



By Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive Officer

More Power To You

Back in January of this year, I mentioned that we are going to be hearing a lot about cap-and-trade and carbon tax. Well, the time has arrived.

In President Obama's fiscal 2010 budget, the direction is being set. A subsection within the budget goes like this: "Begin a comprehensive approach to transform our energy supply and slow global warming."

According to the Administration's plan, after the budget is enacted, they will begin working quickly to develop an economy-wide program to reduce greenhouse gases to various levels over a period of years.

So, what type of program would be used to accomplish these established goals? Again, according to the budget report released February 26, 2009, the Administration desires a cap-and-trade system; one that utilizes a 100 percent auction process.

Is cap-and-trade like Cap'n Crunch? Well, I wouldn't expect cap-and-trade to be quite as tasty.

While there would obviously be numerous details to be worked out, my understanding right now is with a greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program, the government establishes a desired level of greenhouse gas for the entire country (the cap). Emitters of greenhouse gases would have to purchase, through an auction process, "emissions permits" from the government for every ton of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. These permits would then be able to be traded like a commodity.

According to a recent article published in the *New York Times*, an auction that requires all or 100 percent of emissions be auctioned would generate about \$650 billion. Who said that transforming our energy supply and slowing global warming wasn't big stuff?

In the same *Times* piece, Jeff Bingaman, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, warned that a 100 percent auction "runs the danger or risk of causing a substantial increase in burden" on electric utilities, which would be passed on to customers.

Again, lots and lots of issues have to be resolved. But the fundamental question that we are very concerned about is cost. What is going to be the cost to our members? According to the language in the budget, a portion of the revenues derived from the auction will be "returned

to the people, especially vulnerable families, communities, and businesses to help transition to a clean energy economy." How much? To whom? When? What about other countries' CO₂ emissions?

Many people and businesses are struggling in this economy. Fundamentally changing our energy supply and addressing climate change is a really big deal with really big consequences. Will the proposed plan make things better today, tomorrow, and in the future? What an unbelievably difficult question to answer, and one that will most likely have to be answered by the next generation.

Last month, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives published possible cost scenarios using a range of prices paid for a metric ton of CO₂. The analysis used 1,000 kilowatt hours, the monthly usage for an average residential service. The results of the study ranged from an additional \$10 per month to over \$100, again depending on the price of CO₂.

What can you do? We need to engage our national legislators and ask them to provide answers to our questions. The Our Energy, Our Future campaign has been promoted in past months and the campaign continues on today. Below is a form for those interested in participating. The Our Energy, Our Future website, www.ouenergy.coop, is also an easy way to get involved.

If there is anything we can do to improve our service to you, please let us know. It is our privilege to serve your energy needs. ■

Please visit
www.ouenergy.coop
to send an e-mail to
Congress or complete
this form and return it
to either REC office.



**"I would like my electric co-op to send
an e-mail to Congress."**

Name _____
Home Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Home Phone _____
E-Mail _____
Signature _____



Joseph Cash
Orfordville Parkview
High School



Andrew Dal Santo
Hononegah Community
High School



Joshua Hergert
Milton High School



Bradley Karashinski
Beloit Turner High School



Staci Knudson
Evansville High School

Congratulations to our 2009 Scholarship Recipients

Rock Energy Cooperative is pleased to once again be able to support our youth and their education plans. Recipients of this year's scholarship awards are currently high school seniors. Each student pictured here will receive \$400 to assist with educational expenses beginning in the fall of 2009 at an accredited college or technical institute. ■



Antonio Little
South Beloit High School



Sarah Lund
Orfordville Parkview
High School



Dana Peterson
Hononegah Community
High School



Jeremy Rosheisen
Brodhead High School



Elizabeth Wettstein
Edgerton High School

High-Tech Thermostats Offer Potential Savings

Keeping your home hot or cold—depending on the season—accounts for a big chunk of your annual budget. In fact, the average U.S. homeowner spends \$2,500 a year on home energy, with 56 percent, or \$1,400, going toward heating and cooling costs.

Not surprisingly, savings can add up in a hurry when heating and cooling systems are tweaked for maximum efficiency. You can easily trim your energy bills in winter by setting the thermostat at 68 degrees F while you're awake and back a few degrees when you go to sleep or are away from home.

Even better, turning your thermostat back just 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours can save about 5 percent to 15 percent a year on your heating bill—about 1 percent for each degree.

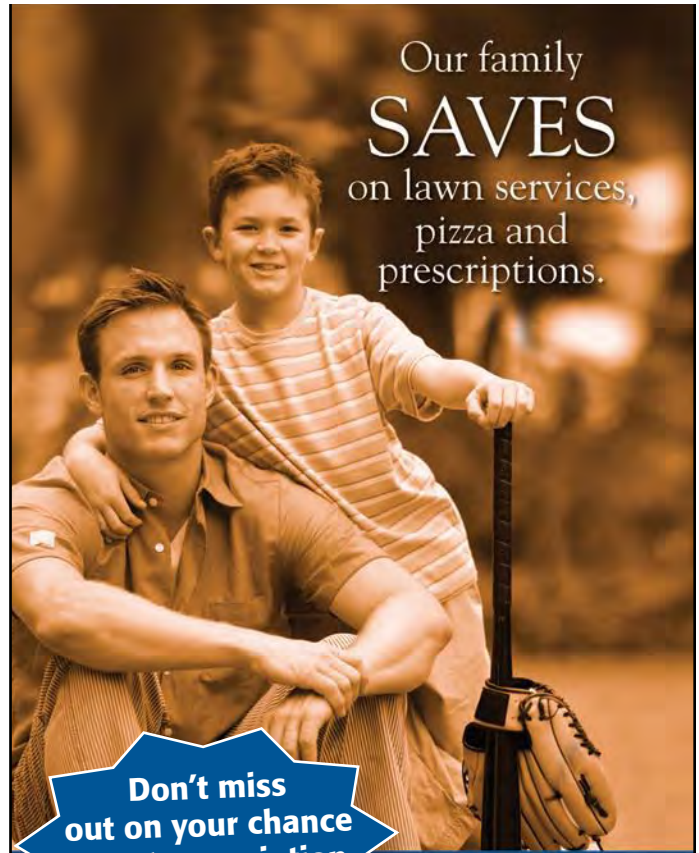
The location of your thermostat can greatly affect its performance and efficiency. Place thermostats away from direct sunlight, drafts, doorways, skylights, and windows.

Installing a programmable thermostat can take the thought out of saving energy. Your heating and cooling system will ramp up or switch off according to a preset time of day or even day of the week. However, maintaining a moderate setting is the most cost-effective practice.

To automatically manage electric resistance systems, such as electric baseboard heating, steam heating, or radiant floor heating, you will need to purchase a programmable thermostat specifically designed for the task. For more information, go to energystar.gov.—Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy ■

REC South Beloit Office Relocation

The co-op's Charles Street office will be closed permanently effective Thursday, April 9, 2009. Beginning Monday, April 13, 2009, at 7:30 a.m., the South Beloit District office of Rock Energy Cooperative will be located at our new Willowbrook Road building, 15229 Willowbrook Rd., South Beloit 61080. The facility is located approximately 3/4 mile south of the Flying J (Hwy. 75 exit off I-90). Payments may be made at Charles Street up until 4:00 p.m. on April 8; then at Willowbrook Rd. thereafter; and as always, at the Janesville office anytime. ■



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pizza and
prescriptions.

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to cut prescription
costs!**

We have a Co-op Connections® membership card, which means we save on everyday purchases and services. Our family even saves 10-60% off prescriptions at our participating local pharmacy.

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**It's easy to
save at over
48,000 pharmacies
nationwide!**

Flash your card to save on everyday purchases and prescriptions.

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www.rock.coop.



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BUMPER TO BUMPER

Bumper to Bumper Motor Parts & Exhaust – Edgerton, WI – 608-884-1900

Edgerton's only automotive parts store; locally owned and operated; motor parts and exhaust, custom hydraulic hoses and custom bent U-bolts, WIX Filters.

\$10 Off purchase of \$30 or more

Best Western Legacy Inn & Suites – South Beloit IL – 815-389-4211

Complimentary Breakfast, Wireless Internet Access, Heated Indoor Pool, Universal Gym, Meeting Facility, Refrigerator/Microwave in each room, Cable or Satellite TV w/HBO, In-room Hair Dryer and Coffee, work area in guestrooms.

10% Off Rack Rate



Diamond Lanes – Beloit, WI – 608-362-9166

16 lane bowling center... home of DanDees Bar & Grill – ½ lb burgers, homemade pizzas and much more... year round leagues available for all ages... birthday party

packages, family fun nights, and full food menu... host tournaments, charity or any kind of special event... a great place to have some fun. Check out our Summer Traveling League and Moonlight Bowling... full service pro shop too.

Buy One Game, Get One Free

DiGiovanni's Ristorante – Roscoe, IL – 815-623-2320



Offering a unique combination of authentic Italian dishes, seafood and steaks in a cozy intimate atmosphere... flavorful handmade recipes are meticulously prepared from scratch every day using only the finest ingredients, excellent service by a warm friendly staff... open kitchen, outside seating available.

\$5 Off with purchase of \$25 or more (dine-in only, does not include tax or gratuity)



Evansville Oil Pros – Evansville, WI – 608-882-6457

Car and light truck maintenance, oil changes, brakes, new tire sales, tune-ups, batteries and windshield replacement... where quality and service come together.

\$2 Off any service

For a complete listing of current "deals" visit www.rock.coop; terms and conditions of "deals" subject to change as desired by individual participating businesses.

Last Chance to get in on Co-op Youth Day in Washington, D.C., and the Youth Leadership Conference!



Visit www.rock.coop for all the details. Sign-up for these once-in-a-lifetime, fully sponsored events closes April 10, 2009.

REC Closed for Business on Good Friday

The Janesville office of REC will be closed on Friday, April 10, in observance of Good Friday. The office will re-open at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, April 13. Payments may still be made at drop boxes in Janesville throughout that period.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Cover and wrap food.

Uncovered food and liquids release moisture, forcing the fridge to work harder.



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