

Plugged In



Office Locations & Hours

Monday-Friday
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From the President by Jerry Lauer



Battling rising costs

Consolidated Electric has taken several measures to improve efficiencies and minimize material and labor-related costs. We are working hard to minimize costs that negatively affect your electric rate. One of several cost control initiatives has included hiring an in-house arborist (formerly a contractor position) to aid in the continuing upgrades and improvements to electric line protection bringing down overtime costs associated with outages. The cooperative has also attained a full Ohio Utility Protection Service (OUPS) membership, which locates underground facilities and has decreased annual costs significantly due to fewer outage calls.

But even with our best efforts, our projections and cost-of-service study show the need for a rate increase. Our commitment to you is to use your money wisely to maintain our high ratings in reliability and customer service, which you have told us is important to you. As a member-owned cooperative, we will continue to do so.

Looking forward, the electric industry faces many challenges such as adding more renewable energy, complying with additional energy legislation and updating the transmission system. Meeting these challenges means a cleaner environment and reliable electric service, but it will also require significant investments that impact members' bills.

Because Consolidated is a cooperative and owned by those we serve, we want to help you reduce the impact of rising energy costs. Below are simple steps you can take to lower the impact increasing prices have on your bill and help minimize future increases.

1. *Lower wholesale power costs.* Help reduce our wholesale energy bill by taking advantage of our rebate programs.
2. *Use less energy.* Using less energy reduces your bill and your impact on the environment. Consolidated Electric's Web site www.CONSOLIDATEDelectric.coop is full of energy-saving ideas and tools.
3. *Have a conversation with legislators.* Future federal and state legislative decisions on energy policies may increase your bills even more. Visit www.ourenergyyourfuture.coop to contact your elected officials.
4. *Help Consolidated reduce costs.* Consolidated has a number of programs available that help reduce our expenses while saving you energy, money and time. Sign up for automatic bill pay and ebill to receive your statement electronically. Call us at 800-421-5863 to find out how!

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