

Starting Lines

YOUR FIRST STEP TO MEMBER BENEFITS

FALL 2010

MEMBERS TESTIFY



Member enjoys volunteer experience

"I just wanted to let you know that I received the minutes of our last meeting.

Signing up for the Election Committee was like taking a step in the dark. I had no idea what I would be doing.

Well, as it turns out, I not only had an enjoyable job to do, I met some very nice people and learned a lot about being a part of Adams Electric Co-op. Everyone from the CEO Steve Rasmussen to Duane (Kanagy), Renee (Benner) and Kami (Noel) made me feel very comfortable and right at home. There was also a very special lady named Cindy Brant, whom if I had not had all her help I know I would not have made out so well.

Cindy I just want to say thank you for letting me share such a great experience with you and Adams Electric Co-op.

I would like to try it again next year. Until then, take care of yourself and have a happy and healthy summer."

— **Charlotte Whittaker,**
Co-op volunteer and member
from Fawn Grove

The co-op can always use more members willing to be added to its volunteer list to serve on various committees, including Election, Scholarships and Member Advisory. Visit www.adamsec.coop and click on the "Be A Co-op Volunteer" link under the "About Us" heading and use the form provided to be added to the list.



HAPPY WITH GEO: Adams Electric members Ray and Carla Hoffman of New Oxford installed an open-loop geothermal system with an electric thermal storage (ETS) system backup in their house when they built it in 2007. The ground water used to heat and cool the house flows back into a pond. "It's the way to go," says Ray. "It's efficient, clean, quiet and easy to maintain." "We're comfortable all year long," Carla adds. The main geothermal unit in the basement heats and cools the main floor of the house while a smaller unit handles the upper floor.

Tap into the earth's energy to heat and cool

In trying to keep warm in the winter and cool during the summer, the average U.S. homeowner uses 56 percent of all home energy expenses.

Heat pumps, as the name would imply, move heat around from one place to another. Geothermal heat pumps use the earth or more specifically groundwater as a means of transferring heat.

Geothermal or ground-source heat pumps are installed one of two ways: an open-loop system, which uses well water; or a closed-loop system, which moves water and an antifreeze solution through underground pipes.

Clean, comfortable and easy to maintain, these highly efficient systems use a small amount of electricity to capture a large amount of free, renewable energy from the earth. While often expensive to install – between \$15,000 and \$40,000 for an average home-based system – annual energy savings average between 30 and 71 percent.

Before taking the first step though, it is important to learn the ins and outs of this available technology and what state and federal tax rebates may be available. It is also important to research the qualified installers in your area, check their certifications and ask for references.

Members may learn more by clicking "Energy Sources" and then "Geothermal" at energy.gov or by clicking "Geothermal Heat Pumps" in the Home Energy Library of the Home Energy Suite at adamsec.coop. Local qualified contractors can be found through geo manufacturer websites, under the Contracting/HVAC section of the Co-op Connections program, at local builders shows or by speaking with an Adams Electric energy use specialist.



FEATURED PRODUCT: Dry Hydrants kits for Emergency Services/ Municipalities



Adams Electric sponsors a dry hydrant program in its service territory to improve fire protection for members served by rural fire companies. With a dry hydrant in place, a fire company is less likely to damage property in order to get water to fight a fire. Dry hydrants also help protect the landowner's property and neighboring properties.

The cooperative serves as a source for information about dry hydrants and serves as a link to equipment manufacturers. It also donates dry hydrant kits (head, strainer, strainer clamp and sign), as available, to fire companies, municipalities and other non-profit organizations.

The co-op encourages fire companies to identify potential sites and to agree to use and test the dry hydrant. They may also help obtain landowner permission and provide labor on the installation. Municipalities are encouraged to provide the equipment, the labor and the materials needed for each installation. The municipality may also sign the construction agreement with the landowner.

The cooperative has created a Dry Hydrant Manual to facilitate proper installation. Over the course of this program, more than 150 dry hydrant kits have been donated. For more information about the program, call 888/232-6732.

FEATURED SERVICE: Co-op keeps kids energized about learning



Adams Electric provides access to numerous youth-related products and services. The "CFL Charlie" and the "Get Charged" science curriculum kits offer lessons in energy, electricity, safety, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources along with teacher resources.

The co-op also has a tabletop safety demonstration geared for elementary students. Employees visit a location to present the demo along with a safety video and a showing of line worker safety equipment. This program is available to schools, camp groups, clubs and other youth organizations. A minimum of 20 attendees is preferred.

In addition, Kids Korner and the Touchstone Energy Kids Zone are two interactive websites, designed specifically to make energy education fun for kids. They can be found by clicking on "Student Corner" at www.adamsec.coop. Students can learn about energy and electricity, play educational games, and teachers can find classroom materials for energy education. For more information on the Co-op's youth programs, or to request youth curriculum kits, call toll-free 888/232-6732.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY with George Taughinbaugh, marketing/energy use manager

Water heating, with benefits

With energy costs rising, it is a good time to look at equipment that will give you the most value for your dollar.

Heat Pump Water Heaters have been around for about 20-25 years. The technology didn't catch on too well then because low energy prices at that time did not promote the extra costs to install the units. Now that the cost of energy is up and the technology has been greatly improved, it is time to look at installing these units in your home.

The units take air from the surrounding area, and use the temperature available through a heat pump to make hot water. Using heat pump technology, these units can heat water at about half the cost of a standard electric resistance water heater.

A byproduct of the unit is that it will dehumidify the area in which it is installed. So, for a little more than the cost of running a dehumidifier in your basement, you could heat your water, and dehumidify the area.

Two models of heat pump water heaters are readily available at most building supply stores. One is a heat pump water heater and a water heater tank as one unit. The other is a heat pump water heater only, which can be added to your existing water heater.

Most energy efficiency products, including heat pump water heaters, qualify for a tax credit. Visit www.energystar.gov or consult your tax advisor for specific information.

As always, if you have any questions about this new/old technology, call the co-op toll-free at 888/232-6732, an energy use specialist would be glad to talk to you.

60 SECOND SAFETY with Terry Hancock and Dave Bolton, energy use/safety specialists

Fall: The season for trees

Fall is the time of year when we begin our preparation for the coming months of winter. As the temperatures get cooler, many of us will participate in an activity that is part of the tradition of the season. We will take to firing up the "ole" chainsaw, which has not been out of the box since last fall, and begin to trim the trees and shrubs overgrowing our properties.

Many of our members continue to use wood either as a heat source or for the enjoyment of a fireplace. As you get ready to head in to the woods, be aware of the hazards associated with tree cutting, chainsaws and their operation. Chainsaws should be maintained in excellent condition and when in use, proper personal protective equipment including chaps, safety glasses, earplugs, gloves and hard hats should be worn.

When operating a chainsaw, a common hazard is not looking up to identify if there are overhead electric wires that could be struck by falling trees and branches. Several times a year trees fall onto our lines creating a very hazardous situation that can cause bodily injury or death by electrocution. Should lines be in the way, call your cooperative and allow the professionals to assist you.

So please, if you break out the "ole" chainsaw this fall, remember, before you cut that tree, "Look Up and Live."

Thanks and stay safe!

YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS

- Automated Meters
- CFL Recycling
- Community Development Loans
- Convenient Payments
 - Budget Billing
 - E-Bill (Online Bill View/Pay)
 - ElectriPay (Automatic Bank Draft)
 - Pay By Mail
 - Pay In Person
- Co-op Connections Discount Card
- Co-op Owners for Political Action Dial 8-1-1
- Dry Hydrants
- Electric Service Installations
- Electronic Alerts
- Energy Audits
- Energy Calculators
- Energy Conservation Loans
- Energy Library (online)
- Energy Savings Information
- Generator Safety
- Gift of Electricity
- Go Paperless
- Heating and Cooling Options
 - Air-Source Heat Pumps
 - Electric Thermal Storage (ETS)
 - Ground-Source (Geothermal) Heat Pump
 - Heat Pump Plus
- High Voltage Safety Demonstrations
- Incentive Rates
 - Controlled/Interruptible Rate
 - Geothermal Rate
 - Time-of-Day Rate
 - Water Heater Rate
- Informative Brochures
- Load Management
- Online Efficiency Store
- Outage Map/Storm Center (online)
- Patronage Capital Credits
- Penn Lines Monthly Magazine
- Project Helping Hand (Payment Assistance)
- Safety Presentations
- Scholarships
 - Adult
 - High School
 - Statewide
- Security Lights
- Starting Lines Quarterly Newsletter
- Stray Voltage Reduction (Earth-to-Neutral)
- Surge Protection
- Tree Clearing
- Water Heater Rebates
- Youth Programs
 - CFL Charlie™ Science Curriculum
 - Envirothons
 - "Get Charged" Science Curriculum
 - Kids Websites
 - Low Voltage Safety Demonstrations
 - Mobile Agriculture Education Lab
 - Newspaper in Education
 - Youth Tour



Want to make bill paying more comfortable? Consider an upgrade to your HVAC system. Heating and cooling equipment runs best when properly maintained. Change your filters on a regular basis and have your system professionally serviced once a year. To learn more, click on the "Little Changes Add Up" icon at www.adamsec.coop.

