

# Current REPORT

For members of Lynchés River Electric Cooperative

## Electric Co-ops Know What Works

There's no sugarcoating the power crisis we face as Americans. Over the past five years, electric bills have shot up 30 percent on average, largely because of sharply rising costs for coal, natural gas, and basic construction materials such as steel, concrete, and copper.

At the same time, electricity consumption is increasing. In some regions—the West in particular—demand will soon outstrip supply, according to the North America Electric Reliability Corporation, which oversees reliability of the U.S. power grid.

Electric cooperatives, growing much faster than other sectors of the electric utility industry, face a double-whammy in all of this. A report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture finds we will need to double existing generation capacity by 2020 to keep the lights on. This means adding power plants that will be the most expensive in history thanks to escalating prices, inflation, international competition for raw resources, labor, and expertise, as well as impending federal climate change mandates.

By taking steps such as promoting energy efficiency and offering home energy audits, Lynchés River Electric Cooperative is working as best we can to minimize the effects of cost increases we are all enduring.

But if we expect electricity to continue being a safe, affordable, and reliable resource, not a luxury for the well-to-do, we must convince policymakers to work for energy solutions that are economically, technically, and politically sustainable over the long term.

Electric cooperatives have been bringing electricity to the farthest reaches of our country for more than 70 years—we know what works. What we need

now is strong leadership on the part of our elected officials, who will listen to our needs and address the tough questions we've been asking for close to a year:

- What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?
- What are you doing to speed the development of new technology, which will allow me to have the electric power I need while meeting national climate policy goals?
- What will you do to keep my electric bill affordable?

Electric cooperatives across the country are currently engaged in a grassroots campaign called "Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America" to ensure these important policy considerations are made a priority.

One year ago, NRECA CEO Glenn English unveiled the "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign. Since then the "Our Energy" campaign has generated over 1 million e-mails and letters sent to lawmakers.

But, the campaign is far from over and is now more important than ever. The New Year will bring a new administration, a new Congress and most likely climate change legislation.

Please visit [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) to join this crucial conversation. For those of you who have already joined in, thank you.

Let's keep letting lawmakers know the actions they take regarding our energy challenges carry enormous consequences for the folks back home.

It's time to make our voices heard.

Contact Kevin Brownlee to learn more about the *Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America* campaign.



**Our Energy, Our Future**  
A Dialogue With America

# Working together is the key to our energy future

**Y**ou hold in your hands the first issue of Current Report, a newsletter for Lynch River Electric Cooperative members. You will receive Current Report in your bill every other month.

Some of what you read in the newsletter may seem repetitive, but it is information vitally important to our future. As the article on the front page indicates, we are facing rising energy costs and the prospect of power shortages by 2020. We need to act now to ensure we have the power we need at affordable rates. I encourage you to join the Our Energy, Our Future campaign and let your voice be heard.

Meanwhile, we can plan for the future by looking at the past. Cooperatives beat what may have seemed like insurmountable odds to bring electricity to rural America. By working together, cooperative organizers were able to realize their vision of a better life. Today, cooperatives continue to work together to address current and future energy challenges.

Members working together can have a real impact too, by taking steps to conserve energy and become more energy efficient. In issues of Current Report and the Living in South Carolina magazine, you will find energy-saving tips, articles, facts and data to help you create a comfortable, low cost and environmentally friendly home.

Visit our web site, [www.lynchesriver.com](http://www.lynchesriver.com), and click on the EnergyTips icon on the right side of the home page to learn more about energy efficiency with the Home Energy Saver, Energy Calculator, Energy HomeWorks Tour and the Light Bulb Calculator. There's also an online version of our Energy Tips brochure.

Our certified energy auditor is here to answer your questions or conduct an on-site energy audit of your home. Give him a call to schedule an appointment.

Consider signing up for our Levelized Billing program to help you manage your electric bill. Levelized Billing averages your monthly bill over 12 months guarding you against large monthly fluctuations, usually occurring in the summer and winter.

Please call us for more information about all of our programs and services. And remember, together we can make a difference.



## Viewpoint



Robert G. Wannamaker  
Interim CEO

### **INTERIM CEO**

Robert G. Wannamaker

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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Cecil E. McLain - District 7

Johnny A. West - District 8

### **REMOTE PAYMENT SITES**

*Chesterfield*

Piggly Wiggly Market of Chesterfield

33 West Boulevard

Chesterfield, SC 29709

*Jefferson*

The General Store

360 N. Harold Ingram Hwy.

Jefferson, SC 29718

*Kershaw*

Quality Appliance

407 South Hampton Street

Kershaw, SC 29067

*Lancaster*

The Energy Center, Inc.

667 Lancaster Bypass 9 E

Lancaster, SC 29720

# Juniors—Apply Now for Washington Youth Tour

2009 Tour June 13 - 18

How would you like to spend time this summer in Washington, D.C. with 1,300 or so high school juniors from across the country? If you're chosen to represent Lynch River Electric Cooperative on the Washington Youth Tour, you could spend an all-expenses paid week in our nation's capital.

The Youth Tour is six fast-paced, fun-filled days with visits to places of historical significance, a trip to Capitol Hill to meet with congressional representatives and a cruise on the Potomac River.

The purpose of the Washington Youth Tour is to offer students a glimpse of their government in action and to learn about the value of electric cooperatives.

The tour is open to high school juniors served by Lynch River Electric Cooperative. Applications are available from the cooperative and from high school guidance counselors. Applications can also be downloaded from the cooperative's website at [www.lynchesriver.com](http://www.lynchesriver.com). Contact Leigh Smith, Youth Tour coordinator at 675-3213 or toll free at 800-922-3486 ext. 213 for more information about the tour or to request an application.



## *The Beginning of Rural Electrification*

This year Lynch River Electric Cooperative will celebrate 70 years of providing safe, reliable and affordable electric power to its members. In this and future issues of Current Report and the Living in South Carolina magazine, we will offer highlights of significant events leading to rural electrification and the formation of Lynch River Electric Cooperative.

### *Birth of REA*

In the 1920s only 10 percent of farms in rural America had electricity. Those farms were either close to cities or could afford to pay the high cost of electricity charged by large utilities.

Farmers wanted electricity and tried many times, unsuccessfully, to convince electric companies to serve rural areas. At the time, electric suppliers were focusing their efforts on building service to consumers in towns, where more customers per mile of line meant more profit.

As luck would have it, Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt traveled to Warm Springs, Ga. in 1924 to convert a run-down resort into an important medical foundation.

After his election as president in 1933, Roosevelt made rural electrification a major objective in his movement to improve life in rural America. Years before while staying in Warm Springs he had seen how the high cost of electric power kept many people from benefiting from its use.

On May 11, 1935 President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 7037, establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

In 1938, President Roosevelt spoke to a crowd of forty thousand people in Barnesville, Ga. as he dedicated an electric cooperative financed by the Rural Electrification Administration.

In his speech at the dedication, Roosevelt said, "Fourteen years ago a Democratic Yankee came to a neighboring county in your state in search of a pool of warm water wherein he might swim his way back to health. . . . There was only one discordant note in that first stay of mine at Warm Springs. When the first-of-the-month bill came in for electric light for my little cottage, I found that the charge was eighteen cents a kilowatt hour—four times what I pay at Hyde Park, New York. That started my long study of public utility charges for electric current and the whole subject of getting electricity into farm homes. . . . So it can be said that a little cottage at Warm Springs, Georgia, was the birthplace of the Rural Electrification Administration."





Look for this symbol to find "Green" info

Lynches River Electric Cooperative is committed to helping members become energy efficient and environmentally responsible. Look for the symbol above in issues of Current Report to identify articles about Green Power, Do the Light Switch and Our Energy, Our Future, as well as energy efficiency information.

## Share your energy-saving story

Tell us what you and your family are doing to make your home more energy efficient. Share your story with cooperative members so they can benefit from your experiences. Describe how the cost-saving measures have helped make your home more comfortable and lowered your bill. Email your energy-saving story to [www.info@lynchesriver.com](mailto:www.info@lynchesriver.com) and if your story is chosen, we'll feature it in an issue of Living in South Carolina magazine.

Visit Us  
On the Web

[www.lynchesriver.com](http://www.lynchesriver.com)

Learn more about energy efficiency, Levelized Billing and other programs and services we offer.



# No-cost ways to conserve energy



- Check the furnace filter each month, and clean or replace as needed. Dirty filters block air flow through your heating system, increasing your energy bill and shortening the equipment's life.
- During cold months, keep window coverings open on the south, east, and west windows to allow the sun to heat your rooms.
- Glass fireplace doors help stop heat from going up the chimney. Also, close the fireplace damper when not in use.
- Dress appropriately for the weather, and set your thermostat to the lowest possible comfortable setting.
- On winter nights, put extra blankets on the bed and turn down your thermostat even more.
- About 15 percent of an average home energy bill goes to heating water. To save hot water, take five-minute showers instead of baths.
- Do only full loads when using the clothes washer or dishwasher.
- Use cold water for laundry and save up to \$65 a year—detergents formulated for cold water get clothes just as clean.
- Lower the temperature on your water heater. It should be set at "warm," so a thermometer held under running water reads 130 degrees.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

## Space heaters require caution

As the temperature drops, many families may use portable electric space heaters to help warm their homes. Be aware space heaters could cause fires and injuries if not used properly.

### Follow these simple precautions:

- 1 Read the manufacturer's instruction manual before using any space heater. Check to make sure the heater bears the mark of a certified testing organization.
- 2 Keep space heaters at least 3 ft. away from any combustible materials such as bedding, clothing, draperies, furniture and rugs.
- 3 Keep space heaters away from areas with water. Check your manual to be sure the heater is intended to be used in locations such as bathrooms.
- 4 Don't use space heaters in

rooms where children are unsupervised. Children may stick their fingers or other objects through the protective guards, causing burns or shock.

- 5 Avoid using an extension cord with a space heater. If you must use one, make sure it is the right wire gauge size and type for the heater.
- 6 Portable heaters have hot parts that can cause sparking. Do not use them in areas where flammable liquids such as gasoline or kerosene are used or stored.
- 7 Space heaters are meant to supply supplemental heat. Don't use them to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- 8 Turn off the space heater and unplug it when not in use.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International