

## A Call to Action

Once again we need your help.

As you may know, the Cap and Trade legislation has stalled in the Senate. There is still a chance that they will address this issue later this year, or sometime next year after the 2010 elections.

However, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently considering proposals to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act.

The author of the Clean Air Act, Rep. John Dingle, D-Michigan, stated this would result in a "glorious mess" as the Clean Air Act was never intended nor designed to regulate these emissions.

It is the responsibility of Congress to determine any climate change legislation, not the EPA. There is currently one bill in the Sen-

ate, and two bills in the House that would prevent the EPA from using the Clean Air Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska; sponsors the Senate measure and Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D wrote the one bill in the House, while the second is authored by Reps. Ike Skelton, D-Missouri, Collin Peterson, D-Minn., and Jo Ann Emerson, R-Missouri. 274880

We ask that you contact Senator Bond, Senator McCaskill, and Representative Graves and ask them to support these measures. Congress needs to step in and prevent the EPA from using the Clean Air Act as a tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from stationary

sources, such as power plants. It's the role of Congress to determine greenhouse gas policy that is fair and affordable for all Americans.



**Mike Sanders**  
**FEC CEO**

We are making it easy for you to contact the senators and congressman listed above. On pages 3-4 of this issue of *Watts Up*, we are providing postcards to simplify the process of communicating with your representative and senators.

In 1932, President Franklin Roosevelt declared that electricity was a necessity, not a luxury. He committed to making it available and affordable to all Americans. We must not turn back from that commitment.

For more information, please go online to [ourenergy.coop](http://ourenergy.coop).

## 2010 Committee on Nominations will meet Tuesday, April 13

The 2010 Committee on Nominations will meet Tuesday, April 13, at 11 a.m. at the Farmers' Electric Cooperative office in Chillicothe to propose one candidate for three director positions. The election for the three director positions will be held at the June 8 Annual Meeting of the cooperative.

A director will be elected from District 6, which consists of all or parts of the cooperative's service territory lying within the county of Linn. 273692

The 2010 Committee on Nominations includes: Kenneth Lee, 12030 Ridge Avenue, Winston; Dennis Farmer, 5208 SE Wildlife Road, Cowgill; April Williams, 11076 LIV 2313, Chillicothe; Charlotte F. Miller, 14255 CR 291, Hale; Judy Holcer, 31619 Highway W, Meadville; and Dennis Widhalm, Route 1, Box 144, Brunswick. 41295

In accordance with the rules and regulations set forth for your cooperative, it is necessary to publish the list of the Committee on Nominations so that the members of Farmers' Electric Cooperative may contact them prior to the April 13, 2010 meeting.

A board member may also be nominated by petition if 15 or more members nominate an individual, not less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting, to be held June 8, 2010, in Chillicothe. Additional nominations may also be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the cooperative who:

a) is not a member and bona fide resident consumer in the area served by the cooperative (i.e. such member must actually live in a

residence being served by the cooperative), which the office of director exists; or

b) is an employee, outside or independent contractor of the cooperative, or has within five (5) years preceding the date of election been an employee, outside or independent contractor of the cooperative; or

c) is not at least eighteen (18) years of age; or

d) is in any way interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative.

## Maintenance work for 2010 will include replacing 14 miles of line, over 700 poles

Farmers' Electric crews and private contractor will be very busy this year, replacing at least 14 miles of power lines and over 700 poles.

FEC currently has 3,772 miles of energized power lines and over 80,000 poles on its distribution system that covers all or parts of nine counties.

The largest power line replacement project will be an eight-mile stretch coming out of the Kidder substation. Another 2.5 miles of power lines will be replaced out of the same substation about three miles east of Hamilton.

The remaining 3.5 miles of line to be replaced will be east of Hale.

"Most of the lines being replaced are the original power lines that were installed many decades ago," said Troy Hermanson, Operations Manager for Farmers' Electric.

All of the power lines being replaced are

three-phase distribution lines.

Plans also include replacing over 700 power poles in the extreme northwestern part of FEC's service territory around Coffey.

Tests on the poles showed they had decayed to a point to where they were no longer reliable, said Hermanson.

"This will take longer than normal to replace these poles because most of them are right on state highways," Hermanson said. "This requires the use of additional personnel for safety reasons, including flagging traffic."

Hermanson said the crews would have to use two trucks to replace the old poles. One truck would be used to pull the energized line away from the old pole. The other truck would remove the old pole and install the new one.

Hermanson said power would not be turned off while the changeout took place and there shouldn't be any interruption of service.

## Doug Rye says... "What does green mean to you?"

Green, green and more green. What does it mean?

Folks, have you noticed that the word "green" shows up in more magazines, newspapers and television programs than ever before? It is almost like a new color has been developed.

My first recollection of the color green was that it was one of my six Crayola crayon colors. I soon learned that you used the green crayon to color grass and trees green, just like they are now (that it is springtime.) I still like green grass and green trees.

My next recollection of the word "green" was when adults would use it to describe a person. It usually meant that the person was young and inexperienced or, as they also said, "still wet behind the ears."

As I grew up, there were other things green that evoke fond memories. My first automobile was an emerald green Chevrolet. My next car was a dark green Oldsmobile with fender skirts.

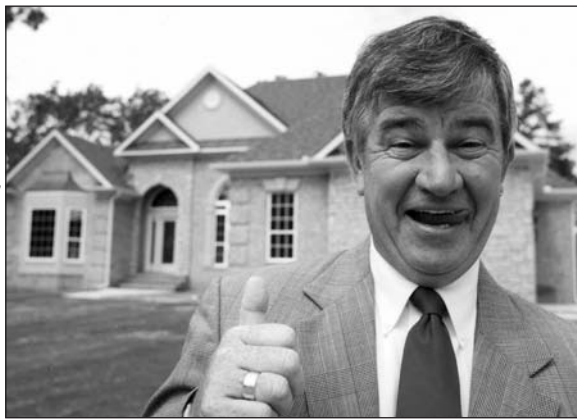
Wow. What memories.

I also have some bad green memories – like turnip greens, green beans and broccoli. Anyway, now that I am dry behind the ears, I like all of those green veggies. At about 18 years of age, I learned that I wouldn't have anything to eat, green or otherwise, if I didn't get a job and bring home the green. Well, through time, words often take on additional meanings. Since

this column is always about energy efficiency, let's talk about what it means to be green in 2010.

Well, first of all, focusing on energy efficiency is being green. I am happy to say that every Doug Rye house built in the last 20 years would be considered green.

Let's take a moment to talk about green construction and what that means. To qualify as green construction, I think that both the construction should be environmentally friendly and save folks money on their energy bills.



Energy Efficiency Expert Doug Rye

The first draft of this column took several pages because I got carried away by listing every item that is used in the construction of a house and giving it a green score. So instead of doing that, let's just score a couple

of items and we'll use a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being best.

Technically speaking, I should give every product at least one green point because everything is made from the earth. Some products, however, will score a lot of green points.

A great example would be cellulose insulation, which is made from paper that was made from trees, a renewable resource, and then recycled into insulation. Cellulose insulation saves folks money every day for the entire life of a house. I can't give it a perfect score of 10,

however, because some energy was required to harvest the trees, make the paper and manufacture the insulation.

A geothermal heat pump also scores a lot of green points as it uses the earth's Btus for heating, cooling and water heating. These Btus were supplied by the sun, the ultimate renewable energy resource. In fact, I have started calling geothermal, solar thermal.

Because most of the energy in houses nationwide is used for heating, cooling and heating water, geothermal systems score a 9, higher than other heating and cooling systems.

Well, instead of taking three more pages, I thought I'd give

you a turn instead. Take a minute to review your house, its construction and your heating and cooling system. What type of green score does your house get?

I hope it is a good one, but if it isn't, just keep reading this column where we'll keep giving you tips on how you can improve it.

See you next month, when the outdoors should be even greener with spring in full swing.

*Doug Rye can be heard on KGOZ, KKWK and KAAN locally*

Every Saturday morning Doug Rye hosts a live call-in show on several area radio stations. He can be heard from 9-10 a.m. on KGOZ, 101.7, Gallatin, KKWK, 100.1, Cameron and on KAAN, 95.5, Bethany.

## Tax incentives, rebates for energy efficiency abound in 2010

Tax credits and other incentives make 2010 the year to make your home energy efficient. If you've been waiting on financial incentives to become more energy efficient in your home, this is the year. 271557

A federal tax credit of 30 percent of the cost of energy efficiency upgrades, up to \$1,500 is available through Dec. 31, 2010, on existing homes or principal residences. Qualifying products include insulation, light-colored metal roofs, select asphalt shingles, storm windows and doors and efficient heating and cooling systems.

Look for Energy Star labels, consult Internal Revenue Service guidelines and use Tax Form 5695 on your federal return.

Second, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Energy Center will receive more than \$5.6 million in federal funds from the U.S. Department of Energy to help Missouri citizens purchase energy-efficient appli-

ances.

DNR plans to launch the "Energize Missouri" appliance rebate program April 19, 2010, to run concurrently with the "Show Me Green ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday," providing both a rebate and state sales tax savings.

For more information, contact DNR or visit the program Web site at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/transform/energizemissourirebate.htm>.

### Efficiency workshop is April 8 with Hale Lions

A two-hour energy efficiency workshop is set for 6 p.m. at the Hale Community Center. The workshop is being held in conjunction with the Hale Lions Club regular meeting.

All members of Farmers' Electric are invited to attend the workshop. Topics to be covered include heating and cooling, lighting, insulation and caulking, efficiency opportunities, lifestyle changes and more.

The workshop is free to FEC members.

Also take advantage of your electric cooperative's Take Control & Save incentives for rebates on similar efficiency improvements.

These private and public incentives can be combined to create substantial savings both at the time of purchase and through future energy savings.

Finally, check out the weatherization program offered by your local community action corporation. Missouri received \$128 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for free weatherization for low-income homeowners. Income guidelines for qualifying have increased to 200 percent from 150 percent of the federal poverty level, meaning households with higher incomes can now qualify. 231550

Average annual energy savings equal \$358 in first-year savings per household, according to the Ozarks Area Community Action Corp.