

The Energy Line

Energy information for the customers of Wellsboro Electric

From the President & CEO

Help yourself to lower energy bills

Whether you are buying groceries, clothing or fuel for your car, you are paying more for just about everything these days. And just about everyone I talk to expresses concerns about rising energy costs and the state of the economy, both locally and nationally.

By now, we've all heard how growing worldwide demand for energy, much of it fueled by China's rapid expansion, is one of the main drivers behind today's rising prices. Despite the fact that crude oil prices seem to hit record highs on an almost daily basis, the global thirst for energy to fuel our vehicles, heat our homes and power our manufacturing plants continues to grow.

While petroleum products are not typically used to fire electric generation plants in this country, that doesn't mean we're off the hook. The price of natural gas and coal, two of the main power plant fuels, have also risen dramatically. In fact, wholesale natural gas prices have nearly doubled in the past year. Unfortunately, you see the impact of these higher energy prices reflected in your electric bills.

With the demand for energy expected to continue growing, we aren't likely to see relief from higher energy costs anytime soon. That means it will be up to consumers to take matters into their own hands in order to save on their energy bills.

There are two ways you can reduce your home energy use: through conservation and efficiency. Conservation occurs when you reduce the total consumption of electricity. This is often achieved by simply turning off anything that uses electricity when not needed. Some practical energy conservation measures can be found on the flip side of this newsletter.

Energy efficiency occurs when we replace or upgrade the essentials in our lives — appliances, lighting, insulation — in a way that enables us to realize the same benefit with less energy.

One of the simplest efficiency measures you can do is as easy as screwing in a light bulb — specifically a compact fluorescent bulb, which uses about one-fourth of the energy as an incandescent bulb and provides the same amount of light. When you are in the market for a new appliance, be sure to look for one that is Energy Star®-qualified. These appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10 to 50 percent less energy than standard models.

And if you are going to be installing a heating and cooling system, consider a geothermal heat pump, the most energy-efficient system on the market.

You can find a wealth of information on the Internet that will guide you as you make conservation and efficiency part of your daily routine. I highly recommend the U.S. Department of Energy's "Energy Savers" website, www.energysavers.gov.

With conservation and efficiency information in hand, it's up to you to help yourself to lower energy costs.



Wellsboro Electric

33 Austin Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
(570) 724-3516

www.wellsboroelectric.com

Board of Directors

Thomas L. Rudy - Chairman
Alfred Calkins - Vice Chairman
James Luce - Secretary
Kevin Barrett
Tim Gooch
Erick J. Coolidge
Barbara Seeley
Steve Sliwinski

Senior Staff

Craig Eccher - President & CEO
Scot Boyce - V.P. of Finance
and Administration
Robert McCarthy - V.P. of
Engineering and Operations

...In this issue

Summer energy-saving tips

Taking control of power costs

Craig Eccher

Beat the heat and save on your electric bill

With summer in full swing, Wellsboro Electric offers the following suggestions to help you beat the heat and save on your electric bill:

- Raise your thermostat to 78 degree if you cool your home with an air conditioner.
- Switch to energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), which use about one-quarter of the amount of electricity as incandescent bulbs and generate very little heat.
- Turn off heat-producing items like televisions, lamps and computers when not in use, and keep them away from your air conditioner thermostat.
- Cut back on your use of hot water and heavy cooking on hot days.
- Use room fans and ceiling fans to circulate the air inside your house to make it feel more comfortable. Make sure ceiling fans blow air downward.
- Use your exhaust fan wisely. Even a small exhaust fan can move a house full of cooled air to the outdoors in a short time.
- Close the shades, blinds or drapes on the sunny side of your house.
- Try to use heat-generating appliances such as ovens, dishwashers and dryers in the evening, when it's cooler and the demand for electricity is lower.
- Clean or replace air-conditioning filters at least once a month for more efficient operation.
- When purchasing an air conditioner or other appliances, be sure to look for the Energy Star® label.

Helping neighbors in need

In today's challenging economic climate, many local families struggle to keep up with their bills.

You can help your neighbors in need by agreeing to contribute a dollar or more each month to Wellsboro Electric's \$1 Energy Fund.

Your donations are matched by WECO, and 100 percent of the contributions are used to provide energy grants to families in our service territory.

To begin contributing to the \$1 Energy Fund, designate your contribution amount on the return stub of this month's electric bill. You may stop your donation at any time simply by notifying us in writing.

If you are currently contributing to this fund and would like to increase your donation amount, please contact us at 570-724-3516.



NOTE-WORTHY DONATION. Wellsboro Electric President and Chief Executive Officer Craig Eccher presents a check for \$2,000 to Dorotha Harding, vice president of finance for the Endless Mountain Music Festival. WECO's contribution will help sponsor the festival's educational outreach program, which will offer free master classes on seven musical instruments during the festival, Aug. 1-17. The master classes are open to all Tioga County residents, from beginners to advanced musicians, school-age to senior citizens. For more information, visit the festival website, www.endlessmountain.net.

You can help us control power costs

You can help Wellsboro Electric control its power costs by conserving energy on the hottest days of the summer.

One component of our wholesale power bill, called the capacity charge, is based on the highest hour of electric use, system wide, during the five hottest days of July and August.

During those days, known as the "High Five," the peak demand usually occurs late afternoon to early evening. The peak demand on those five days will determine our capacity charge for an entire year.

By conserving electricity between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on the hottest days of summer, you, as a customer can play a role in reducing our future capacity charge, which in turn will help keep your rates lower.

Let budget billing even out payments

You can avoid monthly fluctuations in your electric bill by signing up for Wellsboro Electric's budget billing plan.

The program allows you to level out your monthly payments throughout the year. Your payment amount is calculated based on the average of your electric bills for the previous 12 months.

If you are interested in setting up a budget billing plan for your account, please contact our office.