

## MEMBER SERVICES

### **AUTOMATIC MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN**

Allows your monthly electric bill payment to be automatically deducted from your bank account on the due date. Sign up online (clayelectric.com) or call your local district office.

### **ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION**

Visit the Clay Electric web site (clayelectric.com) and access your account information:

- View your bill statement
- Make a one-time payment online
- View current charges
- View account balance
- View billing history
- View estimated meter reading dates
- Request emailed bill statements (Clay eBill).

**PROJECT SHARE** - Help others by designating a tax-deductible amount to be added to your electric bill or make a one-time donation.

**REMOTE METER READING (RMR)** - Enables a co-op meter reader to obtain the meter reading without entering the homeowner's property. The monthly charge is \$3.95.

**ENERGY SMART REBATE PROGRAM** - Offers rebates for members who install additional insulation in their homes, or who install a high efficiency heat pump or solar water heating system.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOANS** - Available for the purpose of installing certain energy efficiency measures, including metal roofing and solar water heaters.

**SURGEBLASTER** - High quality surge protection equipment at a low monthly lease.

**MARATHON WATER HEATERS** - Marathon water heaters are the most energy efficient electric resistance water heater on the market and are offered in an array of sizes (15 to 105 gallons).

**LONG DISTANCE PHONE SERVICE** - Clay has contracted with TransWorld Network Corp. (TWN) to offer members competitively priced long distance phone service. Call (877) 877-CLAY (2529) for more information.

**PAYMENT STATIONS** - Clay has contracted with Fidelity Express to offer payment stations for paying your electric bill at various businesses in the co-op's service area. Fidelity Express charges \$1 for each transaction. A list of payment locations is available online (clayelectric.com) and at your local district office.

## TWN announces rate hike

Members of Clay Electric who use TransWorld Network (TWN) long distance service are being notified that effective Oct. 1, 2009, there will be a 15 percent rate increase on all long distance and related products (toll-free and calling card products).

TransWorld Network's rate increase is due to their largest long distance undercarrier announcing increases in their costs. According to TWN, they aren't able to absorb the extent of these cost changes. TWN will begin notifying customers on their September bills of the upcoming rate increases, as these will begin to impact consumer invoices starting in October.

"Price increases are never good news, especially in times of economic hardship," said TransWorld Network CEO Colin Wood. "However, TWN has taken many steps over the past 10 years to absorb cost increases so that consumers did not feel the impact and we know that many consumers appreciate the savings they have realized."

The new rate structure will be:

Interstate: old rate - 5.9 cents; new rate - 6.8 cents

Intrastate: old rate - 6.9 cents; new rate - 7.9 cents

Toll free: old rate - 6.9 cents; new rate - 7.9 cents

Calling card: old rate - 9.9 cents; new rate - 11.4 cents

Please call 800-975-2529 if you have questions.

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Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' billing statements. If you have questions or comments about the Power Line publication, contact Editor Wayne Mattox at P. O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; e-mail: WMattox@clayelectric.com.

Clay Electric also publishes the Kilowatt six times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November). The Kilowatt is the official voice of Clay Electric and has been published continuously since 1948 as an informational and educational service for co-op members.

Clay Electric's web site (<http://www.clayelectric.com>) offers lots of online services such as payments, and information about the co-op's programs and services. Members can also write their own ads online to be published on the web site's Trading Post. To enter your ad on the Trading Post, you must use your Clay Electric customer number which is printed on your electric bill statement.

Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on Sept. 24 and Oct. 22 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_

# Power Line

September 2009

## Have your voice heard in Senate energy debate

The U. S. Senate will soon consider major climate change legislation. This legislation could significantly increase your monthly electric bill if not done right. As electricity prices go up, it impacts the cost of nearly everything, including your household budget.

It's critical that members of Clay Electric who are concerned about this bill participate in Our Energy, Our Future campaign. Join the 15,000-plus members of Clay Electric who have already signed up. This campaign is part of an effort by electric co-ops across the nation to let lawmakers know the climate legislation and energy policies they consider must be fair, affordable and achievable. You can sign up by going online to [www.ourfloridaenergy.com](http://www.ourfloridaenergy.com)

After signing up for the campaign, pre-written messages will be hand-delivered on your behalf to Florida's two U.S. Senators during September. The messages express concern that climate legislation must be fair, affordable and achievable.

*NRECA's Glenn English urges Senator Barbara Boxer to consider climate bill affordability. - story on other side*



Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_

A Truist Energy Cooperative

## Got something to sell? Try our Trading Post, print and online

Clay Electric's Trading Post offers a variety of items for sale or rent by members. The Trading Post is available online, and in the Kilowatt newsletter, which is read by over 164,000 members in North Florida.

Members are entitled to post a non-commercial ad in the Trading Post - either online or in the Kilowatt - at no cost, and anyone can shop. If you're shopping, you'll find all kinds of treasures there, but if you see something you like, you better act fast. Trading Post ads tend to get quick results.

If you would like to place an ad in the Kilowatt Trading Post, please mail your written ad to P. O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 attn: Trading Post, or drop your ad off at your nearest district office. If you have internet access, you can submit your Kilowatt Trading Post ad via a link on the Clay Electric web site. Visit [www.clayelectric.com/tradingpost.aspx](http://www.clayelectric.com/tradingpost.aspx) and follow the instructions. The Kilowatt newsletter is published six times per year - January, March, May, July, September and November.

To post an item for sale on the online Trading Post, visit [www.clayelectric.com/tradingpost.aspx](http://www.clayelectric.com/tradingpost.aspx) and follow the instructions. Online Trading Post ads are available for anyone to see, 24 hours a day, on Clay Electric's web site.

## English urges 'affordable' climate change bill

From the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) CEO Glenn English called on a key senator to help devise an "affordable, workable" climate change bill that will "distribute the costs of the program fairly and equitably" and has realistic technological goals.



English

"NRECA urges the Senate to craft climate change legislation that will achieve greenhouse gas reductions at the lowest possible cost," English wrote in an Aug. 6 letter to Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer, D-California.

He noted that any legislation will affect the nation's economy and could have a disproportionate impact on low- and fixed-income citizens. To that end, English urged an economic safety valve that "ensures affordability of electricity to our member-consumers."

While the association did not impede passage of the House version, English said electric co-ops believe senators need to make "substantial improvements," and that without them, "the legislation should not be enacted."

In his three-page letter to Boxer, he also called for emissions reduction targets and timetables that reflect the expected availability of technology, inclusion of significant incentives for new technologies, workable domestic and international offset credit programs; and climate change legislation that is free-standing, rather than "layered upon existing laws."

English also reiterated NRECA's concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency

using the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases as pollutants.

"Co-ops believe it is important for Congress to develop legislation that is an improvement over the existing Clean Air Act, which was never designed to address the climate change issue," he said.

English additionally urged that allowances to distribution co-ops be made solely on the basis of emissions.

He took issue with the House version, saying its allocation structure "leads to significant regional disparities in how well electric utility consumers are protected from rate increases" resulting from a cap-and-trade system.

## Senator expresses concern

As the Senate considers climate change legislation, some Democrats have questioned whether a House-passed bill treats parts of rural America fairly.

Comments from senators before Congress began its August recess suggest changes could be in store for the 1,400-page bill approved by the House in June.

Agriculture Committee Chairman Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said a formula for distributing emissions permits in the House bill is unfair and needs to be changed.

The formula is wrong because it allocates tradable allowances according to a 50-50 combination of utility emissions and annual sales, Harkin said. He added that the focus of emissions allowances should be on using them to reduce the impact on consumers.

"We need a better allowance for those of us in the Midwest who have relied for a long time on coal and natural gas," Harkin told reporters on July 21. "That 50-50 split is not fair, not in any way fair."



Sen. Harkin



Sen. Boxer