



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Benefits of time-of-day rates



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

also known as “on-peak hours.” Early-morning hours, such as 6 a.m., when people often start their day, and evening hours, when people return to their homes after work until about 10 p.m., are common times for on-peak hours. To reduce peak energy demand and save money, many electric co-ops have created a time-of-use rate program to encourage electricity use during off-peak hours — when energy is less expensive to provide. Similar to saving money by attending a matinee, you can keep more money in your wallet simply by using electricity during an off-peak time period.

Using less on-peak power means lower energy costs for Hancock-Wood Electric and keeping rates stable for our members. Electric rates that are based on time of day offer consumers the ability to lower their electricity costs without reducing the amount of electricity used. By performing

some of your daily chores, like running the dishwasher or charging your electric vehicle, during off-peak hours, you can save on your utility bill. In a similar vein, you can plug electronic equipment, such as computers, printers, TVs, and power tools into a power strip, then turn it off during peak hours. Another advantage of time-of-day rates is you can put technology to work for you. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your heating/cooling system syncs up with the off-peak rate periods. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters, and other appliances in the same way.

Saving energy can be simple. By shifting your energy use to off-peak times, you could have the power to save on your monthly energy bill. Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative’s staff and board will continue to research new and innovative ways — like time-of-day rates — to save members money.

In November, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative worked with a consulting firm, The Prime Group, on a cost-of-service study. This study evaluated our current rates and looked at potential new rate designs to help allocate costs fairly among our current members. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe costs should be fairly and equitably assigned to members based on who is responsible for those costs. Since the costs of a kilowatt-hour vary throughout the day, one of the options the Hancock-Wood Board is considering is a time-of-day rate.

What exactly is a time-of-day rate? Did you know that when you use electricity often matters as much as how much electricity you consume? It’s no surprise electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand, and electric co-ops must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy demands of their members during times of highest energy use,

Rebuild projects for 2023

In 2023, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative's operations department will be rebuilding 15.7 miles of line in our service territory, investing approximately \$1,680,422. These projects will help improve reliability and service to our members in Hancock, Wood, and Putnam counties. If you would like to see specific line rebuild project locations, visit our website at www.hwe.coop. Under the residential tab, click on "rebuild program projects."

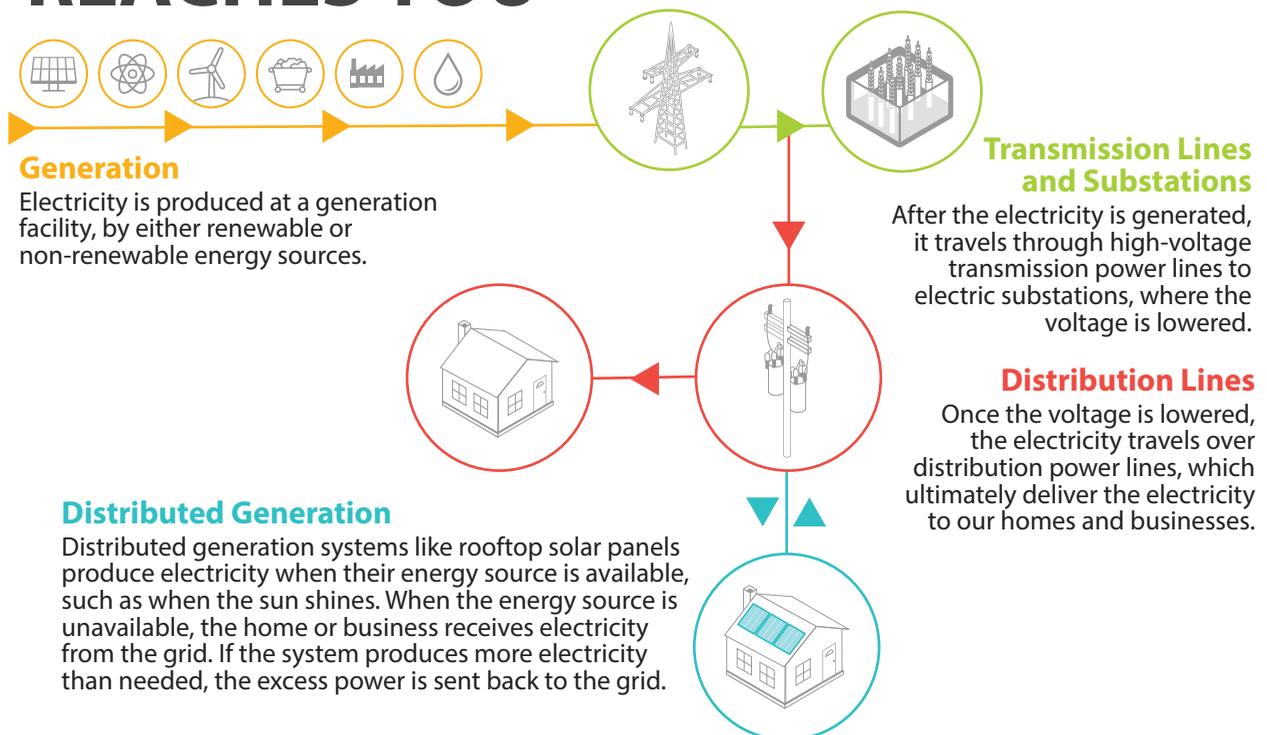


Unclaimed capital credits

Each year, Hancock-Wood returns patronage capital to members as tangible evidence of one of the benefits of being a cooperative member. Last December, the board of trustees retired more than \$2.5 million to HWE members.

We have a list on our website of past members who are nearly out of time to claim their checks. According to our Code of Regulations, if a past member fails to claim patronage capital within four years of its issuance, the money is allocated to current members' patronage accounts. Visit <https://hwe.coop/capital-credits-or-patronage-capital> to see the current list.

HOW ELECTRICITY REACHES YOU



Interested in running for our board? Download a petition today.



Districts 2, 7, and 9 are looking for eligible members to run for our board of trustees. Use your camera app to scan the QR code to the right and learn more. Deadline for petitions is March 15.



Think Energy \$mart *with Bruce*

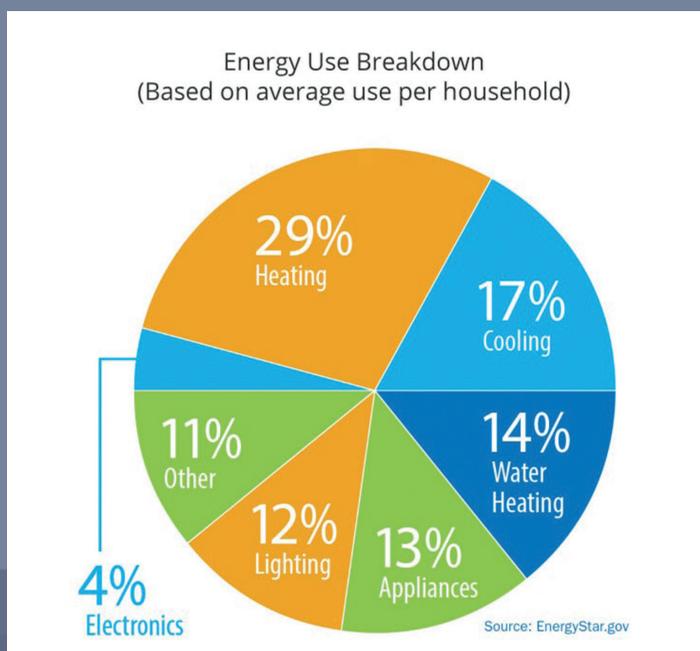
A home energy bill is the cumulation of energy used by many different systems and appliances working together in your home to offer you home comfort and convenience. Many members have asked how much energy each system uses within their total annual energy consumption. The chart from EnergyStar.gov, below, displays the percentages each

home system uses in the average American home.

This chart shows that the biggest reductions in energy consumption could be realized by examining the energy consumed by your heating system.



Eliminating drafts and improving insulation will be the first places to make improvements, in most cases. Upgrading the heating system is also an option, if your system is outdated. "Tightening up" the construction of your home should lower energy consumption by your home cooling system, as well, and possibly reduce your cost for heating water. The remaining areas, such as appliances and lighting, typically require replacement to a more efficient technology or using the components less frequently. Lastly, be sure all systems of your home are turned off or set back when not in use.



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