



### Watt's Going On

Greg McFarland, General Manager/CEO  
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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a rule designed to cut carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel electric generating units such that national carbon intensity rates drop by 30 percent by 2030, compared with 2005 levels. Under the proposed rule, each state will be given a carbon intensity “target” to meet. Wisconsin, the state where our wholesale power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, operates its fossil fuel power plants, will be required to cut carbon emissions by 34 percent during that period.

In December 2011, Dairyland retired three coal-fired units at the Alma Station (Alma, Wis.) and will retire the plant’s last two units by the end of 2014. These plant closures will help reduce Dairyland’s carbon dioxide emissions and represent one of many steps Dairyland is taking to meet the goals established by the EPA. Plans are underway to rely more on lower carbon resources in the future, such as natural gas and renewables.

Dairyland pledges to work with others in the industry, elected officials, and state and federal agencies as they move forward to review and comment on these rules. The proposal has a 120-day comment period running from June and into October of this year. The rule is scheduled to be finalized in June 2015.

The EPA proposes to give states flexibility in developing the details, including measurement alternatives, the establishment of allowance trading programs, and the option to form multi-state approaches for compliance. This will be closely monitored as Dairyland serves members in four states. Dairyland has met with staff at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and intends to work closely with the WDNR as the state plan is developed.

Acknowledging the importance of reducing the more commonly recognized air emissions, Dairyland has and is investing more than \$325 million to install air emission controls that have/will reduce nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) by more than 90 percent and particulate matter by 99 percent.

The Jackson County Fair is July 30–August 3. Good luck to all fair exhibitors. Thank you to the many members of the community, including parents of exhibitors and youth leaders, who help make the fair successful.

See you at the member picnic on August 12!

Safety always. ■

## Jackson Electric Cooperative Dedicates Solar Array

Several Jackson Electric Cooperative members helped dedicate the 9.72 kilowatt (kW) solar array on Wednesday, June 18, at Jackson Electric Cooperative’s building located in Black River Falls. The array was interconnected with the grid early December 2013.

“This dedication was an opportunity for members and the public to learn more about solar energy,” said Greg McFarland, general manager/CEO of the electric cooperative. “This array is owned by the members of Jackson Electric Cooperative.”

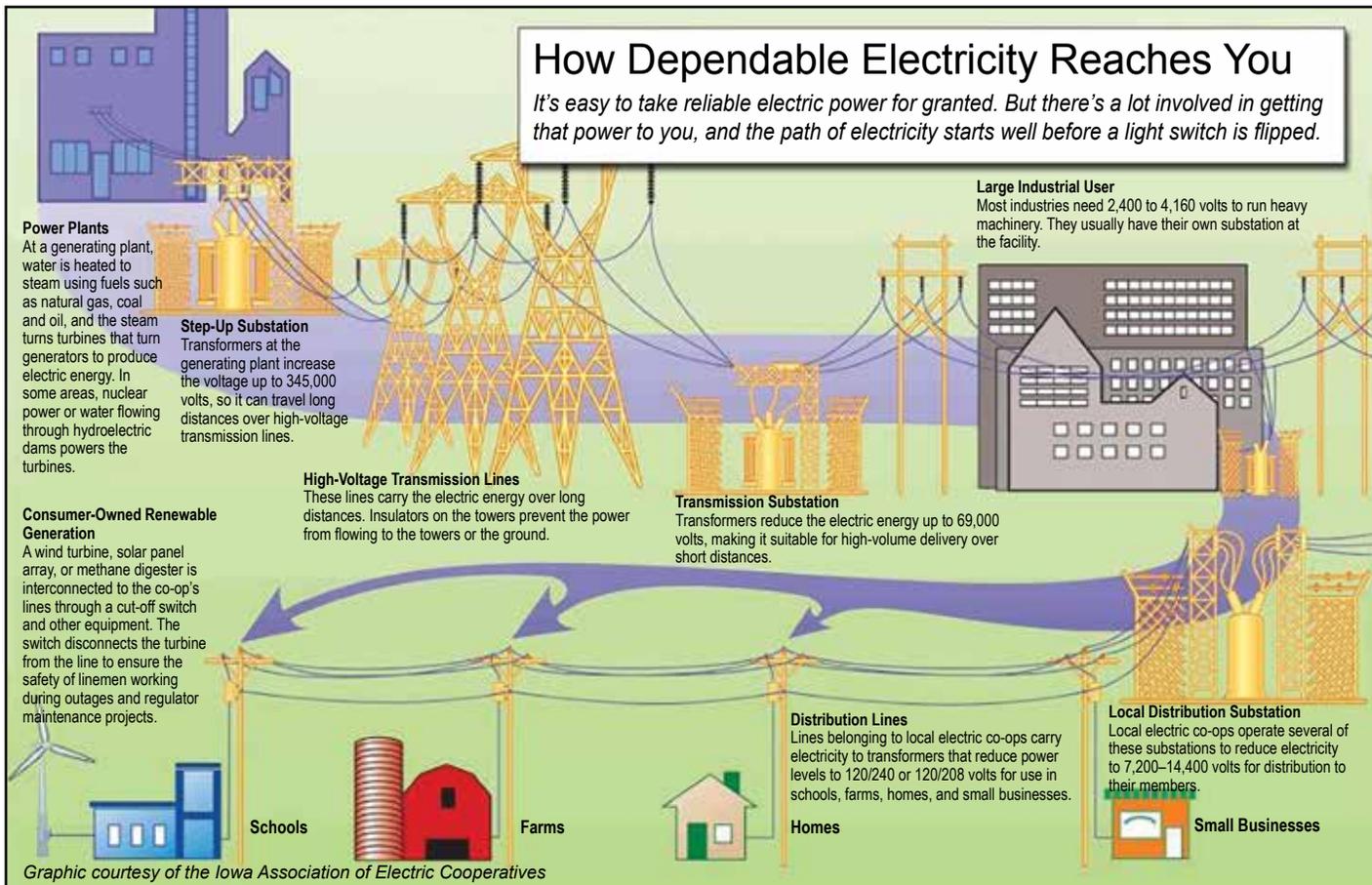
During the dedication, Craig Harnes, from



*This member takes a moment to observe the panels on the solar array.*

Dairyland Power, stated that Jackson Electric’s power supplier leads all Wisconsin utilities with the highest percentage of renewable energy generation, according to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. More than 12 percent of electricity provided to member-cooperatives from Dairyland Power is generated from a diversified renewable energy portfolio.

Solar array installer Eric Pipkin of Pipkin Electric/U.S. Solar Mounts answered technical questions regarding the array. The solar panels and infrastructure were manufactured in the United States. ■



## Electricity Delivered to Your Meter – When You Need It

Electricity illuminates our lives and helps businesses and communities prosper. Most of us don't realize the convenience electricity provides in our everyday lives until the power is interrupted—and you're left in the dark. Electricity is a necessity, and it travels a great distance to reach your light switch.

Jackson Electric Cooperative, a distribution electric cooperative, provides electricity to more than 6,200 members. The cooperative maintains more than 1,450 miles of overhead and underground power lines and rebuilds overhead infrastructure so that safe and reliable electricity reaches member-owners.

Electricity is generated and transmitted from a generation and transmission (G&T) facility, Dairyland Power

Cooperative, headquartered on the Mississippi River in La Crosse. Dairyland Power is a G&T wholesale power supplier that is owned and governed by 25 electric cooperatives in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and Iowa. Because Dairyland is owned by multiple distribution electric co-ops, operating costs are split among the owners.

After Dairyland Power generates electricity, the power is sent over high-voltage transmission lines to distribution substations, where the voltage is reduced. Electricity travels on distribution lines, reaching a transformer. At this point, the voltage is reduced to safe levels for use at your meter, whether it is a home, business, irrigator, or grain bin.

Because Jackson Electric wants to ensure safe and reliable electricity

to your homes, we ask that you plan your landscaping and tree placement away from overhead power lines, padmount transformers, and other electrical equipment. A Tree Planting Guide can be found at [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com) or contact our office. ■

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Member Picnic**

**Tuesday, August 12, 2014**

3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Lunda Park Upper Shelter,  
Black River Falls

Music by Dixieland Express  
at 7 p.m. in the park's  
band shell

## Add Comfort to Your Home – Find the Leaks

According to energy.gov, the potential savings from reducing drafts in a home may range from 5 to 30 percent per year. That number alone may be enough incentive for you to locate and seal your home's air leaks.

When outdoor air enters your home through cracks or other openings, air leaks may occur. Variables, such as a change in temperature, weather, and everyday lifestyle, can cause the exchange of air pressure, thus causing air leaks. Finding the leaks and sealing them could potentially save you money on your heating and cooling bill, as well as improve the comfort in your home.

### Most Common Areas for Leaks

Start with your windows and doors. Look for daylight around the frame and try to rattle the door or window. If you see light and there's movement, most likely you have air leaks. The following list, compiled by the U.S. Department of Energy, suggests where potential air leaks occur in a home. If these areas are caulked or weather stripped, check to make

sure there are no gaps or cracks in the insulation and the material is in good condition.

- Wall or window-mounted air conditioners
- Window, door, and baseboard moldings
- Wiring that runs through insulated floors, ceilings, and walls
- Plumbing that runs through insulated floors, ceilings, and walls
- Basement—where the foundation meets the wood framing
- Recessed lighting and fans in insulated ceilings
- Fireplace dampers
- Dropped ceilings above bathtubs and cabinets
- Missing plaster
- Electrical outlets
- Attic hatch
- Switch plates

Remember to inspect the exterior of your home, as well. Look at all the areas where the different building materials meet, such as exterior corners, where the siding meets the chimney, and where the foundation and the exterior brick or siding meet.

### Energy Assessments

Having an energy assessment performed by a qualified energy consultant may be an investment that will



A blower door test uses a fan to pressurize and depressurize your house to detect leaks. Common areas for leaks are around window and door frames, recessed ceiling lights, electrical outlets, and plumbing underneath sinks.

add more value and comfort to your home. Jackson Electric Cooperative offers a rebate to its members when recommended energy efficiency measures are completed and verified by the energy consultant.

During the assessment, the energy consultant will use a blower door test or an infrared camera to detect air leaks and areas with poor insulation. The energy assessment will provide more comprehensive results than the do-it-yourself energy audit.

Once complete, the energy consultant will provide a detailed report on the findings with recommended suggestions to make your home more energy efficient. To learn more, contact Jackson Electric Cooperative. ■

## You Commented. We're Responding.

**Member Question:** Why was there sales tax on my June electric bill?

**Our Response:** Sales tax will be applied to your electric bill in the months of May through October. According to Wisconsin Statute 77.54 (30) (a) 2, "Electricity and natural gas sold during the months of November, December, January, February, March, and April for residential use" are exempt from sales and use tax. This statute was enacted in 1995.

The state government regards electricity for residential use during the winter months as a necessity; therefore, it is exempt from sales tax during those months. "Residential use" is de-

finied in the statute as a structure or portion of a structure which is a person's permanent principal residence. It does not include use in motor homes, travel trailer, other recreational vehicles, or transient accommodations.

If you feel your farming operation or business meets year-round tax exemption status, please confirm that you have a completed and signed Wisconsin Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate on file at Jackson Electric Cooperative's office. Forms are available from our office or at [www.jacksonelec.com/billing/tax\\_exempt](http://www.jacksonelec.com/billing/tax_exempt). ■

It's so simple. Shifting energy use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. weekdays helps keep electric rates affordable for everyone.

- Delay the dishwasher.
- Turn up the thermostat.
- Shift the start of laundry

**TOGETHER WESAVE**

# Enviro-Watch Monitors Your Home While You're Away

“I put Enviro-Watch in my cabin because I’m not there every weekend. Enviro-Watch lets me know when the power goes out or if the temperature in the cabin drops,” says an Enviro-Watch owner. “It’s comforting to know Enviro-Watch is monitoring my investment.”



Enviro-Watch is an easy-to-install plug-in monitor. When the power goes out for longer than five minutes or if the temperature drops below

40 degrees in your home, Enviro-Watch calls the Cooperative Response Center (CRC). The operator at the response center, utilized by Jackson Electric Cooperative to handle after-hours calls, will immediately contact the homeowner’s designated representative to advise them to check on the residence.

Enviro-Watch is not a home security system. Enviro-Watch only monitors the temperature of the resi-

dence and availability of electricity.

The plug-in monitor requires a 120-volt outlet and an operable standard telephone line. The monitor has an internal 9-volt battery. The unit is small enough to set on your counter or attach to your wall. The Enviro-Watch monitor is available from Jackson Electric Cooperative for \$175. Monitoring service is an additional \$72 per year—a small cost to protect your investment.

For more information, contact Jackson Electric Cooperative or go to [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com). ■

## Ask Your Cooperative

Steve Meyer, Member Services Director



**Q:** I know geothermal heat pumps are the most efficient heating and cooling systems available, but I’ve heard they are real expensive so I never checked into installing one. What can you tell me about the cost of installing a geothermal system and what rebates are available?

**A:** If you’re interested in a geothermal heat pump, I wouldn’t dismiss checking into installing one just because you heard they’re expensive. Installation costs can vary widely depending upon the particulars of each house, and I’ve also seen proposals from different installers on the same project vary a lot. So, my advice is to get proposals from several installers.

I’m often asked who makes the best geothermal heat pumps. Installing a geothermal heat pump is specialized, requiring proper training and experience. The quality of the installation is far more important than who made the heat pump. When selecting an installing contractor, make sure the installer has a reputation of quality installations. To find a list of installing contractors experienced with geothermal systems,

go to the Wisconsin Geothermal Association website, [www.wisgeo.org](http://www.wisgeo.org).

Rebates are available from both Jackson Electric and the federal government. There is a 30 percent federal tax credit available through 2016 on qualified geothermal heat pump installations. In addition, Jackson Electric has a \$500-per-ton incentive on geothermal heat pumps. A ton of refrigeration is 12,000 BTUs and most homes take a 3- to 4-ton heat pump. For the remaining cost, Jackson Electric has arranged favorable credit terms through the Co-op Credit Union, headquartered in Black River Falls.

When you factor in the 30 percent tax credit, the \$500 per ton incentive, and the substantial operating cost savings, installing a geothermal heat pump may not be as far out of reach as you thought.

If you have a question to ask Jackson Electric Cooperative, please submit to our office at P.O. Box 546, Black River Falls, WI 54615 or email [cblaken@jackelec.com](mailto:cblaken@jackelec.com) and put in the subject line “Magazine Question.” ■

## Don't Forget the Rebates!

Jackson Electric Cooperative offers rebates and incentives on qualified Energy Star appliances, lighting, heat pumps, and energy efficient home improvements. Go to [jackelec.com](http://jackelec.com) or contact our office for more information.



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