



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Electric grid reliability

The heat of summer brings with it a greater risk for power outages in parts of the U.S. and Canada. On May 18, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) shared its 2022 Summer Reliability Assessment, which warns that upper and central Midwest states are at an “elevated” or “high-risk” of energy shortfalls over the summer due to predicted above-normal temperatures, drought conditions, and wildfires. That announcement does not include Ohio. The regional transmission organization (PJM) has maintained both capacity and energy markets that will ensure an adequate supply of energy in Ohio and our immediate region of the country.

NERC’s announcement aligns with research findings released last month by Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the independent, member-based organization responsible for operating the power grid across 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. In April, MISO released the results of its 2022-2023 Planning Resource Auction, indicating that parts of 11 Midwestern states, Ohio not included, may not have enough capacity to supply the power its residents will need in 2022-2023. At-risk states include Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The findings of this research underscore the importance of having a diverse power generation portfolio to maintain power grid reliability and manage uncertainty in a changing energy landscape.

The leaders of Buckeye Power, which generates and transmits power to Ohio’s 24 electric cooperatives, including Hancock-Wood Electric believe the NERC and MISO reports accurately reflect the fragility of the electric grid in North America. It also contends a contributing factor to the marginal generation availability is the premature retirement of baseload electric generating facilities and the rapid movement

to intermittent renewable energy sources.

Reliable power is an expectation that seldom receives much notice, until events in other parts of the United States expose the fragility of the electric grid. Both California (2020) and Texas (2021) suffered blackouts that impacted thousands of customers because low energy prices were favored over reliability. Contingencies did not exist for severe weather events or a shortage of generation capacity. Further, the interdependency of the natural gas and electric utility industries is often overlooked which contributes to lower reliability for both.

Those events in Texas and California, along with the potential challenges in the Western and MISO regions in 2022, are subjecting customers to excessive outages and blackouts because of poor planning and policies that disproportionately incentivized the proliferation of intermittent generation resources. Ohio and the Midwest region should not compromise on power reliability.

The significant challenges of integrating large quantities of intermittent renewable power to the regional transmission grid without adequate baseload generation cannot be underestimated. Until sufficient technology is developed to support intermittent generation, baseload fossil fuel is needed to meet the constant need for electricity.

Ohio’s Electric Cooperatives President and CEO Pat O’Loughlin says these capacity shortages should not directly impact Buckeye Power but are a warning sign of the road the industry is headed down. Buckeye Power will advocate for policies that support the need for baseload generation that is clean, reliable, and technically feasible, and is committed to providing a mix of generation resources that balance affordability, reliability, and environmental responsibility.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

Thinking about solar? Call us first.

Our community, including Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative members, is being targeted by door-to-door solar panel system salespeople giving misleading or false information on costs, financing, and payback period. This has resulted in members owing thousands of dollars for inoperable or incomplete solar panel systems. To avoid becoming a victim, please:

- Call your co-op Energy Advisor Bruce Warnecke toll-free before signing any contract 419-257-5025
- If you discover you have been provided false information, contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office at 800-282-0515
- Educate yourself on solar panel systems and cost before you invest



Operation Round Up second quarter grants

During May, the Community Trust Fund board approved three grant requests from the following organizations:

Hope House

\$5,000 was approved for their ABLE fund which provides resources for those seeking available housing with a family member with special needs.

Kelleys Island EMS

\$10,000 was approved to purchase a backup generator.

Liberty-Benton Elementary School

\$2,000 was approved to purchase kindergarten decoding books for students with dyslexia.

Do you know an organization who could benefit from an Operation Round Up grant?

Apply today at:

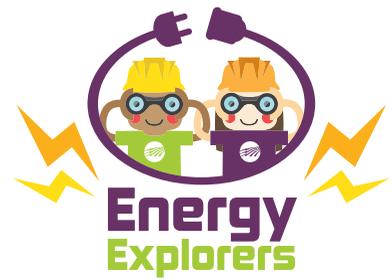
hwe.coop/community-involvement/operation-round-up-community-trust-fund.
The next deadline for applications is July 18.



COOPERATIVE FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

As a member of an electric cooperative (also known as a co-op), you're part of something special! Read the facts about co-ops below and use the word bank to fill in the blanks.

Check your work in the answer key.



Word Bank:

Electric
Principles
Members
Communities
Co-ops

1. Co-ops don't have customers. Instead, they have _____.
2. Co-ops are local organizations and businesses, so they understand the local _____ they serve.
3. All co-ops are guided by the same set of cooperative _____.
4. _____ are led by the members they serve.
5. You're a member of an _____ co-op, but there are also housing, grocery, and other types of co-ops.

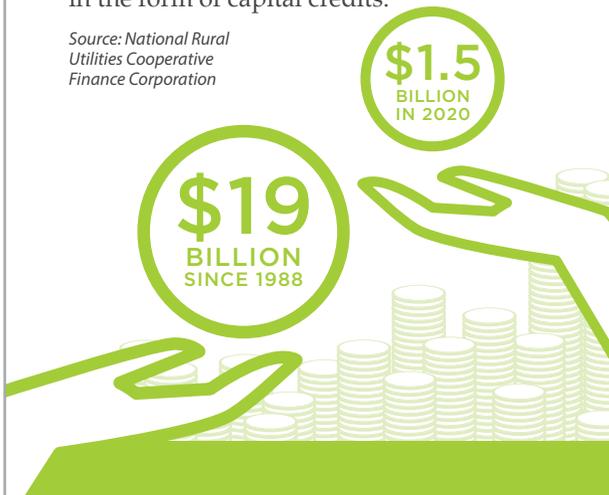
Answer key: 1) members 2) communities 3) principles 4) co-ops 5) electric

Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$19 billion to members since 1988 - \$1.5 billion in 2020 alone.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers, and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances.

Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: EIA and DOE



Happy Independence Day!

The Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative office will be closed on Monday, July 4.



CONTACT

800-445-4840
FAX: 419-257-3024

WEBSITE

www.hwe.coop

OFFICE

1399 Business Park Drive South
P.O. Box 190
North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-0190

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online, dropbox, office, by phone, or automatic bill pay

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop

Members First! 
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