

Live Lines

Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative

November 2010

WARNING - Uncertain Times Ahead

Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, warns of what he calls “a great deal of uncertainty” ahead on carbon regulation.

“It’s highly unlikely that we’re going to see any carbon regulating legislation pass in 2010. So we’re left with the fact that in January, according to the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we can expect to see rules and regulations that will begin the regulation of carbon under the Clean Air Act”, said English.

Congress never intended the Clean Air Act to be used in that way. “We’re hopeful that the EPA will work with those of us in the industry to try to make sure that these rules and regulations are efficient and will work”, English said. “But the law in itself calls for a tightening of standards each and every year. So from one year to the next we’re not going to know under this law what requirements will be coming forward. We expect it will be a slow tightening of

regulations on carbon.” And that, in turn, will cost money, he said.

“Each and every year we anticipate it will make the generation of electric power more expensive than it would be otherwise. How expensive we simply don’t know today,” stated English. Regardless of what happens, English cautioned, “this is not going to be an easy matter to deal with.”

Is your standby generator wired correctly?

If you have a standby generator, or are thinking about purchasing one, there are several safety concerns to be addressed.

According to Noel Plummer, director of operations at Woodbury REC, “Properly connecting the generator into the system is critical for safe and effective use.

The number one item for safe operation is to have a double throw disconnect switch. If you plug your generator into your homes electrical circuits without this double throw switch, there is a good chance you will damage your generator. And of even more concern, without this switch it could be possible to back feed power out on the REC’s lines. This is very dangerous to linemen trying to restore service during a storm.”



Plummer also said that you should make sure your generator is properly grounded. In addition, always keep the generator outside in a dry, protected area, away from windows or air intakes where deadly exhaust fumes can enter living spaces.

If you have any questions about proper generator operation, give the REC a call.

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Special Offer On Fall Appliance Clean Up



While you're cleaning up the falling leaves, clean out your old, inefficient appliances, too.

Woodbury County REC will pay you to get rid of old, working refrigerators, freezers and window air conditioners and, even better, send a certified recycling company to take those old appliances away.

You can receive a \$25 reward for each old appliance, up to a total of \$75, from the REC when you participate in the program, and save electricity at the same time.

Just call Woodbury County REC at (712)873-3125 or (800)469-3125 to arrange for easy pickup. Appliances must be in working condition to qualify.

DO "THE TWIST" AND SAVE

Woodbury County REC members may participate in the "Change A Light - Change the World" program with special pricing on CFL bulbs.

Did you know you typically spend more lighting your home than operating your refrigerator annually? If you're using standard light bulbs and inefficient fixtures, you're wasting energy and money. Switching to energy-efficient lighting can save you time, energy and money – and help protect the environment. Make your next light bulb an ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulb.

Replacing the five most frequently used light bulbs in your home with ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs, can save approximately \$35 in annual energy costs.

The Recipe Corner

No-Bake Chocolate Peanut Butter Oatmeal Cookies

1 1/2 c. sugar
4 tbs. cocoa
1/4 c. margarine or butter
1/2 c. milk
3 c. rolled oats
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 c. peanut butter



In a large saucepan, combine sugar, cocoa, margarine or butter and milk. Bring mixture to a rolling boil, stirring frequently. Boil for 1 minute. Remove from heat. Gradually stir in rolled oats, a little at a time. Add vanilla and peanut butter and mix thoroughly. Drop by rounded tablespoons on waxed paper. Cookies harden as they cool. Makes 3 to 4 dozen cookies.



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- Use up to 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent light bulbs.
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- Save on average \$30* or more in energy costs over its life.

For more information or a complete list of participating retailers, visit www.iowachangealight.com or call (800)339-6856 or (800)469-3125.

This offer is good for Woodbury County REC members from October 1st thru December 31st with a limit of 12 bulbs per member at the special price.

*Savings vary with usage and rates.