

# Plugged In



## Office Locations & Hours

Monday-Friday  
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Corporate Office  
5255 St. Rte. 95  
P.O. Box 111  
Mt. Gilead, OH 43338  
419-947-3065

District Office  
4993 St. Rte. 521  
Delaware, OH 43015  
740-363-2641

Toll Free  
800-421-5863  
service@consolidatedelectric.coop  
www.consolidatedelectric.coop

## Board of Trustees

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## From the President by Jerry Lauer

**We're different- We're looking out for you!**

Cooperatives are different from any other business you deal with. We're different because we're looking out for you. Now, more than ever, that's important because we need to work together to keep your electric bills affordable.

Congress did not pass a comprehensive climate bill last year. However, in January, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began regulating greenhouse gasses — an action made possible by a 2007 Supreme Court decision, followed by rulings allowing the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions. Policies dealing with coal ash, even more stringent controls on other power plant emissions and state renewable energy requirements could also lead to higher costs. It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain: government regulations are going to increase the cost of doing business. New regulations won't be the only culprit. Prices for fuel, materials and equipment will continue to rise.

We're committed to keeping you informed about policy changes that will impact your electric bill through channels like *Country Living* and the cooperative's website. We're going to do everything we can to keep your electric bills affordable.

To accomplish that, we're controlling costs through innovation. Our website, [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com), shows how little changes like sealing your air ducts, replacing old appliances or improving your home's insulation can add up to big savings on your electric bill. We also offer home energy audits to make sure you're getting the best value out of the energy you use every month. Deploying solutions like our automated meter infrastructure system helps us control operating costs and improve service reliability.

Consolidated Electric is member controlled and locally operated. As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates. Each year you have the opportunity to elect fellow members to our board of trustees to represent your best interests.

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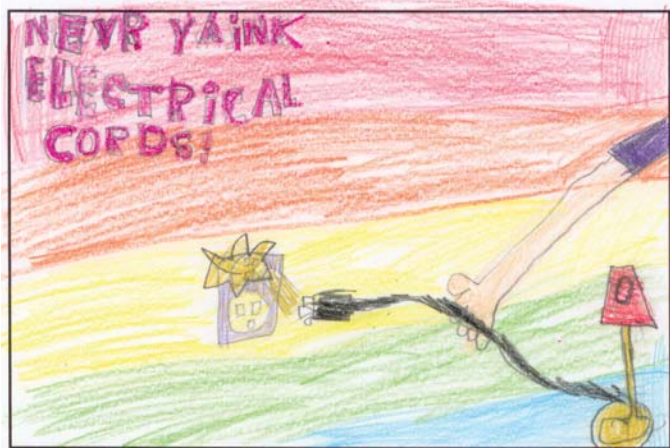
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www.CONSOLIDATEDElectric.coop

## Safety first

At Consolidated, we take safety seriously – and so should you! **The Safety Whiz Kid** program was created to enhance electric safety awareness among elementary students. As part of the Safety Whiz Kid campaign, Consolidated Electric ran a safety ad contest for second grade students in all of our member school districts. Each student, in the chosen district's second grade class, was given their own template to create an electric safety ad.



Winning students were chosen from their classes and received a backpack full of back-to-school goodies valued at over \$50. Shown at right is a winning ad created by **Brianna Haynes** of Buckeye Valley East Elementary.

### Generator standby switch

Did you know that Consolidated Electric offers a generator standby switch? The switch mounts behind your electric meter and allows you to easily and safely connect a portable generator. It eliminates the need to run electric extension cords throughout your house to appliances. Once the generator is plugged in, the standby switch safely disconnects your home from the electric grid and connects it to the generator. Then you can control what appliances you want to use by flipping the breakers in your existing electrical box. No special wiring is needed for standard residential 100- or 200-amp electric service.

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Member control means we are accountable to those we serve and are dedicated to assisting our communities. Costs are rising for all of us, but when it comes to your electric bill our rates are set simply to cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders.

While we're affordable and innovative, above all else we're member focused. No matter what comes our way we'll continue to put you, our members, first.

For just \$9.99 per month this generator standby switch can be your assurance that should the power go out, your inconvenience will be minimal. Switches are also available with surge protection to protect the major appliances in your home for an additional \$3 per month. The generator standby switch is also available for purchase.

Give us a call at 800-421-5863 to learn more or visit the Products and Services section of our website at [www.CONSolidATEDelectric.coop](http://www.CONSolidATEDelectric.coop).

### Propane, carbon monoxide and methane detector

Consolidated Gas Cooperative is proud to be one of the family of subsidiary companies of Consolidated Electric Cooperative. As a nonprofit metered propane cooperative, our main focus is serving the needs of our members – you!

Propane gas is one of the safest fuels available today, but we understand your concern for safety. That is why we offer an inexpensive and easy-to-install detector that protects your safety and gives you the peace of mind you deserve. The propane, carbon monoxide and methane detector is a small unit that simply plugs into the wall. The unit is \$50 plus tax and can be ordered by calling 866-946-6600.

## Metering tampering is against the law.

It is estimated that up to \$4 billion of electricity is stolen annually nationwide. And just like shoplifting, it's the honest people who end up paying for it.

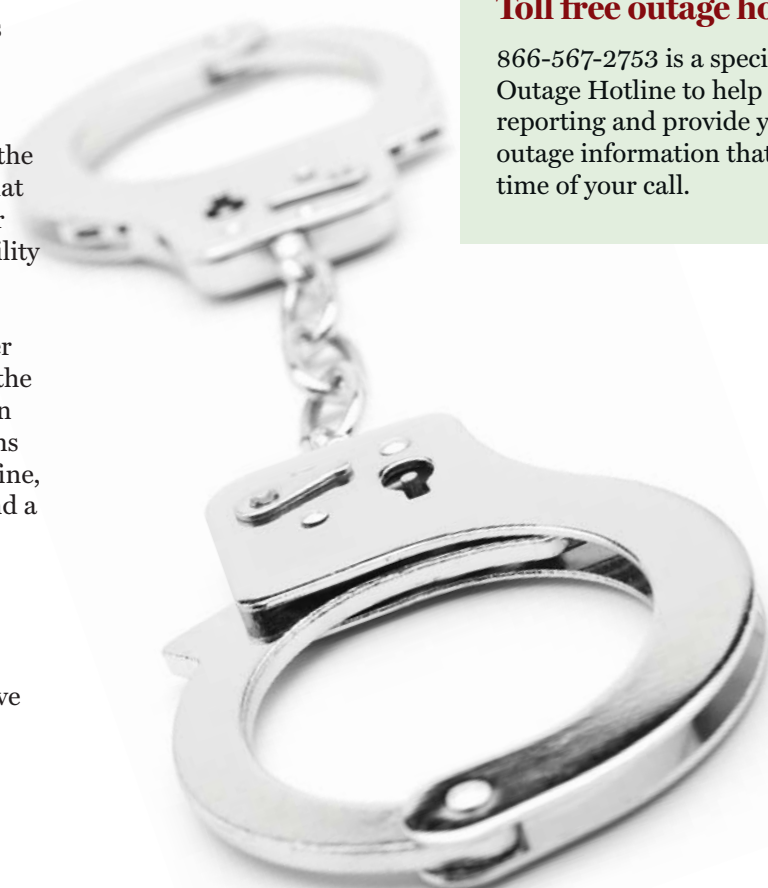
In Ohio, theft of electricity is a first-degree misdemeanor if the value of the stolen electricity, plus any equipment repair, is less than \$300. It's a fourth degree felony if more than \$300, or the offender was previously convicted of the charge. Tampering with an electric meter carries similar penalties.

The offender doesn't have to be caught in the act. The law states that reconnecting a meter disconnected by a utility or tampering with a meter is prima facie evidence that the user intended to defraud the utility. Conviction can mean from six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine, to five years in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

Tampering with an electric meter is not just illegal, it also is dangerous. There have been cases of serious injury or death from electrocution when someone tried to

tamper with an electric meter. If you suspect someone of tampering with an electric meter, contact Consolidated Electric immediately at 419-947-3055.

Your call will be kept confidential. Help us keep your costs down by eliminating electricity theft.



### Need to contact us?

If you have questions about your electric service or account, please contact one of our offices listed below.

#### Corporate Office

5255 St. Rte. 95  
P.O. Box 111  
Mount Gilead, OH 43338  
Phone: 419-947-3055  
Fax: 419-947-3082

#### District Office

4993 St. Rte. 521  
Delaware, OH 43015-8766  
Phone: 740-363-2641  
Fax: 740-369-1804

Toll-free: 800-421-5863

e-mail: [service@conelec.com](mailto:service@conelec.com)



### Toll free outage hotline

866-567-2753 is a special automated Outage Hotline to help speed up outage reporting and provide you with any outage information that is known at the time of your call.

The vast majority of Americans care about the environment. Yet, when it comes to taking action our efforts often fall short. We all lead busy lives. Most of us need to be motivated and educated in order to remedy our concerns about the environment. Our goal is to provide you with the education and resources to follow through with your good intentions. Because the world tomorrow shouldn't be an afterthought today...

It's everyone's responsibility to care for our resources and use them wisely. Your electric cooperative cares about the

Another thing to consider for the future is the possibility of reliable electricity becoming an unaffordable luxury for low-income Americans. We hope this is not the case, but today Americans are in an energy crisis. If Americans want to keep electricity safe, reliable and affordable, Congress and America's electric cooperatives must work together. Join the 535,000 American consumers who have asked their elected officials tough questions about our energy future.

It's simple, just log onto [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) and click the

## Give it to me straight...what's my future look like?

environment and renewable energy. That's one of the reasons why we are exploring new, earth-friendly energy alternatives. You can participate in the EnviroWatts® program for as little as \$2 a month. That's about the cost of a cup of coffee! By purchasing just one block of EnviroWatts each month for a year, you can have the same environmental impact as not driving your car for three months or not using two and one-half barrels of oil.

To learn how you can support renewable energy, contact Consolidated Electric Cooperative at 800-421-5863 or visit our website, [www.consolidatedelectric.coop](http://www.consolidatedelectric.coop).

contact elected officials link. Here you will find a sample letter that can be personalized from you to your congressman. The website is packed full of information. You'll find consumer testimonials, facts on cost, technology and electricity supply, news releases and multimedia presentations.

So visit [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) today and begin a dialogue for your future and the future of the next generation.



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

# Energy audit

Has your energy use been fluctuating? Are you looking for a practical way to save on your electric bill? Want to learn about energy efficiency improvements that can really make a difference?

Call your energy advisor **Roger Keller** at **419-949-2929** to sign up for a home energy audit for only \$25. Roger will then call you for a pre-audit evaluation. This initial call could determine whether you need a personal 75 point in-home energy audit. Before the energy advisor visits your home, make a list of any problems or concerns you want to discuss.

You'll learn more about energy audits, power quality, improved insulation and a whole lot more - from air conditioning and attic ventilation to windows and water heating. It's valuable information that you can use whether you're building a new home or remodeling your present one.

For more information visit visit [www.yourenergyadvisor.coop/?id=6](http://www.yourenergyadvisor.coop/?id=6).



Roger Keller,  
CEC Energy Advisor



# Heat your Home the right way

Keeping your home comfortable in the winter time can be a costly process if you make these common mistakes.

*Mistake - Maintaining a constant temperature.* A common misconception is that it takes more energy for the furnace to reach a comfortable temperature than to maintain that temperature. But by leaving the house at a comfortable 68 degrees, even when you are sleeping or away

*Mistake - Closing off vents in unused rooms.* You might think that you are wasting energy heating rooms that you aren't using, but by closing off vents in unused rooms you are actually changing the air pressure of your whole system causing your furnace to run inefficiently. Experts recommend never shutting off more than 10 percent of vents. Sealing your ducts is a more efficient way to save energy.



at work, you are missing out on major savings. By installing a programmable thermostat and knocking the temperature down by 10 degrees for eight hours per day, you can cut your heating bills by 5-10 percent. Sure, the furnace will cycle on for a longer period to return to the more comfortable temperature, but it will be far outweighed by hours of savings when it didn't have to work as hard.

*Mistake - Cranking up the temperature to warm up the house.* Just because you've lowered the temperature when you left the house, doesn't mean you need to blast the heat to warm it back up. If you return to a cold home, adjusting the thermostat to a higher setting will not warm up the house any quicker. Most furnaces pump out heat at the same rate no matter the temperature. They just cycle on for a longer period to reach the higher temperature.

*Mistake - Using the fireplace.* Sorry, but an open fireplace flue will likely draw more cold air into the house than the heat the fire can radiate into the living space.

*Mistake - Using electric room heaters.* A single energy-efficient space heater in a small, well-insulated room can save energy if the central heater is switched off but generally, using multiple space heaters to warm your home can lead to higher energy bills. Electric heaters can also be a fire hazard, so make sure the unit is placed in a safe location.

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

# NEWS

Consolidated Electric Cooperative has recently been notified that it will receive a \$200,000 Technical Assistance Grant. The grant, made available under the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service, was awarded in conjunction with a previously awarded Broadband Initiative Program Grant/Loan.

Construction began in November on Consolidated's 160+ mile fiber optic backbone network which will extend from a data center in Columbus, north through Delaware and Morrow counties and terminate in Mansfield. The network will provide carrier neutral 21st century telecommunications service to the north central Ohio region through a choice of regional carriers. This connectivity is viewed as a vital infrastructure component in attracting and stimulating economic development.

A portion of the Technical Assistance Grant will be used to conduct an Economic Development Market Study of the project area. This study will include identifying potential development site locations and matching the locations with compatible

## THE MORE YOU KNOW

business start up and expansion activities. It will also include a marketing plan to identify, target and engage the entities to encourage site selection within the project area.

The Technical Assistance Grant will also fund an Engineering Study to expand existing fiber infrastructure and identify complimentary fiber networks in the region along with pathways to those networks from Consolidated's fiber infrastructure. This will enhance the value of the networks and ensure the fiber optic infrastructure will be utilized to its maximum potential as an economic development engine in an expanded regional area.

Consolidated Electric Cooperative originated in the 1930s, providing electric service to the rural portions of Morrow, Delaware and surrounding counties. The situation today regarding broadband access is analogous to the early deployment of electricity.

## The Big IDEA!

Take charge of your electric use with a **Kill-A-Watt** electricity use monitor. The Kill-A-Watt monitor is a unit that you plug directly into the wall to help you know which appliances and equipment are consuming more power and draining more dollars. You can calculate your electrical expenses by the day, week, month or year. Start making decisions about your lifestyle and save on your energy bill.

Consolidated Electric Cooperative has provided local libraries with the units that can be borrowed like a book. Please visit one of the libraries listed below to "check out" the unit so you can take charge of monitoring your electric use.

Delaware Library  
Ostrander Library  
Ashley Wornstaff Library  
Sunbury Community Library  
Centerburg Library  
Fredericktown Library  
Cardington Library  
Mt. Gilead Library  
Perry Cook Library  
Selover Library



# I USED TO PUT A FEW DRINKS AND \$146 IN MY SECOND FRIDGE.

After I purchased a new ENERGY STAR® qualified refrigerator, I moved my old one to the garage to keep a few drinks cold. Turns out, that move was burning a pretty big hole in my wallet. Now I'm saving \$146 per year just by pulling the plug on my old fridge. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



2010 Morrow County 4-H Camp

# Commitment to Community

Commitment to community is not only one of Consolidated Electric Cooperative's (CEC) Seven Cooperative Principles, it is a way of life for many CEC employees. Teamwork is what strong families and communities are built on. Working hand in hand as a cooperative they are dedicated to serving not only our 16,000 members, but the communities they live and work in.

When you stop in to make a payment on your electric account, you may happen to see member service representatives **Missy Kidwell** and **Pam Rutherford**. Kidwell serves as a member of the local YMCA steering committee, advisory council and Founders Campaign, and has been actively directing the younger generation for 11 years as a 4-H advisor, an advisor to the Morrow County Jr. Fair Board and an adult staff member for Morrow County 4-H Camp. Rutherford has been active in the Delaware Community Service Day, Habitat for Humanity organization, Delaware Hayes Touchdown Club, Optimist Club, Morrow County Relay for Life

and her community block watch program.

Our economic development department includes **Bob Jenkins** who serves on the Sunbury/Big Walnut and Delaware Chambers and **Dan Boysel** who is a commissioner for the Preservation Parks of Delaware County, a board member for the Marion, Morrow, Knox and Delaware Workforce Development organization and the Morrow County Chamber of Commerce, and has been a part of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee District 17, Delaware Republican Party Central Committee, Delaware Noon Kiwanis, Marketing Morrow and the National Rural Economic Development Association. His list extends to serving as chair on the Buckeye Valley Finance Committee and co-chair for The Ohio State University Ag Alumni Fall Fest.

CEC's engineering and operations department is not only dedicated to keeping members' power on but also to their communities. **Phil Caskey**, is an active elder at Mansfield First Presbyterian Church and is

active on various committees and has taught both children's and adults' Sunday schools, volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and serving meals for All God's Children Ministry. Caskey also volunteered for Ohio Reads and Junior Achievement at Mt. Gilead Elementary School and has served on the Ms. Wheelchair Ohio organizing committee.

**Tim Applegate**, is involved with youth sporting activities as a coach for Mansfield/Madison youth baseball, softball and soccer and he also donates his time to line (paint) all the soccer fields for the soccer program. **Trevor Saks**, system arborist, is a member of The Nature Conservancy and he and his wife, Tracie, are foster parents for Franklin County and are active members in the Franklin County Foster Parent Association.

Your CEC linemen are devoted in community efforts as well. **Matt Rich** is serving the Cardington community as a girl's softball coach for six years, a VP of the girls softball board and as a member of the Cardington Community Foundation. **Dan Hershner**

donates his time helping run chains for football games and basketball halftime shots at Mt. Gilead H.S., and is a member of the Morrow County Conservation Club and the Lions Club.

**Vivian Curry** has taught Sunday school for approximately 15 years at the Prospect Baptist Church and is a member of Eastern Star. **Carla Thomas** is an active member of Relay for Life of Morrow County serving three years as a team participant, six years as team captain and four years on the planning committee. Additionally she coordinated adoption of a Christmas family for CEC for nine years and for seven years has personally adopted an elderly individual for Christmas.

The financial services department also boasts several volunteers. After her daughter had a stroke in 2009, **Barb Sherbourne** dedicated her time to OhioHealth to assist in developing marketing materials to help promote OhioHealth Therapy services. She has served as a captain and participant on the CEC Relay for Life team and as a missionary in Mississippi to help in rebuilding homes after hurricane Katrina

**Nancy Salyer**, through the Peace Community United Church of Christ in Waldo, is in the handbell choir, is a junior church teacher, on the ice cream social committee and is a participant in the live nativity and lunch for homeless drive. Salyer also keeps the scorebook for the River Valley H.S. volleyball team, is a volunteer for the Central District volleyball voting tabulation and for the Children's Hospital through The Memorial golf tournament. She also serves as a member of the Statewide Twig #8. **Carrie Bessinger** volunteers as a 4-H camp adult staff member and assistant advisor. Both Bessinger and Salyer volunteer for the Morrow County Relay for Life event.

Your CEO **Jerry Lauer** serves on the board of directors for Delaware Chamber of Commerce and is the VP for the Mt. Gilead Kiwanis. Human resources and marketing has a community focused individual in **Pam Hawk** who serves as a co-vice chairman on the Morrow County Red Cross board, is a past team captain and current team member of the Morrow County Relay for Life, participates in United Way, the Little Pride and Joy Mother's Club - Clothes Closet

and Christmas Adopt a Family program. She is a member of the Morrow County Chamber Human Resource Council committee and National Rural Electric Health Task Force member. She was also awarded Touchstone Energy Cooperative's Power and Hope Award in 2009, which goes to co-op employees who exemplify commitment to community.

**Steve Lewis**, who is employed by our subsidiary company, Consolidated Gas Cooperative, is an elder and Sunday school teacher for Morrow Bible Church.

CEC stands strong in its commitment to community — our family is your family and we are stronger together.



Tim Applegate, back row far right, takes time to coach his son Cole's, front row second from left, soccer team.

### Little artist contest

Last issue we published a Little Artist card entry as anonymous...we have found an owner! It's **Faith Stewart**, age 7, of Marengo! Her card is shown at right,

### Statement of Nondiscrimination

Consolidated Electric Cooperative Inc., 5255 St. Rte. 95, P.O. Box 111, Mt. Gilead, OH 43338, is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of the organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Jerry Lauer, president. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, DC 20250; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



### From the Boardroom – November

The board meeting on Nov. 23 started with Wes Reinhardt, VP/CFO financial services, providing a financial update. CEC continues to see net margins that are better than budget.

Nancy Salyer, director of financial services, reviewed rate class definitions and CEC's board policy #115 pertaining to financial matters. Interest rates paid on deposits were adjusted to better reflect current short-term interest rates in the market.

Reinhardt reviewed the proposed budget for 2011 for CEC, Consolidated Gas and Bright Energy. The operating expense budget was approved and the good news is that we do not expect a rate increase in 2011 for the distribution part of our business. However, we do expect a rate increase next summer from our wholesale provider, Buckeye Power.

Pam Hawk, VP human resources and marketing services, and Reinhardt reviewed maintenance expenses for the north office building. We need to continue maintenance on the building, with some areas not seeing changes for 20+ years.

Doug Payauys, VP information systems/CIO, provided an update on the fiber project. The team, Payauys, Tom Griffith, special projects facilitator, and Dan Boysel, key accounts executive, will continue their focus on the fiber project to ensure success.

CEC will be changing real estate brokers for the sale of its Cardington property. A small portion of the property will be rented to CEC's fiber contractor and used as a staging area for fiber construction.

Phil Caskey, VP engineering and operations, provided an update regarding the AMI project. The project is on schedule and is expected to be completed next year. Phil also discussed the change in policy due to the emerald ash borer and resulting impact on ash trees.

Charlotte Loren, trustee, reviewed the 2011 trustee election schedule.