

# CLARK ENERGY LINES

A publication of Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc., proudly serving our members since 1938.

## Environmentally beneficial electrification How using electricity can benefit the environment

If you are like many Americans, when given the choice, you would prefer your energy come from renewable sources such as solar or wind power rather than fossil fuels. As electric utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy resources and make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity uses less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced. This idea of “environmentally beneficial electrification” means that innovations in energy technology are creating new ways to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels such as propane, natural gas and fuel oil.

In addition to the utility industry, environmental groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) recognize the value of this concept. Sheryl Carter, co-director, NRDC Energy program says that, “Beneficial electrification will continue to play a big role in accelerating this transition in an effective and economic way, to the benefit of consumers, energy resilience and the environment.”

### Electric appliances can become greener over time

As a practical matter, beneficial electrification means that electric appliances, like your water heater, clothes dryer and oven have the potential to become greener over time. When

Innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity rather than on-site fossil fuels, like propane, natural gas and gasoline.



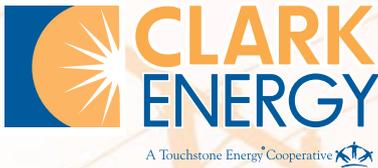
This concept is known as **beneficial electrification** and suggests that the use of more all-electric appliances and equipment, like water heaters, weed trimmers and electric vehicles, provides consumers with greener products and benefits the environment.

your electric coop takes advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point, it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the co-op member.

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of 15 to 20 years, it

means that you are able to benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the particular appliance. In other words, the high-efficiency oven you have today could

**Continued on page 32C**



# From the President's Desk

## Contact Us

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**To report an outage, please  
call (800) 992-3269.**

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## See it in theaters soon! AC vs DC at the movies

The soon-to-be-released movie *The Current War* tells the story of the late 19th century technological and business competition between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse, which set the course for the development of electric service across America.

While Edison was a developer and proponent of a "direct current," or DC, Westinghouse propelled the use of "alternating current," or AC, which ultimately prevailed as the method of choice to most effectively deliver electricity to homes and businesses. Some 135 years later, it's how Clark Energy serves you, safely, reliably and affordably.

Starring Benedict Cumberbatch as Thomas Edison and Michael Shannon as George Westinghouse, the industrial age plot offers a history lesson about the important safety debate that raged between Edison and Westinghouse, who was aided by Nikola Tesla. Yes, that's where Elon Musk got the name for his electric car.

The improvements and refinements to the delivery of your electric service continue to this day. Clark Energy works with East Kentucky Power Cooperative and the safety team from Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives, who are all dedicated to the safety of both our members who use electricity and those of us who bring it to you.

As we encounter new technologies, including and especially renewable energy, it is absolutely crucial that everyone remember: for all of the incredible benefits electricity brings to our lives, it is inherently powerful, and its dangers must be respected.



DEAN ROGERS © 2017 THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

This is why Clark Energy believes in creating a culture of safety by stressing safety every day. Our highly trained linemen are obligated to continue their training throughout the year, and we look for every opportunity to sound the safety message to you, our co-op members, throughout the areas we serve.

If you see *The Current War*, I hope—if nothing else—you come away with a reminder of the incredible power of electricity and how we must respect how we use and deliver it.



Chris Brewer, President & CEO

Continued from page 32A

be powered by renewable sources three years from now. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you essentially are locked into the technology of that gas appliance for the 15 to 20 year lifespan. As your co-op is able to tap into more renewable options in the future, the only way you would be able to benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

**Small steps to reducing carbon footprint**

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally-friendly energy options, choosing electric appliances over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers,

blowers and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric water heaters and other appliances, beneficial electrification can reduce greenhouse gases and help the environment.

At the national level, electric co-ops across the country are purchasing and generating more renewable resources, bringing wind, solar and geothermal energy into the electric power system, which means electricity is becoming greener. As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, Clark Energy is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. This means we can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renew-

able power choices as we continue to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power to our community.

Look for ways to choose beneficial electrification in the future. As NRDC's Carter further observes, "The successful transition to a clean energy future will require substantial reliance on efficient electric technologies like electric vehicles and advance electric water heating, including heat pump or grid-interactive resistance water heaters, powered by an increasingly cleaner and more flexible electric system."

Contact the energy experts at Clark Energy to discuss available renewable energy options and to learn about the latest ways to save energy.

## Include electrical safety in spring cleaning

As you give your house a good cleaning this spring, don't overlook your appliances and electrical fixtures.

Here are five items you might not have thought to clean:

**1 The stove's exhaust hood.** A year's worth of home cooking—especially after the holidays, when your home is full of company—can leave grime and grease build-up on the hood. That build-up, which also includes food particles and dust, can catch on fire. Remove the hood and clean the filter and all surfaces.

**2 The back of the refrigerator.** When is the last time you pulled it away from the wall or cleaned under it to vacuum the coils? A rule of thumb: Do that every two to three months. Dust on the coils prevents the appliance from operating efficiently. Once they're clean, push the fridge back toward the wall,

but don't let it touch. Air needs to circulate around your refrigerator.

**3 The dryer vent.** The lint that collects in the dryer ducts presents a fire hazard. Snake it out at least twice a year.

**4 Ceiling fans.** It's easy to overlook dirt and dust that you can't see. Drag a small ladder into the house so you can climb high enough to wipe down the tops of the blade. If your fan has a built-in light, remove the decorative cover and rinse out the dust and dead bugs. Let it dry completely before replacing it.

**5 Baseboard heaters.** They're a catch-all for dust, pet hair and whatever falls off of a nightstand or end table that's pushed against the wall. If they get dirty enough, they can prevent the heat from operating efficiently and even leave black stains on the nearby

walls. To clean them, shut the power off to the heater, remove the cover, lift out debris (and retrieve any lost items you find in there), and vacuum inside with a soft brush attachment.



### Reminder!

Applications and materials for the 2018 Citizen-Scholar Scholarship awards are due on **Friday, March 16, by 4 p.m.** If you have questions, please contact Lois at (859) 901-9226 or [lhatton@clarkenergy.com](mailto:lhatton@clarkenergy.com).

# Be prepared for stormy weather

In late June 2017, Rowan County received more than three inches of rain in a matter of hours. The storm put the American Red Cross's Touchstone Energy emergency vehicle and trailer into action.

While there were no reported injuries, there were rescues. The storm flooded the Rudy Fest at the Carter County Fairgrounds, surrounding campers with water. The storm also flooded parts of Olive Hill.

In these and other weather emergencies in recent years, people were in harm's way, and the Red Cross used the vehicle and trailer sponsored by Clark Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to help.

Clark Energy believes strongly in assisting people when they face disasters. That's why Clark Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are proud to sponsor

the vehicle, which can be loaded with cots, blankets and other emergency equipment to help families affected by disasters.

This spring, you can be prepared if disaster should strike by taking the following simple steps:

- Monitor weather news so you can take shelter if there is a tornado watch or warning
- Keep a battery operated radio and/or a weather radio available
- Have plenty of bottled water: enough for three days for each person in the house



- Check that you have a well-stocked first aid kit in case there are cuts, scrapes and injuries
- Keep flashlights with batteries handy
- Have an alternate power source available (such as a generator)

Clark Energy is concerned for your safety during storms. This spring, be prepared and be safe.

## Spring is in the air

It seems like it was just Christmas, but spring is right around the corner.

As the weather warms up and the days get longer, it's a good time for a few chores that could save energy—and money—throughout the spring and summer.

**Tune up your air conditioner.** Air conditioning weather is still a couple of months away, but if you put off having your equipment serviced until it's hot outside, you run the risk of an a/c breakdown on a sweltering summer day. A qualified HVAC tech can replace your central air conditioning system's filters, make sure it has enough refrigerant and clean its evaporator coils. A pro also can spot problems-in-the-making and recommend repairs, so they don't put your unit out of commission.

**Open the windows.** Natural ventilation costs nothing. On warm spring days, invite spring breezes and sunshine in. It's a great way to air out the house as you begin your annual spring cleaning.

**Turn off the heat.** And delay your use of the air conditioner. Unless April and May are especially warm this year, enjoy the open windows for as long as you can.

**Seal cracks in the drywall on the indoor side of your exterior walls.** You'll find them around electrical outlets, cable lines, windows and doors. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save up to 30 percent on your energy bills by sealing air leaks around your house.

**Service your large appliances.** The refrigerator is one of your home's largest users of energy. Keep it clean on the inside and out—including the coils, which are located on the back of it or along the bottom, as they collect dust and sap the unit's efficiency. Also, clean the lint out of your dryer's vent pipe, which can catch on fire.

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 11!** Set your clocks ahead by one hour.



It's also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.