



# Connections



## Get involved now as Cap & Trade bill advances

*Editor's Note: On June 26 the House of Representatives passed a climate change bill designed to reduce emissions by 17 percent by 2020 from 2005 levels. National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Glenn English discusses the bill, its inclusion of an investor-owned utility formula to distribute allowances to emit carbon as part of a cap-and-trade system and the prospects for legislation in the Senate.*

*Q: The vote in the House was fairly close, a seven-vote difference in passage. But from your background in the House (as a former representative), is that a true indicator of the level of support for the bill?*

**A:** It's really not. The leadership in the House is not going to bring a bill up that they don't have the votes for.

In this case, we have since learned that the leadership knew they had the votes. They knew they had it tied down... so some House members who were in politically sensitive districts voted against the bill. That's not unusual.

*Q: The fairness argument resonated in the House in the way the legislation was changed a little bit as it went on. Is that going to hold similar weight in the Senate?*

— Continued on Page 6

## Would you like to keep seeing CTV?

### Prepare for its digital transition



CTV is switching from analog TV signals to digital signals. The Frost tower was completed July 30. The Jackson tower starts August 3 with the Godahl tower to follow. The reason for this sudden change is because funds became available through the Federal Communications Commission that will cut CTV's conversion costs in half.

What does this mean for CTV Viewers?

- CTV viewers with an analog TV will no longer receive CTV channels. (An exception to the rule is CTV Plus channels off the Godahl Tower; they will continue to broadcast in analog due to technical issues).

- CTV viewers must either have a converter box or a digital TV to receive CTV channels after the switch. Converter boxes are available in most stores.

- CTV viewers must hit channel rescan on their converter boxes or digital TV remote controls during the switch to access the new digital channels.

- During the analog to digital switch, CTV viewers can expect periodic losses of reception. In some cases they may lose their CTV channels for an hour or two. In other cases, they may lose their CTV channels for a day or two.

CTV thanks viewers for their patience during this transition. Watch for the *CTVTime* newsletter with more details. 📺



Connecting our co-ops & members to a progressive future



## Inside this issue:

Special rebates available Aug. 16...Page 4

Cook easily with electric grills...Page 5



# Before you step out of the office, step up energy savings



According to the US Department of Energy, computers and office equipment are some of the fastest-growing sources of electricity consumption in schools, businesses and homes. This category includes:

- Computers
- Monitors
- Printers
- Fax machines
- Copiers

Energy use by office equipment is expected to grow by as much as 500 percent in the next decade. Follow these tips to ensure your office equipment is not using unnecessary power.

- Turn off screen savers. While these programs do help with burn damage to monitors, they actually waste power keeping your computer active.

- Turn off equipment when not in use. Contrary to popular belief, turning off older computers and printers will not wear them down more quickly (as long as it is not to excess — more than six times daily). Turning off equipment at night cuts annual energy costs by as much as \$200 per computer.

- Consider upgrades. If your budget allows, look into newer computer models. Flat screen monitors are the most energy-efficient part of the system. Although they cost more, they will save you money (about one-third less energy consumed) and office space in the long term.



- Share printers. If you have several computers in your home, network them to one printer to save energy. Inkjet printers use 90 percent less energy than laser printers.

- Configure your computer for "sleep mode." Energy Star settings are being built into more and more computer systems. For ideal savings, set your power management to turn off your monitor after ten minutes and your hard disks after twenty minutes.

- Donate older equipment. Many non-profits, schools, churches and other charitable organizations need computer and office equipment. Look in your phone book for resources or go online to find national recycling programs.

- Consider laptops. They tend to use about one-fourth the electricity of most desktop models. ♻️

— Information courtesy of *Questline*

## Compute savings with Energy Star computers...



Energy Star office equipment provides as much as 90 percent savings for some products. An Energy Star computer uses 70 percent less electricity than computers without this designation. If left inactive, Energy Star desktop computers enter a sleep mode and use four watts or less. Spending a large portion of time in low-power mode not only saves energy, but helps equipment run cooler and last longer. Along with saving energy directly, Energy Star office equipment can reduce air-conditioning loads, noise from fans and transformers, plus electromagnetic field emissions from monitors. ♻️

— Information courtesy of U.S. Department of Energy

# Brew tea that's perfect to a T!



Making a cup of tea is a simple process. However, brewing the perfect cup of tea is a science.

Boiled water is not considered good for making tea as the boiling process removes oxygen, making the water stale. Different teas must be brewed at different temperatures: green tea and white tea at 160° F, while water heated to 205° F is perfect for Puerh and black teas. With this in mind, it's easy to see that brewing tea isn't as simple as it seems.

The Fine-T Machine eliminates any guesswork so you can enjoy a perfect cup of tea time after time. Designed to brew any type of loose tea leaves, the four-cup FineT is the only electric tea maker that simultaneously and automatically controls both water temperature and brewing time with exact precision, allowing tea aficionados, as well as consumers who are new to experiencing gourmet tea, the pleasure of savoring their beverage at its peak flavor and aroma.

Features and specifications:

- Back-lit LCD panel.



If the lowly teapot is a student, then IQ Innovations Tea Maker is the professor of tea brewing. The device makes tea like it is supposed to be made, with temperature and brewing time carefully calculated. The IQ Innovations Tea Maker costs approximately \$300 and is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

- 24-hour programmable timer.
  - 1200-watts.
  - Seven different settings covering all gourmet tea; each with its own preset temperature and infusion time.
  - Comprehensive cleaning program to ensure the best results every time.
  - Variable water temperature ranging from 160° to 205° F.
  - Removable infusion basket and filter; outside water level indicator.
  - Hot plate that keeps the tea warm for 30 minutes.
  - Measures approximately 8-3/5 by 8 by 15-8/9 inches.
  - Two-year limited warranty. 📄
- Information and photo courtesy of IQ Innovations

# When thunder roars, stay indoors!



An average of 62 people are killed each year by lightning in the United States. Don't be a statistic. Follow these safety tips.

• Lightning can strike up to ten miles from the area where it is raining, even if you don't see clouds. A good idea is to use the "30-30 Rule." If you count less than 30 seconds between a lightning flash and the thunder following it, seek shelter. When the storm is over, wait thirty minutes after the last lightning strike before going outside.

• If caught outdoors, try to take shelter in a vehicle with a solid metal roof. Close the windows and avoid contact



with electrical conducting paths, such as the steering wheel, ignition, gear shifter or radio.

- If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Squat down with your head between your knees, making yourself the smallest target possible.
- Avoid water, high ground or open spaces. Do not seek shelter under tall,

solitary trees; canopies; small picnic or rain shelters; or in any open-frame vehicles such as jeeps, convertibles, golf carts, tractors or mowers.

• Do not stand near power, light or flag poles, machinery, fences, gates, metal bleachers or even other people. If you are in a group, spread out so that you are at least 20 feet apart.

• The safest location is indoors away from doors and windows. Avoid water, electric appliances and other objects that could conduct electricity. Use only cordless or cell phones to make emergency calls. 📄

— Information courtesy of [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org)

# Federated Focus

## DOE awards Basin Co-op \$100 million for Clean Coal Project

The Energy Department has awarded Basin Electric Power Cooperative \$100 million to help fund a large-scale carbon capture demonstration project.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced the cost-shared agreement with the Bismarck, ND wholesale power supplier. Chu said the project gives Basin “the opportunity to lead in clean-coal technology.”

Basin Electric and its partners will demonstrate the removal of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the flue gas of a lignite-based boiler at Basin’s Antelope Valley Station near Beulah, ND.

Basin Electric is working with technology providers to find the best solution for CO<sub>2</sub>. The successful technology will be used to capture CO<sub>2</sub> on a gas stream from Antelope Valley’s 450-MW Unit 1, resulting in 90 percent removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from the treated flue gas.

It will also yield 3,000 short tons per day of pipeline-quality carbon dioxide. The captured gas will be fed into an existing CO<sub>2</sub> compression and pipeline system owned by Dakota Gasification Co., transported more than 200 miles to an oil field and injected into the ground for enhanced oil recovery. The process will also produce ammonium sulfate, which Basin will process into fertilizer.

The project, with a total cost of \$300 million is a “big step forward toward the development of clean coal technology,” said Basin CEO and General Manager Ron Harper. ♻️

— Information courtesy of *Electric Co-op Today*

# Fill your fridge sweepstakes

Enter for a chance to win **\$500 in free groceries**

**Grand prize:** \$500 in free groceries (1 co-op winner statewide)

**First place prizes:** \$100 in free groceries for one Federated member

Visit [mnbrighterideas.com](http://mnbrighterideas.com) between Aug. 16-Sept. 30, 2009 & complete a short quiz for instant entry



## Super summer savings sizzle with larger rebates on refrigerators & clothes washers

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\*With recycling of old refrigerator. A \$10 haul away fee may apply. Savings off regular and sale prices apply to merchandise only. Not valid on clearance or closeout items, great price items, compact refrigeration, wine chillers, Electrolux, Sears.com, Kmart.com, protection agreements. Redeemable only at Sears stores located in Minnesota. One coupon per purchase. Void if copied, transferred or where prohibited by law. Any other use constitutes fraud. Cash value 1/20 cent. In the event of a return, coupon savings may be deducted from your refund. ©2008 Sears Brands, LLC. Sales Associate: Please collect this coupon. If unable to scan, manually enter the coupon number. Valid August 16, 2009 to September 30, 2009 in U.S.A. only. Not to be used with any other coupon or associate discount, except for the August 16, 2009 Family & Friends Event.

Buy a new Energy Star clothes washer or refrigerator between August 16-September 30 from your local appliance store or Sears. Use these coupons at a Minnesota Sears store for instant savings OR Federated’s special rebate form on [www.federatedrea.coop](http://www.federatedrea.coop) and at local appliance stores. The refrigerator rebate includes recycling of the old refrigerator; receipt must show refrigerator recycling. ♻️

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ENERGY STAR Rated Washers

R 5 8 0 0 0 1 1 1 3 5 \$ 1 2 5 0 0

A \$10 haul away fee may apply. Savings off regular and sale prices apply to merchandise only. Not valid on clearance or closeout items, great price items, Electrolux, laundry pedestals, dryers, Sears.com, Kmart.com, protection agreements. Redeemable only at Sears stores located in Minnesota. One coupon per purchase. Void if copied, transferred or where prohibited by law. Any other use constitutes fraud. Cash value 1/20 cent. In the event of a return, coupon savings may be deducted from your refund. ©2008 Sears Brands, LLC. Sales Associate: Please collect this coupon. If unable to scan, manually enter the coupon number. Valid August 16, 2009 to September 30, 2009 in U.S.A. only. Not to be used with any other coupon or associate discount, except for the August 16, 2009 Family & Friends Event.

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View these grills at Federated's Jackson office or find more details on our website: [www.federatedrea.coop](http://www.federatedrea.coop).



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## LABOR DAY

Federated will be closed Sept. 7

# Let your voice be heard on the cap-and-trade bill with 'Our Energy, Our Future'

— Continued from Page 1



Glenn English

A: The fairness issue coming out of the Energy and Commerce Committee really resonated with an awful lot of members, whether it was from rural America or from urban America. It was very obvious to see the inequity in the formula that discriminated against regions of the country, not just against co-ops, but against entire regions and states... You had people with no emissions who were getting allowances, while people who had significant emissions needed additional allowances. That's what we started hammering home and that was the point that we were making and it did resonate with members of Congress.

*Q: The bill goes now to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. What are the things that members and directors need to make clear to members of that committee?*

A: The three points we are going to be looking at are this: we're going to try to push it all the way, to make the correction that all allowances should be based on emissions. We're going to push very hard for that.

The second issue is the (17 percent emissions) cap. The cap, as I have said, is unrealistic. We don't think it's attainable. We don't think we can achieve that. President Obama, in his proposal, said a 14 percent reduction by 2020. So what came out of the House exceeds what the president is suggesting.

One other thing we had in the House that was a major improvement, thanks to Collin Peterson of Minnesota, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, is a fight over the issue of offsets...

Go to this website and send an e-mail to our Minnesota Senators; help shape this Cap and Trade policy. Otherwise, mail them a postcard or note voicing your concerns.

**Our Energy, Our Future™**  
A Dialogue With America  
[www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop)

They allow agriculture in particular to play a role in offsetting emissions. So you may not have quite enough allowances to meet your needs, but you... would be able to use agriculture, to use crops to absorb carbon dioxide... Offsets is another big issue. They have to be workable.

*Q: You really need 60 votes to get anything done in the Senate at this point. So, when you go to the floor of the Senate, are you looking to try to influence the "yea" votes or the "nay" votes?*

A: The Senate, because of the filibuster, you need 60 votes on anything that's controversial. If not, you're facing a filibuster...and there is that group of moderate Democrats who are probably going to hold the key to whether a particular provision or a particular bill is going to be successful.

That's really where we expect that we will be able to make our case for fairness, that we will be able to make our case for workability and affordability.

I think people need to understand that in the end, the final bill is going to be written in what they call a conference... they will come together and they will in effect write the final bill to work out

the differences between the House and the Senate versions, negotiating back and forth as to what these different provisions are going to be.

That's the reason it's so critical that on the floor of the Senate we come out with a strong vote for a piece of legislation that is workable, affordable and technologically achievable.

*Q: In the House, did you see a difference in the attitude of members who had a strong Our Energy, Our Future presence in their state, as opposed to states where it was not as fully developed?*

A: In fact, you could see a change in the House members who were hearing from their constituents on Our Energy, Our Future, brought it to their attention and brought a different outlook. To those co-op members who haven't been active in Our Energy, Our Future: We need you to get engaged now and start sending those messages in.

We particularly need it in the United States Senate... Our Energy, Our Future is critical. Go to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) to send an email to your senator — now — while we can still shape the content! Click on "Join the campaign."

— Courtesy of Electric Co-op Today



## How sweet it is! Dig into your sweet potato recipes

Mail your sweet potato recipes by August 24 to: Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop. Otherwise, drop it off at your local electric co-op. Add your name and phone number. 📧

### John's Barbeque Pork Spareribs Extrordinaire by John Wagar, East Chain

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 3 lbs. various pork ribs (country-style or boneless) | 2 c. tomato sauce or puree            |
| ½ c. yellow mustard                                  | 6 T. Brown Sugar                      |
| 2 large onions, chopped semi-coarse                  | 2 T. Worcestershire sauce             |
| ¼ lb. butter or margarine                            | 4 T. vinegar                          |
| 1 or 2 cloves garlic, minced                         | 4 drops liquid smoke (or more,        |
| ½ c. catsup  | but be careful, this stuff is wicked) |

Put ribs in a roaster, salt and pepper to taste; cover and place in a preheated 350° oven and bake for one hour. While ribs are baking, make the sauce. Saute onions and garlic in a sauce pan until onions are clear, but not browned. Add the remaining ingredients, stirring constantly, until all are cooked and blended. Taste often to determine if more vinegar or mustard is needed to suit your taste.

After the ribs have baked for an hour, pour off the liquid, add the sauce to the ribs and bake for another hour. Next, pour off most of the sauce, increase temp to 400° and bake for another half hour, constantly checking so the ribs don't burn. Check the poured off sauce for thickness. If too thin, dissolve a tablespoon of cornstarch in a cup of water and add to simmered sauce mixture until desired consistency is attained. I prefer a bit thicker sauce. Pour enough of the sauce over the baking ribs to coat and bake uncovered a half hour longer. You need to "babysit" the ribs after increasing the baking temp to make sure some browning occurs, but no burning. Adjust the temp as needed. Enjoy with gusto and some mashed potatoes! 📧

### Bar-B-Q Spareribs by Roxanne Zimanski, Courtland

Put the following in a saucepan:

- 2 T. butter or margarine
- 2 T. vinegar
- 2 T. brown sugar
- ¼ c. lemon juice
- 1 c. ketchup
- 3 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 T. mustard
- 1 c. water
- ½ c. celery diced
- salt and red pepper if desired

Cook together and then simmer for 3-5 hours so it reduces itself.

Meanwhile cook three to four pounds of country-style spareribs in the oven until almost done or about two hours. After baking the ribs drain off the grease and then pour sauce over the ribs. Bake until tender or another hour.

If I don't have all day to do this, I make the sauce one or 2 days in advance. 📧



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[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)

Contact Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before doing any digging more than 12-inches deep. Make this call 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees, tiling and more. You can also register on the website at [www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org). This gives utilities time to mark their underground lines up to your meter so you are safe! Then contact a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. 📧



**Richard 'Rick' Burud**

## Manager's Message

### Climate change legislation

If you haven't heard, climate change legislation was proposed by the President, passed in the House of Representatives and is on the docket of the U.S. Senate (See the related story on Pages 1 and 6).

As cooperatives, we've been extremely interested and are working closely with our legislators. However, we are not satisfied with the current proposed legislation and are asking

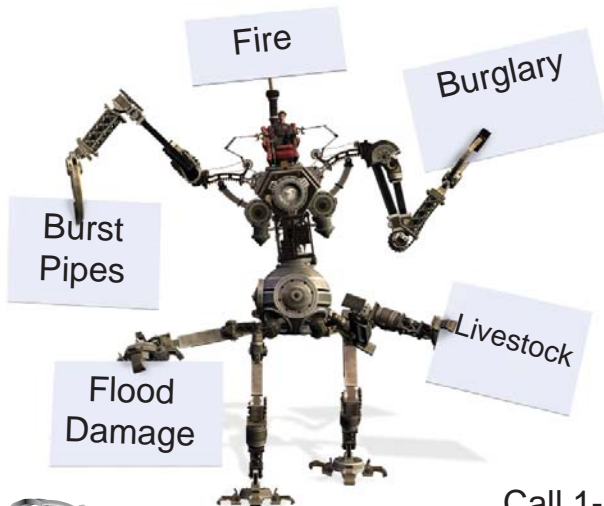
our Senators for:

1. An allocation formula of allowances.
2. A more realistic reduction in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).
3. A safety valve if it seriously affects the rate payer.
4. Encourage the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offsets.
5. Reduced rate impact for some large commercial and industrial loads.

Since we are now in the last legislative body, we'll probably be calling on you to help make our voices heard politically. We're working on the economic impact on you, "our member," with the current House of Representatives legislation.

So please, when called upon, respond and contact our senators so we have legislation that is environmentally-workable and financially-affordable. 🗳️

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### Rural Electric

Official monthly newsletter published by

Federated Rural Electric

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Jackson, MN 56143-0069

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The Board of Directors generally meets the last business day of the month at 9 a.m. at the Jackson office. Regular board meetings are open to the membership. Members interested in discussing business items should contact the general manager or president three days before the meeting.

## Board meeting highlights



Federated Rural Electric's Board of Directors met July 27. All directors were present. They acted on these issues:

• Listened to reports from department managers, wholesale power suppliers and from subsidiaries.

• Approved quarterly inventory adjustments.

• Approved policy recommendations updating Federated's line extension policy and various employee policies.

• Approved co-op delegates for upcoming meetings and events.

• Approved a donation to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation.

• Briefed on the CTV digital transition at Jackson, Frost and Godahl UHF towers. (See Page 1 story.)

• Approved changing Federated's fiscal year to run from January to December for 2010. 🗳️