

MICHIGAN Country Lines

Teen Days' Circle of Friends



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Going "Green" With Renewable Energy

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TO SUBMIT A METER READING:

1) Call or use our 24-hour touch tone voice-mail hotline, Ext. 207

2) E-mail your meter reading at:
CEC@cherrylandelectric.com

3) Fax your meter reading at: 231-486-9404

PAY STATIONS:

Lake Ann Grocery

Cherryland Electric office

RENEWABLE or "green" energy is getting a variety of attention across the electric industry, and rightfully so. It is environmentally-friendly and will help reduce our reliance on foreign oil. Regrettably, it will likely come at a higher price to our respective pocketbooks, but that is a whole separate discussion. Today, I simply want to focus on what is happening with renewable energy at your cooperative, as this is one of the most frequent questions asked of me.

First, our wholesale power supplier, Wolverine Power Cooperative, is looking into a large-scale wind project to be located in Michigan. Hopefully, complete details will be released soon, if not before you read this. Whether or not this electricity source will be bundled in our current portfolio or offered to just those members who wish to pay the higher cost, will be worked out well before the energy is actually put on the grid. Regardless, if successfully completed, it will put us out in front as a leading provider of renewable energy in Michigan.

Second, Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the Michigan Public Service Commission would like to see each utility in the state acquire 10 percent of their electricity generation from renewable sources. All utilities in the state are waiting for legislation to be introduced. Whether the mandate ends up at 10 percent or some lesser number will be determined in the halls and on the floor of the Legislature. Almost everyone in Michigan's electric industry expects some level of renewable mandate to be passed in 2007.

Third, an individual homeowner can purchase a small windmill or solar system to generate his or her own electricity. Cherryland has one member who recently installed a solar system and connected it to our grid in hopes of selling excess electricity back to us. We also have a handful of members who have been generating a portion of their electricity for internal use for several years. The best way to get into the mainstream of these activities is to contact the Michigan Energy Demonstration

Center at Northwestern Michigan College's M-Tec facility or attend the Michigan Energy Fair, June 22-24, 2007, at the Manistee County Fairgrounds.

The final option is to buy Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). These are also called renewable energy credits, green tags, or tradable renewable certificates. Renewable Energy Certificates are the property rights to the environmental benefits from generating electricity from renewable resources given to an entity that has an actual operating renewable



By Tony Anderson
General Manager

facility, such as a windmill or biomass system. These RECs can be sold and traded and the owner can legally claim to have purchased renewable energy. Renewable Energy Certificates thus provide a subsidy to electricity generated from renewable sources by creating a financial incentive that is in addition to the actual electricity produced.

In a typical REC program, a renewable energy provider (such as a wind farm) is credited with one REC for every 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity it produces. In most cases, but not always, a certifying agency gives each REC a unique identification number to make sure it doesn't get double-counted. If you chose to purchase RECs, be sure to buy only those that are certified and tracked with an individual identification number. Buyers should be well-aware that this industry is self-regulated and absent of federal or state rules and regulations.

There are both nonprofit and for-profit organizations in the business of selling RECs. An online search will help you find sources from which to buy RECs, as well as certifying agencies. Helping support renewable energy by buying RECs is a worthwhile effort, but like any purchase, it also requires research and appropriate diligence in order to put your dollars where they will do the most good for you and the environment.

Now, you can ask if your cooperative is going green, and you can ask your neighbor, as well. Everyone in Michigan has viable opportunities to play in the "green" arena.

Mother's Day is Special To Mom of Six

IT'S FITTING THAT as Mother's Day approaches, Carol Krumlauf knows how to stop and smell the roses.

It's also surprising that she has any time to stop.

That's because Carol and her husband Kirk are the parents of a blended family, with three boys and three girls ranging in age from nine to 20.

When Carol and Kirk got married four years ago, they each brought three children with them—a modern-day Brady Bunch. Now, they also have a granddaughter.

Carol brought Alissa (16), Kristen (15) and Isaac (10), while Kirk had Sharayah (20), Austin (11) and Douglas (9).

With each child, there are joys and struggles, Carol says. But the joys usually win out.

"My biggest challenge in being a mom is blending our two families," says Carol, a supervisor who has worked 22 years at Cherryland Electric Cooperative. "We have to balance our schedules and the schedules of our kids. And sometimes when you can't do it all, you have to say, 'no.' The other hard part is finding time for just me."

But there are rewards—the important ones that come from the heart—that keep Carol and moms like her going every day and every week.

"When I get hugs or when the kids tell me they love me," she said with a smile. "We have such a blend of kids—seeing success in what each one may be dealing with and then making the right decisions for the right reasons."

There are times, Carol admits, when she and Kirk get frustrated. However, one simple act of kindness by one of the children can change everything.

"Alissa's youth group had the kids write a letter to their parents to tell them something they needed to know," explains Carol. "So she wrote me a note thanking me and making sure I knew she appreciated me. It was such an encouragement to me."

Those 'little things' are magnified when you realize that Carol and Kirk work full-time, but still find time to nurture six children.

"Our teenage girls both do very well in school," she adds. "They are both in various phases of driving and they both are good at developing goals. In their younger years, they had to deal with divorce and having a single parent, plus a little brother with mild autism who was quite a handful."

"To see them now as they are growing up and making decisions, and in these last years of school..." Carol's voice trails off, but you can sense the pride and love in her voice.

"The boys are very different from each other," she adds. "We have to keep reminding them that they are not teenagers



Carol Krumlauf is a member services supervisor for Cherryland Electric Cooperative.

yet. They are all very busy and they can make a lot of noise. So, one of our biggest jobs is keeping them challenged.

"And, of course, keeping on top of what's going on in each of their lives and finding time for each one."

Carol says a big key to everything running smoothly is Kirk.

"He's a big help and we work well as a team to get it all done," she says. "When we do get time to ourselves, we go shopping. But we also like to do a dinner and a movie. Other times, it's just nice to listen to the quiet. That's relaxing, too."

Sometimes it's hard to stop and assess a work in progress—such as parenting. But that is one of Carol Krumlauf's strengths.

"When you see that the hard work we do can bring about good decision making, it makes you feel pretty good," Carol says. "We do a lot of talking and praying and listening."

Carol admits she hasn't traveled the road alone as a mother.

"My mom has been such a big help over the years with my kids," she adds. "I'd really like to thank her for being my mom. She was there when I needed her, which allowed me to work and support the kids."

"Alissa's note that she wrote me got me thinking about this: A three-generation 'thank-you' to mom."

And years down the road, Carol knows in her heart that a fourth generation of "thank-you" to mom will keep the tradition going strong.

Cherryland Bulletin Board

Community Caring Board Makes Two Awards

Cherryland Electric Cooperative's Community Caring Board made three awards at its March meeting.

The Caring board awarded \$2,000 to Third Level Crisis toward the purchase of computer monitors. It also gave \$2,500 to Child & Family Services for its Brown Bag Campaign. One individual was given money toward their bills.



The Community Caring Board takes money from Operation Roundup and gives 100 percent of the funds to needy individuals and organizations in northern Michigan.

By asking us to "round up" your electric bill each month to the next dollar, you give to the Community Caring Fund. It amounts to about 50 cents monthly and, combined with all who contribute, gives thousands of dollars back to the community. The money is distributed by the Community Caring Board on a monthly basis.

Call Brenda Burrows at 486-9266 to sign up.



Cherryland's Annual Meeting is Thursday, June 14

Cherryland Electric Cooperative's 69th Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 14, at 5:30 p.m. at the co-op's offices in Grawn.

Cherryland members can register at 5:30 and then get dinner served by the Civil Air Patrol. There will also be a health fair and entertainment. The health fair will include testing by the Munson Medical Center ear lab, blood pressure checks by Blair EMS, and a blood drive. Entertainment will include children's games, hotline demonstrations and bucket truck rides.

The business meeting will take place from 7 to 8:15 p.m., with prizes drawn for co-op members.

Beach Bums Open Second Baseball Season



The Traverse City Beach Bums open their second season of play in the independent Frontier League in May.

The Beach Bums start their home season on Friday, May 25, against the Kalamazoo Kings with Cherryland Electric Cooperative Night. Cherryland serves electricity to Wuerfel Park in Blair Township.

Beach Bums baseball caps will be given to the first 1,000 fans through the gate and after the game there will be a fireworks display.

Owners John and Leslye Wuerfel helped the Beach Bums earn 2006 Frontier League Organization of the Year honors.

The Beach Bums averaged more than 4,000 fans per game. See the season schedule and photos at www.traverscitybeachbums.com.

Open Tryouts for Beach Bums Set for May 12

The Traverse City Beach Bums will hold an open tryout on Saturday, May 12, at Wuerfel Park.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., with prospective players dressed and ready to play by 9 a.m. Participants who make the morning cut will be invited back in the afternoon for a scrimmage against the Beach Bums.

Participants are responsible for bringing their own equipment (gloves, catching equipment and wood bats). The Beach Bums will supply baseballs and helmets.

All participants are required to have played at least two years of college baseball or have previous professional baseball experience (within the last two years.) Participants must have been born after Jan. 1, 1980, to be eligible to play in the Frontier League during the 2007 season. Participants may preregister by printing out the registration form on the club's Web site and mailing it along with the \$30 registration fee to the Traverse City Beach Bums.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CASE NO. U-14710-R

- Cherryland Electric Cooperative will reconcile its power supply costs and revenues for 2006, an anticipated underrecovery of \$962,322, which will continue to be collected in its 2007 PSCR plan, and will file its times interest earned ratio (TIER) ratemaking mechanism report, which requires no increase or decrease, for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2006, if the Michigan Public Service Commission approves its request.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Cherryland Electric Cooperative's attorney, Christine Mason Soneral, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933, (517) 374-9184, or at the offices of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, 5930 U.S. 31 South, Grawn, Michigan 49637, (800) 442-8616 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at Dykema's offices.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

DATE: June 5, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge Sharon L. Feldman

LOCATION: Michigan Public Service Commission, 6545 Mercantile Way, Suite 7, Lansing, Michigan

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 241-6160 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider the March 16, 2007, application of Cherryland Electric Cooperative (Cherryland) to reconcile its 2006 power supply cost recovery (PSCR) plan. Cherryland's reconciliation result is a net undercollection (power supply costs exceed power supply revenue) in the amount of \$962,322. This net undercollection includes an undercollection in the amount of \$653,208 for the period ended December 31, 2006, and a remaining \$309,114 undercollection for 2005. Cherryland is also seeking Commission's approval of its times interest earned ratio (TIER) ratemaking mechanism report for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2006.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets Website at: michigan.gov/mpscedockets. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an e-mail sent to mpscfilecases@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 241-6170 or by e-mail at mpscfilecases@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by May 29, 2007. (Residential customers may file petitions to intervene using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon the Cherryland's attorney, Christine Mason Soneral, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case, may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter will become public information: available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's Web site, and subject to disclosure.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 241-6060.

A copy of the Cherryland's request may be reviewed on the Commission's Web site at michigan.gov/mpscedockets, or at the office of the Commission's Executive Secretary, 6545 Mercantile Way, Suite 7, Lansing, MI, and at the office of Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan, or at Cherryland's office. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 241-6170.

The Utility Consumer Representation Fund has been created for the purpose of aiding in the representation of residential utility customers in 1982 P.A. 304 proceedings. Contact the Chairperson, Utility Consumer Participation Board, Department of Labor & Economic Growth, P.O. Box 30004, Lansing, Michigan 48909, for more information.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.51 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6h et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999AC, R 460.17101 et seq.

April 18, 2007

Safety Demos Are Part of Our Job

“THE ELECTRICAL DISPLAY piece was worth a thousand words.” This comment is from a recent thank-you note I received from Cub Scout Pack 143 after conducting an electrical safety demonstration for them.

This past year, we have been busy putting on safety demonstrations for schools, businesses and groups.

Our own safety record at Cherryland is among the best in the state for electric utilities, so we are committed to helping the community learn about some of these safety tips. Every year, we provide safety demos for hundreds of people in our service area, including our employees, co-op members, and the community as a whole.

Cherryland's safety demo features a full-size trailer with utility poles, transformers and all other equipment representing any electric utility system in the country. With the “Hot Line Demo Trailer” we can show groups firsthand the raw power of 7,200 volts passing through objects such as shovel handles, tree limbs, meat (representing human flesh) and other conductive objects.

Groups are amazed when they learn everything in the demo from how power is made to the dangers of working under or near lines. Recently, a group of 65 employees from Elmer's Crane and Dozer in Traverse City saw the demonstration and followed up with many questions, which were all answered before the demo was over.

We also offer a demo for our younger co-op members. Lightnin' Liz and Neon Leon, the co-op's electrical ambassadors, stand 6 inches high and are part of a portable high-voltage safety demonstration unit.

The unit's backdrop is hand-painted to simulate Cherryland Electric Cooperative's territory and includes a farm, generation plant, and trees. It also has a substation, 3-way transmission line, overhead and underground wires, and various accessories such as a sailboat, ladder, kite, backhoe, shovel and TV antenna that are used in conjunction with the Liz and Leon figures to demonstrate how accidents with electricity can occur.

The exhibit plugs into a grounded 110/120-volt outlet and the demonstrator must

wear lineworker's gloves while conducting the demonstration. Leon and Liz light up whenever they come in contact with electricity. Students learn right off the bat to respect electricity and its power.

Some of the groups that took advantage of the demo this year included Lake Ann, Buckley and Platte River elementary schools, Cub Scout Pack 143, and Scenic Trails Boy Scout Pack 31.

A special “First Responder” program is offered to fire, police and EMS personnel. This program teaches the dangers of responding to downed lines, or lines on a vehicle involved in an accident and concerns in how to treat electric contact victims.

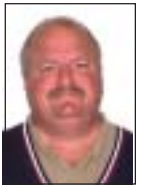
The First Responder program, which can be used in conjunction with our “Hot Line Demo Trailer,” has been presented to groups such as the Suttons Bay Fire Department, Grand Traverse County Metro fire departments, and Buckley Fire. We are in the planning stages of doing



Cherryland safety director, Jim Carpenter, demonstrates how to be safe around power lines with a portable unit resembling a barnyard and simulated people figures, Lightnin' Liz and Neon Leon.

First Responder training during local law enforcement annual training, as well local and state academies.

If you have a group or know of any group that would like a presentation, please call. We can schedule anytime and, of course, at no cost. Please contact me, Tim Keenan, at 231-486-9224 or e-mail me at tkeen@cecelec.com.



Tim Keenan is assistant safety director for Cherryland Electric Co-op

Protect Your Personal Computer From Hackers

IN MY FIRST ARTICLE I talked about steps that Cherryland Electric Cooperative takes to help protect your personal data on our network. In this article, I will address steps you should take on your personal computer to help protect it from hackers.

The first step is to make sure that you have an antivirus program installed on your computer. The *most* important step though is to make sure that the virus signatures for that program are *up to date*.

Having an antivirus program with old signatures only protects you as far as those signatures go. New, more damaging, vi-

ruses are coming out on a daily basis. And, realize that just because your new computer came with an antivirus program doesn't mean you are protected.

Many of these programs won't update themselves until you have registered the program and most come with only a free 90-day update. After that you must pay for the update service in order to receive updates.

If you don't have an antivirus program installed, you can purchase one from almost any store that sells software. There are many brands available for purchase such as Norton (Symantec), McAfee, Trend Micro and Computer Associates.

Water Heater Pays Dividends

AFTERTHREEYEARS of promoting Marathon® Water Heaters, we continue to see strong performance and value. We're not surprised. Electric co-op members across the country have seen these same strong results for years.

Marathon Water Heaters prove the old adage "you get what you pay for." While the retail cost of the Marathon is at the higher end of the market, so are the results.

It starts with construction—the unique holding tank design and material. Marathon Water Heaters have a seamless polybutylene tank that is impervious to rust and corrosion. The company is so confident your tank will not leak, the water heater comes with a lifetime warranty for as long as you own your home.

How well a water heater is insulated also determines its performance. Here again, Marathon offers superior design and materials. Its insulation is envirofoam, which is free of ozone-depleting materials, plus it saves energy and is super-efficient.

As an example, my own research has shown that between midnight and 6 a.m., when most people don't use hot water, a typical water heater "kicks on" four times during this six-hour period and each cycle runs for 5 minutes. Marathon Water Heaters will remain at the desired temperature for that same period without cycling once.

Most antivirus products available for purchase nowadays include anti-spyware detection in their price. Most will require you to update your virus subscription after one year, but Computer Associates includes the updates for the life of the product.

If cost is prohibitive for you, there is a free

Make sure you have an antivirus program installed, and make sure it is up-to-date!

antivirus solution available for download from the Internet called AVG Free Edition at <http://free.grisoft.com>. This is a no frills, antivirus-only solution to protect your computer.

There is one catch, however.

Use of the program is limited to use for home computers only. The free license does not grant you the right to use it in a business environment. They do sell a commercial version that has more bells and whistles. In

The cost of heating water is basically the same for all electric water heaters, Marathon included. But, the opportunity to save money comes from how efficiently the water heater stores the heated water.

Keep in mind that when your water heater turns on, it consumes the same amount of electricity as 45 100-watt light bulbs. Properly setting your water heater's thermostat is a frequently-overlooked opportunity to save energy. It's best to set the top thermostat at around 120 degrees and bottom element at around 115 degrees.

A third advantage is that with Marathon's nonmetallic tank construction, there is no need for an anode rod. An anode rod is an aluminum or magnesium rod placed in a metallic hot water heater to help protect against corrosion. This rod is often associated with unpleasant odors that can be transferred into your water.

Another Marathon feature is the rugged, yet attractive exterior of the water heater that is made of a tough, molded plastic polyethylene shell.

I recently received an e-mail from a satisfied member who stated he has a vacation home with a Marathon Water Heater. When he leaves for downstate on Sunday, he shuts off the breaker to the Marathon. When he returns the following Friday night,

in addition, they release updates on a daily basis, unlike some of the purchased products, and their updates are small, normally under 10k, if you update regularly.

Finally, some high-speed Internet providers are starting to include free antivirus programs with their service, including AOL,

Charter, AT&T and CenturyTel. These are free for as long as you use their services and you can get some support for the program from their help desk.

Cherryland Electric can't make a recommendation on any particular antivirus program—the names mentioned here are just an assortment of programs available to you. The most important thing is to do some research and get an up-to-date antivirus



Cherryland Electric members may qualify for a \$200 rebate!
(See ad on back cover)

the water stored in the Marathon tank is still over 100 degrees.

Cherryland Electric Cooperative has teamed up with Menards to bring you special savings on a new Marathon Water Heater. Menards stocks 50-gallon Marathons and can special order 85-gallon models.

If you are doing a replacement gas or electric, there is a \$200 rebate through Cherryland. Other rebates are available for new construction. Please call me, Bill Garey, for more information at 231-486-9251.

Bill Garey is Cherryland's energy use advisor.

program installed on your computer.

The next step is to make sure that *all* security updates on your computer have been applied. Microsoft Windows 98 has the ability to download the latest updates by clicking on "Tools," and choosing "Windows Update."

You will be presented with a list of critical updates needed for your computer. By downloading these, you help assure that flaws in your operating system aren't open doors for hackers to enter.

In next month's article, I will address personal firewalls for your computer.

Steve Weaver is the head of information and technology at Cherryland Electric Co-op





\$200 REBATE!

FOR CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS ONLY,
PURCHASING 50-GALLON WATER HEATERS, OR LARGER.
ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES ARE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFYING
NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION.

THE LAST WATER HEATER YOU WILL EVER NEED

Marathon is recognized as the leader in water heaters. Here's why:

- It can't rust or corrode because of its nonmetallic inner tank
- It's guaranteed for the life of your house
- Heat loss is reduced with energy saving pipe wrap kit
- It has unmatched strength because of filament-wound fiberglass tank

*For peace of mind and unmatched quality,
Marathon goes the distance.*



Marathon®

WATER HEATERS



Offer these features:

Plastic Tank

- Can't rust or corrode
- No smelly anode rod

Lifetime Warranty

- Warranted not to leak, "for as long as you own your home"

Envirofoam Insulation

- The most energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly electric water heater on the market!



Cherryland Electric Cooperative has teamed with MENARDS of Traverse City to pass on greater savings to our members!

For more information about the \$200 rebate,
ask a Menards team member, or call a Cherryland Electric
member service representative at **1-800-442-8616**.