

# Connections



A publication for the members and friends of Jackson Electric Cooperative ▲ Vol. 23, No. 5

September 2013

## GREETINGS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



Recently, there has been a great deal of talk about climate change. In August, President Obama instructed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), rather than our elected officials, to regulate carbon emissions from power plants under the Federal Clean Air Act. The reality of this proposed mandate is that it will increase your electric rates.

Many American communities depend on coal-based generation for affordable electricity. The Clean Air Act to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants could burden several communities, including ours. Ninety percent of your electricity is generated from coal. Our power supplier has spent several millions of dollars on environmental equipment to control emissions on their power plants. In addition, technology has yet to be developed to control certain emissions.

Because coal-based power plants may be forced to shut down because of regulations, power suppliers will have to purchase electricity from other, more expensive, sources. That, in turn, will reflect on your electric bill.

Rural communities are the heart and soul of America. Join us in the fight to Power the American Spirit and keep electricity affordable. You can go to [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop) to sign up to receive alerts on how you can help keep the Co-op Nation strong.

Safety always! *Greg*

## Solar Array to be Constructed at JEC

When you drive by Jackson Electric Cooperative within the next few months, the landscape will look a bit different. At the August regular board meeting, the directors approved the construction of a 11 kilowatt (kW) solar array. This system will be interconnected with Jackson Electric.

In July, surveys were randomly sent to 1,100 members. The goal of this survey was to gauge our members' interest in and understanding of solar energy. Because the cooperative is challenged with renewable energy mandates, it is important to learn what long-term direction the members feel should be taken in regards to renewable energy. One of the questions asked is if members felt solar energy could be part of their energy future, whether it is through a community

solar development or private residence solar installation.

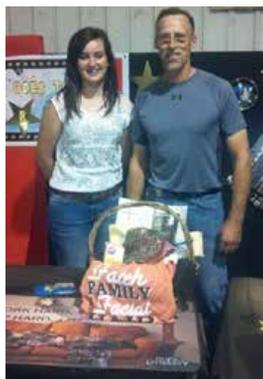
An overwhelmingly 71 percent of those responding said they feel solar energy could potentially be part of their energy future. In addition, 62 percent of those responding said they would not invest in a home solar project that they had to install and maintain themselves.

Information we received from this survey was taken into consideration. Bid requests for the solar array construction at Jackson Electric Cooperative have been received and the board is now in process of reviewing the details of the demonstration solar project. This project belongs to the members of Jackson Electric and project updates will be available on our website, Facebook, magazine and newsletter.



Potential site for the solar array construction at Jackson Electric.

## JEC Supports Youth at County Fair



A Ducks Dynasty dairy cheese basket was purchased from Kristen Johnson, daughter of Dennis and June Johnson of Black River Falls. The cheese was also served at the member picnic.

Jackson Electric Cooperative purchased two market hogs and a dairy cheese basket at the Jackson County Jr. Livestock Auction in August. Market hogs sold by Sydney Olson, grandson of Jake and Anita Johnson of Black River Falls, and Will Larson, son of Rich and Teri Larson of Alma Center, were processed into shredded pork for the annual member picnic that was held August 13.



Sydney Olson



Will Larson

### Reminder.... Frost Charges

If you plan to have Jackson Electric install new electric service on your property after November 1, an additional charge will be applied if the conventional method of electric service installation is not feasible due to frost.



# Keep Your Home Warm with Electric Heat

Cool winter months are approaching and now is the time to invest in one of the several electric heating options available to you. Rebates, subject to change without notice, are available from Jackson Electric Cooperative on qualified air source and geothermal heat pumps.

**Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)**—looks similar to a central air conditioner, but an ASHP heats and cools your home by exchanging heat with the outside air. They are 250 to 375 percent energy efficient.

**Geothermal Heat Pump (GSHP)**—uses the stored energy from the ground to heat and cool your home.

GSHPs are 350 to 500 percent energy efficient. Because GSHPs are considered a renewable energy source, tax credits are also available through 2016 on qualified units.

**Plenum Heater**—unit is installed into the plenum of your existing fossil fuel furnace so that you have a choice to heat with electric or fossil fuel. Units are 100 percent energy efficient.

**Electric Boiler**—radiant in-floor heat to keep your feet warm. Electric boilers are 100 percent energy efficient and can be added to your existing fossil fuel boiler system.

All of these electric heat options may qualify for Jackson Electric Coopera-

tive's dual fuel rate, which will save you money during the heating season. Check out the electric heating displays at Jackson Electric Cooperative or call Steve Meyer at the office to find out how you can save money with electric heat!



## Dual Fuel Agreements

If you are on our dual fuel program you should have received a Dual Fuel Agreement from us that we asked you to sign and return.

Following the mailing, we got numerous calls from members asking, "Why did you send these?" Simply put, we want to assure that everyone who is on the dual fuel program knows they are on the program and understands how it works. Many of our dual fuel homes have changed ownership over the years and having a signed agreement on file is our assurance that the homeowner knows and understands they are on the program.

If you have already signed and returned your agreement to us, thank you! If not, we would appreciate receiving a signed agreement back from you. Please contact the office if you need a new agreement or have any further questions.

## Support Renewable Energy with Evergreen

Evergreen is a voluntary renewable energy program available through Jackson Electric Cooperative. For \$1.50 per month, you will help offset the additional cost of renewable energy generation. This is in addition to your normal electric bill.

Sign up before December 31, 2013, and receive a reusable tote as our way of saying "thank you" for supporting renewable energy.

Call our office for more information or download the Evergreen form at [www.jackelec.com/energy\\_conservation/evergreen\\_program](http://www.jackelec.com/energy_conservation/evergreen_program).



## Sunny Skies Welcome Picnic Goers

More than 500 meals were served at Jackson Electric Cooperative's Annual Member Picnic in the Park on Tuesday, August 13, at the Lunda Park shelters in Black River Falls. Members enjoyed a delicious pulled pork sandwich meal, camaraderie and beautiful weather. Thanks to all members who attended.



## Payment is in the Mail

Due to changes in the United States Postal Service mail delivery, there is no guarantee your electric payment may reach our office in a timely manner. Please allow your payment several days to reach us by mail.

You can pay your bill online at [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com); click on the Bill4U Online Bill Payment tab or call our office to pay with a credit or debit card.

## Tax Exemption Forms

If your business qualifies for tax exemption, a Wisconsin Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate needs to be on file at our office in order for the sales tax to be exempt from your account. You can download the form and instructions at [www.jackelec.com/billing/tax\\_exempt](http://www.jackelec.com/billing/tax_exempt) or contact our office.



Connections newsletter is published for members and friends of Jackson Electric Cooperative. Questions or comments should be directed to Carol Blaken, Editor, at:

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Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

