

We Need an All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy

Electric cooperatives are disappointed—but not surprised—that in September the Administration officially abandoned an all-of-the-above energy strategy for a new, all-but-one approach that effectively removes coal from the nation’s fuel mix in the future.

The policy, proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sets stringent limits on carbon dioxide emissions from future coal or natural gas plants. Trouble is, the new standards are impossible to meet with existing technology.

For several years cooperatives have tested carbon capture and storage (CCS) as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the technology doesn’t

make financial sense. It has never been used at a commercial scale at a power plant over a prolonged period to demonstrate its viability or cost. In a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report, engineers estimate it would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75 percent.

The Administration’s switch to an all-but-one energy approach would limit Americans’ access to a plentiful and affordable resource. I don’t think we should gamble with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation’s economy.

Already worried about making ends meet, many of Oakdale Electric Cooperative members cannot afford the significant increases in electric bills that this policy would trigger.

Historically, the price of coal remains affordable and relatively stable. The U.S. Energy Information Agency reports the United States has 236 years remaining of recoverable coal reserves. Coal generates 37 percent of the nation’s electricity—our biggest energy source by far.

Seems the Administration lets history repeat itself. We saw this all-but-one game in 1978 when Congress passed the ill-conceived Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act. Never heard of it? Few have, but for several years the government banned natural gas for power generation. Yes, natural gas—the fuel source being sold to the nation today as a cleaner fuel option. With gas off the table, electric cooperatives were forced to choose between building coal or nuclear plants.

Back then, co-ops were in the midst of a major power plant building cycle. With few options, they invested heavily in coal-based generating plants in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Thankfully Congress repealed its mistake, but not for nine years.

Let’s not repeat past mistakes. Stand with us as we fight to keep electric bills affordable. Raise your voice through the Cooperative Action Network at www.action.coop. Tell the EPA we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy. ■

1. ABANDONS ALL-OF-THE ABOVE
The Administration is reverting course, ditching our All-of-the-Above energy strategy for an All-But-One approach that bans new coal plants.

2. TECHNOLOGY GAMBLE
New regulations essentially require technology that's **not commercially viable and prohibitively expensive**—leading to higher bills down the line.

TOP 4 FACTS
ABOUT THE EPA'S NEW CLIMATE REGULATIONS

3. LIMITS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, DOMESTIC ENERGY
By banning new coal plants, Americans forfeit a **236-year domestic source of energy** with a historically stable price.

4. HISTORY REPEATS: ALL-BUT-ONE DOESN'T WORK
A 1978 mandate prevented use of natural gas & forced utilities into coal or nuclear—before common sense prevailed and it was repealed 9 years later.

COOPERATIVE ACTION NETWORK **ACTION.COOP**

Oakdale Electric Cooperative Board Election on the Horizon

Members in Districts 1 and 7 have an opportunity to serve on the Oakdale Electric Cooperative board of directors by running for a position on the board in the April 2014 co-op election. Two positions will be up for election; current incumbents are Robert Hess, Pittsville, representing District 1, and Ronald Churchill, Reedsburg, representing District 7.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is owned by its members and guided by directors elected from the membership. Board directors serve three-year terms and represent co-op members at monthly meetings. Candidates must meet the qualifications outlined in the cooperative's by-laws and be full-time residents of the district they represent. For applications or more details about board elections, visit oakdalerec.com or contact Cheryln at cmoseley@oakdalerec.com or 800-241-2468.

Director Qualifications

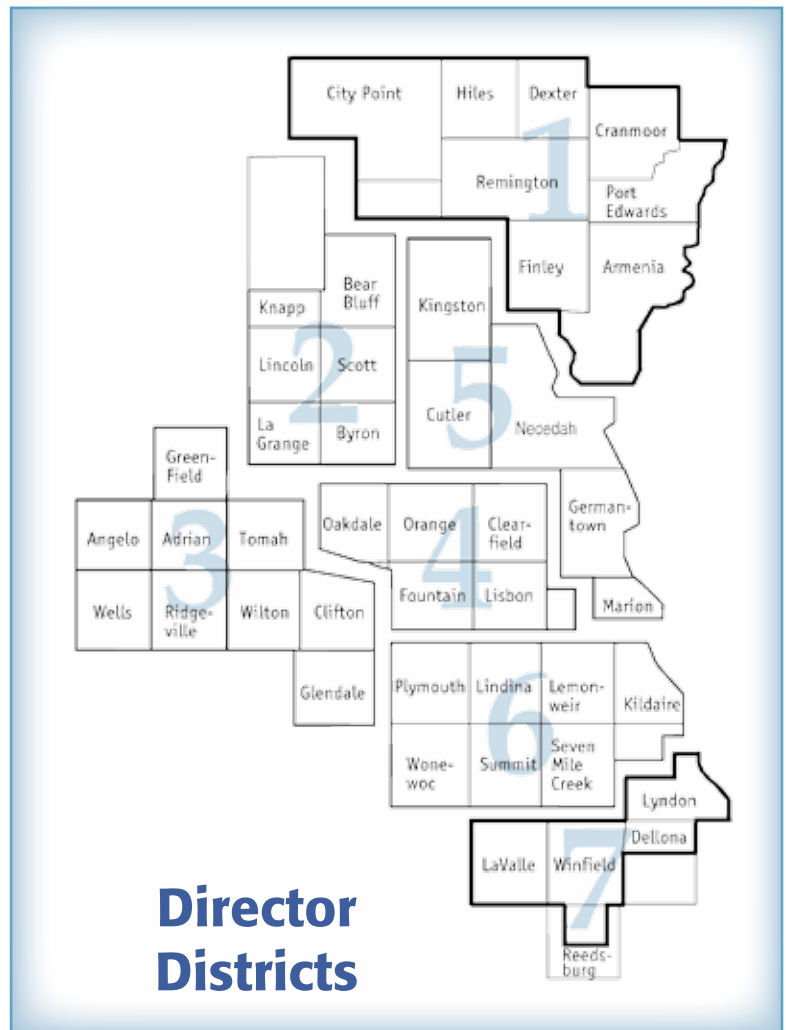
In order to serve as a representative on the Oakdale Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, a member must...

1. Be a member and primary resident in the district from which elected.
2. Not be employed by or have any financial interest in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative or engage in selling electrical or plumbing appliances or supplies to members of the co-op.
3. Not be employed by the cooperative.

Director Duties

Grassroots democracy is one of the hallmarks of belonging to an electric cooperative. Two directors will be elected at the annual meeting of Oakdale Electric Cooperative on April 5 at Tomah High School. Cooperative members will vote for

directors in Districts 1 and 7. Are you interested in serving as a board member for Oakdale Electric Cooperative? Do you reside in one of the two districts listed above? Consider becoming a part of your electric cooperative by submitting your name as a director candidate in this year's election. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings, other special meetings, and educational seminars that are designed to keep directors informed on the various aspects of Oakdale Electric Cooperative and the electric utility industry. Their decisions are made in the best interest of the cooperative, and they represent the entire membership. ■





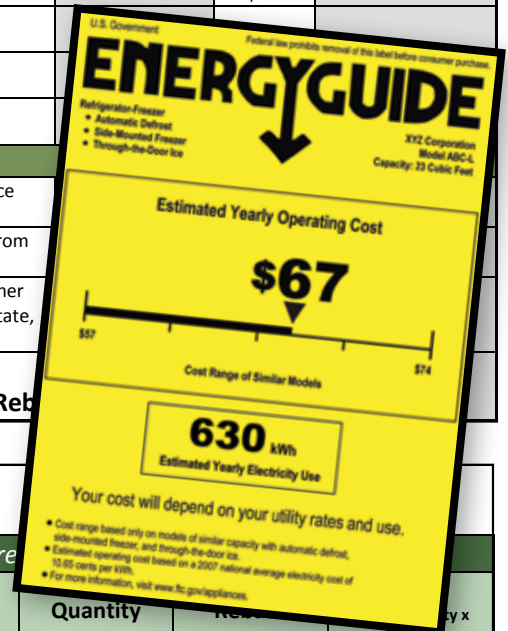
Savings Add Up With 2014 Rebates

Oakdale Electric Cooperative encourages energy conservation and has incentives in 2014 for members who purchase qualifying Energy Star rated appliances. ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.

Requirements

- Must be purchased, installed, and/or recycled in 2014 (January 1 – December 31, 2014).
- Rebates are in place through December 31, 2014, or until funds, by incentive or total, are depleted.
- Installed equipment must be on cooperative's lines.

Appliances				
REBATE INFORMATION (Please fill in shaded boxes for all items for which you are requesting a rebate)				
Equipment	Specifications	Quantity	Rebate	Total: Quantity x Rebate
ENERGY STAR Appliances				
Clothes Washer	Must be ENERGY STAR appliance		\$25	
Dehumidifier	Must be ENERGY STAR appliance			
Refrigerator	Must be ENERGY STAR appliance			
Room Air Conditioner	Must be ENERGY STAR appliance			
Appliance Recycling				
Recycling – Freezer	Freezer must be in working order. Freezer must be removed from service and fully disposed of following federal, state, and local laws.			
Recycling - Refrigerator	Refrigerator must be in working order. Refrigerator must be removed from service and fully disposed of following federal, state, and local laws.			
Recycling - Window Air Conditioner	Window air conditioner must be in working order. Window air conditioner must be removed from service and fully disposed of following federal, state, and local laws.			
Total Rebate				



Water Heaters				
REBATE INFORMATION (Please fill in shaded boxes for all items for which you are requesting a rebate)				
Equipment	Specifications	Quantity	Rebate	Total: Quantity x Rebate
High Efficiency Water Heater	80-99 gallons, Energy Factor .90 or greater, must be controlled by cooperative's load control program		\$125/unit	
High Efficiency Water Heater	100 gallons or greater, Energy Factor .85 or greater, must be controlled by cooperative's load control program		\$200/unit	
Heat Pump Water Heater	Energy Factor 2.00 or greater		\$300/unit	
Solar Storage Water Heater with Electric Back-up			\$300/unit	
Total Rebate Amount Requested:				

* This is a summary list. Please complete the actual 2014 Rebate Forms from our website or from the office and return to:

Oakdale Electric Cooperative
 P.O. Box 128 • Oakdale, WI 54649
www.oakdalerec.com

Non-Discrimination Statement

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political belief, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Operation Round Up – We Need Your Help!

Through a giving program known as Operation Round Up®, members of Oakdale Electric Cooperative have donated approximately \$38,000 to local people and organizations — and they've done it a few pennies at a time.

“Oakdale Electric Cooperative brought the program to our members in 2002,” says Bruce Ardelt, general manager of Oakdale Electric Cooperative. “By allowing us to round up their electric bills to the next whole dollar, participating members donate a few cents every month to the Operation Round Up trust fund. That

doesn't seem like a lot of money, but it adds up fast when hundreds of people join the effort.”

We need your help! If you

would like to participate in Operation Round Up, please complete the sign-up form below and return

it to our office. We hope every Oakdale Electric member will participate in Operation Round Up. When more members contribute, more help can be given! If you have any questions about the program, please contact our office or check out our website at www.oakdalerec.com. ■



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Bruce Ardelt, General Manager

P.O. Box 128, Oakdale WI 54649

(608) 372-4131 • (800) 241-2468

info@oakdalerec.com

Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: (800) 927-6151

Toll-free online bill payment: 866-392-4307

FAX Number: (608) 372-5173

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call (800) 242-8511.

Step up and participate in Operation Round Up!

Yes, I want to participate in Operation Round Up®

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Acct. No.: _____

Date: _____