

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Affordable electricity powers quality of life

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted. According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances, and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater, and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV, and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and businesses, and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing. Typically, when demand goes up,

so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses. Annually over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%, medical care increased 2.8%, and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value. The next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series, or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life. We care about you — the members we serve — and understand that electricity is more than a commodity — it's a necessity. That's why Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.



George Walton
PRESIDENT & CEO



Clayton Hoepf Memorial Fund



Clayton Hoepf, 38, passed away from injuries sustained in a swimming accident. He was at his home with his family when the accident occurred. He was a lineman for Hancock-Wood Electric for the past 10 years. He was more than just a co-worker and employee; he was a part of our cooperative family.

Clayton married Angie on Jan. 17, 2015. She survives, along with their children, Hayden, Chase, and Hudson. Clayton was a true outdoorsman. He loved to hunt, trap, and simply enjoy nature and all its beauty. He passed his love for nature to his children, who loved spending time with him on his outdoor adventures. He loved nothing more than attending his children's sporting events. His entire world revolved around his kids and Angie. Clayton was the absolute best dad. Family and friends were everything to him. His intelligent, quick wit was second to none and almost impossible to one-up, but it was always meant in a fun-loving way.

Hancock-Wood Electric has set up a gofundme page to support Angie and his children, as Clayton was the main provider for their family. You can find a direct link



to the gofundme on the HWE Facebook page or by searching for "Clayton Hoepf Memorial Fund" at www.gofundme.com. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. Any donations or kind words are welcome. All donations made will be going directly to his family.

Think Energy Smart with Bruce



Gas tank water heaters are a very common appliance used to heat domestic water in our area. These heaters are usually available in two sizes, 40 gallons or 50 gallons. The exhaust system is also available with two options, either a metal exhaust that is terminated out the roof or a fan-assisted exhaust that can be terminated out the side wall of a building. The price to purchase one

of these heaters from a box store is \$400 to \$1,100. If you have a contractor install it, the cost will be around \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Advantages of using a gas hot water tank:

- Recovery time
 - ◇ Faster recovery time than an electric tank. These heaters can produce over 60 gallons of hot water the first hour compared to around 20 gallons with an electric tank.

- Energy savings
 - ◇ A gas water heater tank will save about 15% using propane and 30% using natural gas versus using an electric hot water tank.

Disadvantages of using a gas hot water tank:

- Maintenance/parts
 - ◇ A gas water heater contains parts that need maintained to improve reliability. The gas control, burner, and venting system should be inspected by a professional periodically.
- Location restrictions
 - ◇ The location of a gas water heater can be restrictive because the unit must be installed in a location that will allow for flue gases to be expelled, and the heater to obtain air for combustion.

Next month, I will share information about tankless electric water heaters.

2021 virtual annual meeting

Thank you to all who virtually attended the 2021 annual meeting on June 12. If you were not able to attend the live annual meeting, you can watch the recording on our YouTube page. During the meeting, we announced our newly elected board of trustees members: Tim Phillips representing District 1, Gene Barker representing District 4, Ed Crawford representing District 5, and Brian Terry representing District 10.

Other highlights from the meeting:

- Through Operation Round Up, \$773,566.73 has been given to local charitable organizations since 2008.
- There is no rate increase for 2021, and we have a new extension of service into North Point Development Industrial Park (across from CSX Intermodal) near North Baltimore.
- We invested \$3 million into line rebuilds, new services, and the replacement of electric plant facilities for 2020. Our crews rebuilt 6.5 miles of three-phase electric lines in Hancock County.
- HWE completed major substation capital improvement projects in 2020, including the Hatton substation (\$1.9 million), which will improve reliability for members in the West Millgrove area.
- In 2019, we created four strategic goals: sustain a culture of safety, formulate strategies to protect our service territory, identify opportunities to promote member and community engagement, and improve rates and costs. We have completed all these goals and are now working toward creating new goals for 2021 and 2022.



Tim Phillips
DISTRICT 1



Gene Barker
DISTRICT 4



Ed Crawford
DISTRICT 5



Brian Terry
DISTRICT 10

Operation Round Up

The Operation Round Up second quarter board meeting was May 17. The Community Trust Fund board met to discuss the grants requesting funding.

The following organizations received funding:

- Fort Findlay FOP \$1,741.55
- Hancock Literacy \$5,000
- Liberty-Benton Elementary \$2,128.70
- Vanlue Fire Department \$2,770

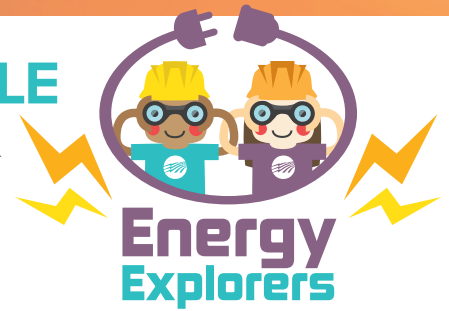
The next Operation Round Up grant requests are due on Oct. 18. Visit our website for grant applications and more information on how to apply.



Shannon Andersen, executive director of Hancock Literacy, received funding for the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

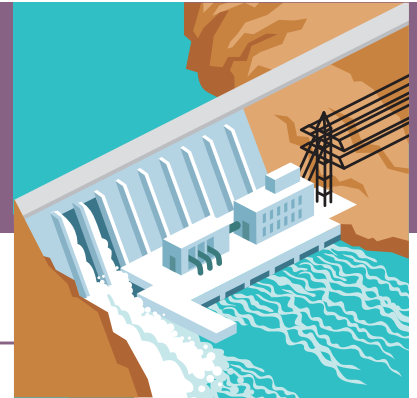
HYDROPOWER WORD SCRAMBLE

You know that it's never safe to mix water and electricity. But did you know that large amounts of flowing water can be used to create electricity? It's called hydropower, and it's made from the movement of water.



Read the facts about hydropower below, then unscramble each **bolded** word.

Check your work in the answer key.



1. YROHD means “water” in Greek.

2. Water flowing down a EVRRI is used to spin large turbines that help make the hydroelectricity.

3. When the turbines spin, a large TROAEGREN spins, which makes the electricity.

4. The amount of water used to generate hydropower is controlled through use of large MDAS.

5. Hydropower is a form of ELNERAEWB energy.

ANSWER KEY:
1. HYDRO 2. RIVER
3. GENERATOR
4. DAMS 5. RENEWABLE

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