, such as running the concession stand for little league football and high school basketball games, helped to raise a substantial budget for the program as well as donations from sponsors like Twin Valley Electric.

The team was able to place 20th and 21st in the Standard Class at the Great Bend race and they plan to compete in more Electro Rally competitions this year. Twin Valley is proud to support the team and help them reach their goals.