



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
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# FLINT HILLS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

## Flint Hills RECA

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## Annual Meeting Notice

The Flint Hills RECA Annual Meeting will be March 23, 2010, at the Centre High School. The meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting following at 7 p.m.

This year's meal of roast beef, gravy, scalloped potatoes, cole slaw and dessert will be catered by Kathy Svitak of Kathy's Herb and Spice of Marion. Entertainment will be provided by "Bob & The Boys".

**We hope to see you there!**



## Interested in Wind Power? First, Estimate the Cost

Many co-op members in Kansas are interested in installing small renewable energy systems—particularly wind turbines—at their homes, businesses, or farms.

Many are looking for reliable answers to two questions: How much money can I save on future electric bills? Will the savings justify my initial investment?

In response, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., (KEC) has posted a worksheet utilizing Microsoft Excel on their Web site to help with these critical calculations.

Dubbed the Small Wind Cash Flow Model, this free tool enables members to input variables such as construction



To access the Small Wind Cash Flow Model visit KEC's Web site at [www.kec.org/smallwindcashflow.aspx](http://www.kec.org/smallwindcashflow.aspx).

cost, grants, debt financing, operation and maintenance expenses, generation, consumption, retail electric rates, avoided cost, and project life.

Once the numbers are entered, a prospective wind turbine owner can determine annual cash flows and the net present value from the investment under either a net billing or net metering arrangement.

"With this program, anyone can quickly determine the feasibility of putting in a small wind turbine," said Doug Shepherd, KEC's vice president, member services.

The Small Wind Cash Flow Model can be accessed through KEC's Web site at [www.kec.org/smallwindcashflow.aspx](http://www.kec.org/smallwindcashflow.aspx).

## Fire Extinguishers:

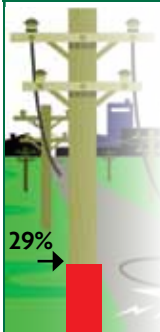
A Little Preparation can go a Long Way

House fires can happen in seconds: in one instant, you could go from whipping up dinner to watching flames spring up from the stovetop.

Fire extinguishers should be placed in easily-accessible areas of the home, close to where they might be needed (such as in a kitchen, garage, or bedroom). Some basic rules to keep in mind when using household fire extinguishers:

- ▶ **If the fire is not spreading** and remains confined to a small area, use the appropriate type of extinguisher. Select a multi-purpose extinguisher (rated A, B, or C) with the UL mark that can be used on all types of fires such as wood, cloth, paper, flammable liquids (gasoline, oil, grease, oil-based paint), and energized electrical equipment including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers and appliances.
- ▶ **Know both your limits** and that of the fire extinguisher.
- ▶ **Periodically inspect** your extinguishers to determine if they need to be recharged or replaced. Extinguishers need to be recharged or replaced after each use—even if you haven't used the entire extinguishing agent. Check the gauge on the fire extinguisher for this information.
- ▶ **When operating a fire extinguisher**, stand at least six feet away from the fire and keep your back to a door so you can escape easily, if necessary.

## FEMA Restoration Update



As of January 1, Flint Hills RECA has completed 143.25 miles of our 492 miles of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rebuild work. Just 348.75 miles remain.

## Regulation on the Horizon for Carbon Likely Increases in Electric Bills will Result

Federal curbs on emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas blamed as a principal cause of climate change, are quickly becoming a reality. It's just a matter of which government branch gets there first: legislative, executive—or both.

In December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), part of the executive branch, declared that six key greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, are endangering public health and welfare. Emissions from motor vehicles of four of those greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, are also said to contribute to dangerous air pollution under this “endangerment finding.”

“This action puts a ‘foot in the door’ for EPA to promulgate sweeping new regulations that could impose strict limits on carbon emissions from power plants, driving up electric bills,” warns Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which represents the interests of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned and governed electric cooperatives.

The concern is that with carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles falling under federal Clean Air Act regulation, other emitters of carbon dioxide—fossil fuel-fired power plants included—may also soon be subject to EPA oversight.

“The Clean Air Act as written was never designed to deal with carbon, and it would be awkward at best and probably a disaster at worst,” English adds.

Electric co-ops believe that any controls on carbon dioxide should be established by Congress, where the impact of these proposals can have a full public debate. Unfortunately, a climate change bill passed by the U.S. House last summer (H.R. 2454) and another reported by the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in November (S. 1733) include unachiev-

able goals and timelines for reducing carbon dioxide emissions, inadequate technology development incentives, and no guarantee that electric bills will remain affordable. Current proposals will unfairly penalize consumers in fossil fuel-dependant states by saddling them with higher bills to essentially subsidize and lower electric bills for those in other regions.

What's more, Senate leaders have admitted that climate change legislation has stalled and will likely be picked up sometime in the spring. This legislative logjam makes it all the more important for co-ops and consumers to pay careful attention to EPA's current efforts.

English insists that any climate change legislation should protect consumers and preempt use of the federal Clean Air Act and any other existing laws. Otherwise, utilities and businesses could be burdened with the task of trying to comply with more than one set of regulations.

“Regulation of carbon dioxide as a pollutant will occur with or without congressional input,” English explains. “But Congress must not simply add new legislation on top of old regulations. Any climate change bill should become the roadmap—the single strategy—for reducing carbon dioxide emissions at federal, state, and local levels.”

He continues: “By staying engaged in the process, electric co-ops can have a measurable impact on the outcome.”

Electric co-ops are fighting to ensure that any climate change policy goals adopted are fair, affordable, and achievable. To make your voice heard in this debate, join NRECA's Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots awareness campaign at [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop). To date, more than 600,000 of your fellow co-op consumers across the country have already done so.

# Wanted! Youth Tour Participants

*Sophomores and Juniors: Don't Miss This All-Expense-Paid Trip of a Lifetime!*



Taylor Diehl (in black shirt sitting) and his teammates build a power system model at the 2008 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.



Donavon Campuzano (right) toured Craig Station Power Plant to learn how electricity is generated while at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.

The Flint Hills RECA is sponsoring two all-expense-paid trips to Steamboat Springs, Colorado on July 10-16, 2010.

This trip is part of a four-state Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, sponsored by rural electric cooperatives in Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas.

Contest winners will learn about electrification, cooperatives, energy issues, leadership and interpersonal communications.

The contest is open to all current high school sophomores and juniors in Flint Hills' service area, whose parents or guardians are members of Flint Hills RECA.

Contest entrants will be interviewed and required to take a brief written test covering material that will be made available to each contestant.

If you are a high school sophomore or junior and are interested in this trip, please call our office at 620-

767-5144 or send an e-mail to [diann@flinthillsrec.com](mailto:diann@flinthillsrec.com) by **February 5, 2010**.

Once we receive your call or email, material will be sent to you for the interview process. Attendance will be required for the interview which is scheduled to be held on a later date, at Flint Hills RECA offices in Council Grove.

The best source of information on this trip of a lifetime would be our past campers, Taylor Diehl and Donavon Campuzano. If you know these previous winners, ask them about their experiences.

You can also find out more information from the 2010 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp brochure on our Web site at [www.flinthillsrec.com](http://www.flinthillsrec.com).

CO-OP Connections Update		Have you taken advantage of your Connections Card yet?	
	Prescriptions Filled	Savings to Flint Hills' Members	
December	27	\$211.65	
2009 Total	325	\$4,969.04	



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