

Power Lines

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Save money, energy and stay warm with an energy-efficient heat pump

On a national average, 56% of a consumer's electric bill comes from heating and cooling costs. Wouldn't it be great to reduce this monthly expense? By installing an energy-efficient heat pump system you can do just that. Heat pumps are potentially the most efficient type of electric heat. When properly installed, heat pumps can deliver 1½ to 3 times more heat energy to a home than the electric energy they consume.

Heat pumps are not new—they have been in use for more than 30 years. But increasing fuel costs and technological breakthroughs have brought renewed attention to heat pumps as a popular, sensible alternative to conventional heating and cooling systems. Early heat

pumps were something of a disappointment—they were noisy and prone to breakdown, and they failed to provide ample warmth on really cold days. However, advances have brought in a new generation of energy-efficient, reliable systems that are winning over homeowners and builders alike.

The energy and cost savings are not the only great benefits a homeowner will realize by using a heat pump. Other advantages include:

- A heat pump is safer and cleaner to run because it does not burn fuel.
- A heat pump provides more uniform temperatures throughout a building. It does not produce a sudden blast of hot air as traditional furnaces do each time they kick on.
- In the heat mode, heat pumps do not dry out the air the way traditional heaters do. The higher humidity maintained by heat pumps during cold weather provides a healthier environment.
- Because heat pumps are used year round, they cost less per hour of use than do individual heating and cooling systems, which each sit idle for a good part of the year (cost of purchase and installation divided by total number of hours used per year).

When you decide that a new energy-efficiency heat pump system is the best choice for your home, Haywood EMC's low-interest loan program may be just what you need. Qualifying co-op members can borrow 100% of the total purchase and installation costs, up to \$10,000, for as long as five years at only 7.9% APR.

Members may also use this loan program to weatherize their homes for greater energy savings; adding thermal windows, additional insulation, weather stripping, caulking, attic ventilation fans, etc. Call us today for more information at (800) 951-6088 or (828) 452-2281.



Thank you, Haywood EMC members, for helping fellow members in need

For more than two years, Haywood EMC has offered its members the opportunity to join a program that helps fund energy needs for members



in our communities who are experiencing desperate circumstances. The program is called "Helping Each Member Cope," or Project HEMC.

To date, 80% of Haywood EMC members participate in the program. In 2008 these members collectively

contributed more than \$119,000 to assist families or individuals experiencing hardships paying energy costs brought about by extreme weather conditions, or who were experiencing an unusual or unexpected crisis beyond their control.

Here is how the program works: Members can have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar. For example, if your month's bill is \$86.81, it would be rounded up to \$87.00 with 19 cents being contributed to "Project HEMC." A participating member contributes an estimated average of just 50 cents per month or \$6.00 per year.

HEMC gives 100% of the collected funds to the Department of Social Services where they follow strict guidelines in establishing eligibility for needy members in the Haywood EMC service area. Upon confirming the need, a check is written to the fuel or

energy provider, whether it is propane, oil, electricity or wood, to meet the emergency needs of the cooperative member.

While HEMC prides itself on its commitment to community, much of the credit goes to the cooperative members for their participation in projects like "Helping Each Member Cope" to improve the quality of life for our members in our communities.

Happy New Year

Haywood EMC directors and employees wish for everyone a safe, happy and prosperous new year. Cooperative



offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1, in observance of the New Year's holiday.

Two VFDs receive grants



Left to right: Crabtree VFD Chief Junior Messer, HEMC Director David Noland and Crabtree VFD Board Chairman Ben Wade.



Left to right: HEMC Director David Noland and Fines Creek VFD Board Member Dean Barnum.

"Commitment to community," that's one of Haywood EMC's four core values, along with integrity, innovation and accountability. Our success as a member-owned electric cooperative is dependent on the framework of these core values. While we do not single out one core value as more important than the others, HEMC's commitment to community is the one that best expresses our gratitude for our member/owners.

In an effort to thank all our members for allowing HEMC to serve you and your community, your Haywood EMC board of directors has made it possible for local volunteer fire departments (VFD) within our service territory to receive a small grant as a symbol of our appreciation.

Recently the co-op learned that two of these VFDs were in need of equipment. The Crabtree-Ironduff VFD needed help with the purchase of a back-up electric generator and the Fines Creek VFD needed help with the purchase of a pass-card security control system. Both VFDs applied for a grant and Haywood EMC was able to help with partial funding for this much needed equipment.

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