



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Balancing electricity supply and demand

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life — so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. Behind the scenes, though, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity, and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

Powerful sources

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas, or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind, or hydropower.

At Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, we work closely with Buckeye Power, our Ohio cooperative wholesale power partner, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a combination of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix — coal, natural gas, hydropower, biogas, and solar power — Buckeye Power has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, through which electricity is bought and sold. Because Hancock-Wood works with our wholesale power partner, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, Hancock-Wood knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings, when you're starting your day, and in the evenings, when you're cooking dinner, running appliances, and watching TV. Demand also

increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

Managing supply and demand on the grid

Across the country, other electric utilities manage the same task of balancing supply and demand to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

The amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations and independent system operators. RTOs, ISOs, and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors, and communities across a large region will need more power and take steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

Looking ahead

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

Hancock-Wood remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve, so we're preparing now for increased demand and other challenges.

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators, and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.

To learn more about Hancock-Wood's power supply, visit www.hwe.coop.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

Operation Round Up donates more than *\$35,000* to local organizations



At the November 18th meeting, the Community Trust Fund Board reviewed applications for the fourth quarter Operation Round Up grant cycle. The following organizations received funding:

- Eagleville Joint Ambulance District
- Hancock Christian Clearing House
- Hancock Public Health
- Krout Cemetery Association
- Liberty Benton Elementary-Middle School
- North Baltimore Public Library
- Vanlue Fire Department
- Hancock-Wood Electric's Board of Trustees (each trustee will choose a local organization to receive a donation)



The deadline for the next Operation Round Up grant cycle is **January 20, 2025**.



Think Energy \$mart with Bruce

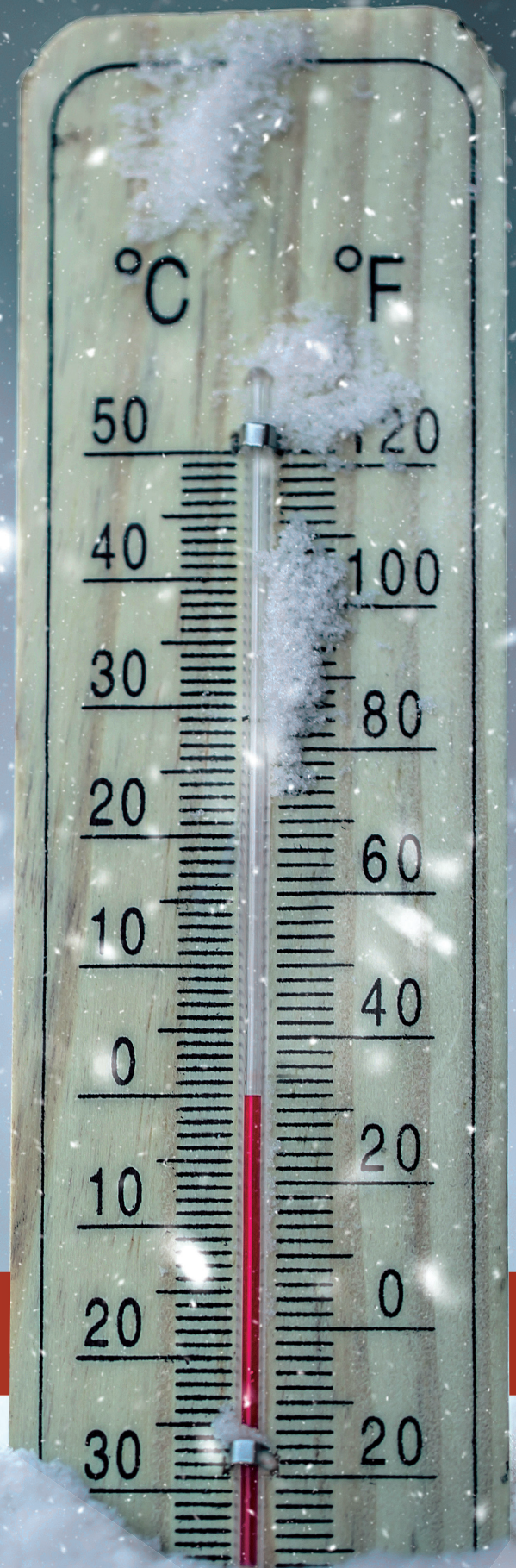


February is typically when I receive the most questions about increased electrical consumption. Since electric bills are generated from the previous month's consumption, January is the best time to provide you with my most common findings.

Consumers understand that colder weather may cause an increase to their electric bills because it will cause heating devices to operate more frequently, but where many of them get caught by surprise is when they add to or replace their primary heating system as temperatures get colder. The most common item added is a space heater. Space heaters are a great temporary solution to a heating problem, but the cost to operate one can get very expensive. Most 120-volt plug-in space heaters use 1,500 watts per hour. At that rate of consumption, those heaters will cost about 18 cents per hour to operate, which adds up to \$130 per month to operate each heater, if operating constantly. The physical size or shape of the heater does not dictate how much energy the heater will consume. Check the label on the back or bottom of the heater to verify its energy consumption rating.

The other items I typically see turned on this time of year are engine block heaters, which cost 12 cents per hour, and heat tape, with a cost of 2 cents per hour for 30 feet. I understand these items are necessary in certain applications, but please monitor these items and only use them when necessary.

If you have questions about your electric consumption, please give me a call at 419-257-5025. I am happy to help!



Seniors can apply for our 2025 Scholarship Program

The Children of Members Scholarship program is available to any high school seniors whose parents are current Hancock-Wood Electric members.



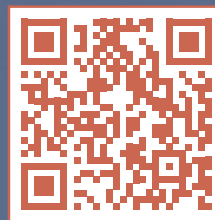
The following awards will be granted for the 2025 program:

- 1st place: \$3,500
- 2nd place: \$3,000
- Five honorable mentions: \$2,000 each

Deadline to apply: Feb. 7, 2025

To apply, visit our website www.hwe.coop or call our office for more information.

Scan to download an application today



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