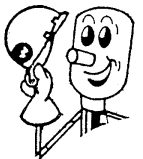


Electric Line



Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative



MARCH 2009

Special points of interest:

- ▶ Annual Meeting is April 4th (see invitation in this newsletter).
- ▶ Our Energy, Our Future. If you are concerned about reliable and affordable electricity we encourage you to read the enclosed letter.
- ▶ For more co-op and industry news make sure to read Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News mailed to you monthly.
- ▶ Please visit us at www.cwecoop.com.

Beware of Energy Scams

The ads make it sound so simple “just plug them in and start saving money”. A little gray box that plugs into an electrical outlet and according to the ad reduces your energy consumption by 25%. This is just one of the items we’ve been made aware of. “Unfortunately when energy prices go up these gadgets and gizmos show up. We warn our members to beware of such energy savings claims because most are not true,” said Co-op Vice President Mark Forseth. In May 2008, the Texas Office of Attorney General took legal action against the company offering the product above called Xpower Energy Saver or Mega Power Saver claiming they couldn’t live up to their promise.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) warns consumers to be careful about marketers or home improvement contractors aggressively trying to sell energy savings products. “Don’t fall for high-pressure sales pitches from contractors or door-to-door sales people,” says the FTC. We strongly recommend you research the product carefully and check out the company with the Better Business Bureau (1-800-273-1002 or www.wisconsin.bbb.org) before purchasing.

Any product that attaches or tampers with your electric meter, no matter what the manufacturer



claims, are illegal and equate to nothing more than stealing. As with any retail theft, the cost is passed on to others –not an easy pill to swallow when many are struggling to pay their bills. Not only are these devices illegal, they are extremely dangerous. “It would be a shame for someone to lose their life or a limb while trying to steal electricity,” said Forseth. “We will work with members who are struggling to pay their bills,” he added. The co-op’s new automated meter system will allow detection of those stealing electricity, but if anyone knows of someone who may be using such a device, please contact us.

Broadband over Power Lines

A recently completed survey revealed there is interest from our members in receiving Internet service over the electric lines. President Obama’s Stimulus Package appears to include incentives to bring this service to rural America. It is unclear at this point what those incentives are and how they will affect our members. Your board of directors is looking at this very seriously and if it makes sense we will be offering it in the near future. Watch for more details.

Energy Star Rebates Available

If you’re in the market for a new appliance make sure to look for the Energy Star label. Energy Star is a joint program of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. Appliances that receive the Energy Star meet strict energy efficiency guidelines and will save you money. To assist you in your purchase of one of these appliances we are pleased to offer a \$25 rebate. To receive your rebate, submit a copy of the receipt of purchase along with a copy of the appliance energy guide label.



Look for the Star

Electric Assistance Available

Income eligible co-op members may qualify for assistance on their electric bill. Assistance amounts are determined by the total household income and number of members in your household. The current income limits are:

Number in Household	Income Limit
1	\$16,245
2	\$21,855
3	\$27,465
4	\$33,075
5	\$38,685
6	\$44,295
7	\$49,905
8	\$55,515

If you are below the income limit and haven't received assistance in the last 12 months and would like to apply, please send verification of your income along with a listing of household members to:

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 255
Iola, WI 54945

Stimulus Package

There is exciting news for anyone considering any type of energy conservation. We are sorting through the details, but it appears the Stimulus Package includes initiatives for energy conservation. Please watch for updates from us on how you can benefit from the programs offered.

A little humor!

Why did the little boy cross the playground?

To get to the other slide!

What has a bottom on its top?

A pair of legs.

Where did Ole go to learn how to make ice cream?

Sunday School!

Why does Sven eat snails?

He doesn't like fast food.

*You are invited
to Your Cooperative's
71st Annual Meeting
April 4th
Iola/Scandinavia High School*

- Socializing over coffee and rolls begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Pre-meeting entertainment.
- Have your Blood Pressure & Body Mass Index Checked
- Meet local wildlife artist Sharon Anderson
- Business meeting starts at 10:00.
- Arden James "The Animated Illusionist" will provide the entertainment.
- A hearty lunch will be served.
- Numerous door prizes including your chance to win \$100 of free electricity.
- Attendance Gifts
- Kids can swim while you attend the meeting.
- Special kids drawing for a new bike!

Electric Line


Electric Line is published quarterly by Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. This publication is designed to provide information about the cooperative to our member-owners.

President & CEO..... Greg Blum
Editor Mark Forseth

If you have questions or comments please contact us at
1-800-377-2932.

Email: mark.forseth@cwecoop.com

150 Depot Street
PO Box 255
Iola, WI 54945

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