

# Connections



A publication for the members and friends of Jackson Electric Cooperative ▲ Vol. 24, No. 2 June 2014

## THANK YOU, MEMBERS!

**T**hank you to the nearly 2,000 Jackson Electric members who submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in regards to proposed environmental regulations on coal-fired power plants. More than 500,000 electric cooperative members from across the country submitted comments to the EPA in effort to stop the EPA from implementing costly regulations on new and existing coal-fired power plants.

The momentum needs to continue. Proposed regulations to reduce greenhouse gases on existing coal-fired power plants are in the works. Unfortunately, greenhouse gases are far more difficult to capture and the new technology just isn't ready for prime time. Electric co-ops have already invested billions of dollars in equipment to reduce air pollution and the EPA needs to slow down on the regulatory approval process.

Proposed regulations will target regions of the U.S. most dependent on coal for electricity, including west central Wisconsin. Nearly 90 percent of your electricity is generated from coal. These regulations will affect you, so please submit your comments, if you haven't already, at [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop).

### Member Concerns

Many of you are concerned about rising electric rates and the affect it

will have on your electric heating bill. Please remember your electric heating system is by far the most efficient way to heat your home. Heat pumps are 300 to 600 percent efficient. Add your heat pump to our dual fuel rate and you'll see substantial savings. In addition, the dual fuel program gives you the option to heat with either electric or fossil fuel, whichever is more economical at the time.



I also want to mention rate volatility with fossil fuels. Look at what happened with propane this past heating season. Rates increased quickly and homeowners weren't financially prepared. Electric rates may rise, but not unexpectedly like fossil fuels.

Representatives from electric cooperatives in Wisconsin and throughout the country are working endlessly with elected officials to halt proposed regulations that could lead to an increase in your electric bill. Those who make the decisions read your responses to the [action.coop](http://action.coop) campaign and your support shows the EPA that you are concerned.

If you have any concerns regarding regulations, rates, electric heating or your electric cooperative, please feel free to contact me.

Safety always! *Meg*

*You're Invited*

## Jackson Electric Cooperative's Solar Array Dedication

**Wednesday, June 18, 2014**

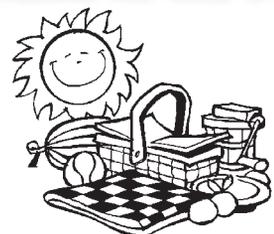
**10:30 a.m. • Rain or Shine**

**Learn about the solar array's components and installation process. Get your solar energy questions answered.**

**Refreshments will be served.**



## Jackson Electric Cooperative's Annual Member Picnic in the Park



**Tuesday, August 12, 2014**

**3:30 – 6:45 p.m.**

**Lunda Park Upper Shelter  
Black River Falls**

### Summer Energy Efficiency Fact

**Time of day does matter when running electrical loads. Limiting electrical usage between the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. during the summer months will save on wholesale energy costs. For example, take advantage of the delay setting and run your dishwasher at night to avoid peak times of use and save energy.**

# JEC Hosts Stray Voltage Training

Jackson Electric Cooperative was the site for stray voltage training held the beginning of May. More than 40 electric utility workers from the Midwest, including Jackson Electric's linemen Matt Bush and Brian Schultz, attended the three-day training sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agriculture (CALs), Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

Along with classroom-style learning, participants were able to get hands-on training at three area farms. The three area dairies that graciously

hosted the on-farm training were Dan Schultz, Nathan Kling, and Paul and Judy Olson, who also provided a sheltered location for lunch. These farms are located in the Taylor area.

Stray voltage training to this extent has been held in Madison in the past and did not allow for on-the-farm training. Based upon feedback from participant evaluations and comments from the instructors, the change of venue for this training and addition of on-the-farm training was very well received.



Livestock waterers are a common source of stray voltage. For instructional purposes, a livestock waterer was wired into the Paul and Judy Olson farm so attendees could learn how to take voltage readings on it.

## Before You Dig...

Trees and shrubs need space to grow both above and below ground. According to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the cause of approximately 15 percent of power interruptions is vegetation, such as trees, shrubs and brush, growing too close to power lines and distribution equipment (meters, transformer boxes, etc.).

We all enjoy the beauty trees and plants add to our area, but we also enjoy the comfort in knowing we have electricity when we need



it. Before doing any planting in your yard, think about how tall the tree or shrub may grow and how wide their branches may spread. Keep flowers and other plant vegetation away from padmount transformer boxes (green electric utility boxes placed in your yard), as well. Planting near the box can lead to overheating which could result in transformer failure. This alone creates an unsafe situation and interferes with the cooperative's ability to deliver reliable power.

Jackson Electric Cooperative's responsibility is to distribute reliable electricity to its members. Please help us by keeping electrical distribution equipment clear of vegetation.

## Adult Scholarships Available

Scholarships are available to adults who are continuing their education at an accredited technical school, college or university. Student must be an active member of Jackson Electric Cooperative (name of student must be on the billing account) and be 25 years of age or older. Credits cannot be reimbursed by an employer and one scholarship awarded per applicant in a 12-month period.

Applications are available at [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com).



## Non-Discrimination Statement

Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (pdf) found online at [www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



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Your comments and suggestions are welcome.



### Jackson

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