

## MEMBER SERVICES

### AUTOMATIC MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

Allows your monthly electric bill payment to be automatically deducted from your bank account on the due date. Sign up online ([clayelectric.com](http://clayelectric.com)) or call your local district office.

### ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit the Clay Electric web site ([clayelectric.com](http://clayelectric.com)) and access your account information:

- View your bill statement
- Make a one-time payment online
- View current charges
- View account balance
- View billing history
- View estimated meter reading dates
- Request emailed bill statements (Clay eBill).

**PROJECT SHARE** - Help others by designating a tax-deductible amount to be added to your electric bill or make a one-time donation.

**REMOTE METER READING (RMR)** - Enables a co-op meter reader to obtain the meter reading without entering the homeowner's property. The monthly charge is \$3.95.

**ENERGY SMART REBATE PROGRAM** - Offers rebates for members who install additional insulation in their homes, or who install a high efficiency heat pump or solar water heating system.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOANS** - Available for the purpose of installing certain energy efficiency measures, including metal roofing and solar water heaters.

**SURGEBLASTER** - High quality surge protection equipment at a low monthly lease.

**MARATHON WATER HEATERS** - Marathon water heaters are the most energy efficient electric resistance water heater on the market and are offered in an array of sizes (15 to 105 gallons).

**LONG DISTANCE PHONE SERVICE** - Clay has contracted with TransWorld Network Corp. (TWN) to offer members competitively priced long distance phone service. Call (877) 877-CLAY (2529) for more information.

**PAYMENT STATIONS** - Clay has contracted with Fidelity Express to offer payment stations for paying your electric bill at various businesses in the co-op's service area. Fidelity Express charges \$1 for each transaction. A list of payment locations is available online ([clayelectric.com](http://clayelectric.com)) and at your local district office.

## Update: Our Energy, Our Future

Thousands of Clay Electric members, along with employees, are now participating in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America campaign. The campaign is part of an effort by electric co-ops across the nation to let lawmakers know how much climate legislation and energy policies could impact the cost of electricity.

After signing up for the campaign, pre-written messages are sent on your behalf to your state elected officials, plus your U.S. Representative and Florida's two U.S. Senators which express concern for "Climate Change" and "Energy Policy" legislation that could have a serious impact on the future cost of electricity.

Members can sign up by going online to [www.ourfloridaenergy.com](http://www.ourfloridaenergy.com) or by completing a Contact Your Legislators card available at all district offices. A Contact Your Legislators card was also included in the envelope of your April electric bill statement.

At the national level, more than 255,000 members of electric co-ops, along with concerned citizens, have joined the Our Energy, Our Future campaign.

"These efforts help boost our campaign to get our members' voices heard in Washington about climate legislation and other electricity policy," said Glenn English, general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

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Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' billing statements. If you have questions or comments about the Power Line publication, contact Editor Wayne Mattox at P. O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; e-mail: [WMattox@clayelectric.com](mailto:WMattox@clayelectric.com).

Clay Electric also publishes the Kilowatt four times a year (January, March, July and October). The Kilowatt is the official voice of Clay Electric and has been published continuously since 1948 as an informational and educational service for co-op members.

Clay Electric's web site (<http://www.clayelectric.com>) offers lots of online services such as payments, and information about the co-op's programs and services. Members can also write their own ads online to be published on the web site's Trading Post. To enter your ad on the Trading Post, you must use your Clay Electric customer number which is printed on your electric bill statement.

Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on May 28 and June 30 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_

# Power Line

May 2009

## Please note your assignment of Capital Credits

All current members of Clay Electric who received electric service in 2008 are being notified this month regarding the amount of Capital Credits assigned to their accounts for that year.

The notice of Capital Credits assignment will appear on the lower portion of members' bill statements this month. If you received service from the co-op during 2008, the amount assigned to you will appear following the message "2008 Capital Credits." If you began receiving service from the co-op after Dec. 31, 2008, there will be no notification of Capital Credits on your May electric bill statement.

If you have more than one account with the same member number, the assignment will be reflected on the account with the most recent connect date.



### Climate Legislation

Glenn English, general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, shares his views on climate legislation with Congress. *Story on other side.*



Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

# Electricity must remain affordable, NRECA leader tells Congress

Glenn English, general manager/CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, recently expressed his concern that maintaining the affordability of electricity must be part of any climate legislation being considered by Congress.



Speaking to members of the Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment in the U.S. House of Representatives on April 23, English said, "Maintaining the affordability of electricity is the principle against which NRECA will judge all climate change and energy legislation."

English told the subcommittee the NRECA will strongly object to any legislation that makes electricity unaffordable or gives Wall Street speculators the ability to set the nation's electricity bills.

"In 1938 President Franklin Roosevelt declared that electricity was a necessity, not a luxury. We must not turn back on that commitment from over 70 years ago. We do not have to, and should not, in climate change legislation," English said.

English acknowledged that it is early in the legislative process, but he believed it was important for lawmakers to understand the concerns of the 42 million members of electric co-ops across the nation that the NRECA represents. The NRECA is the national service organization for 930 not-for-profit electric cooperatives in 47 states, including Clay Electric.

**During his testimony, English focused on a major objective - keeping electricity bills affordable for all Americans while achieving long-term emissions reductions.**

"To maintain that affordability and achieve those reductions, we must carefully structure

a federal climate change policy that utilizes least-cost alternatives and provides maximum flexibility."

**English said an early draft of the climate change legislation should include realistic timelines and reduction levels; freely allocate emission allowances to electric cooperatives rather than auctioning them; prevent Wall Street speculators from setting electricity prices; include meaningful cost-containment and flexibility mechanisms; establish a single, comprehensive federal program that supersedes other federal and state laws; and address the global nature of the issue.**

"The legislation's emission reduction levels and timelines are overly aggressive, particularly in the early years of the program," English said. "In the short run, there are relatively few choices to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Outside of energy efficiency improvements, switching from coal to natural gas is the most likely scenario to comply with the caps in the bill, with some additional renewable energy being added to the generation mix."

English said Congress and the Obama administration will have to make federal investments and solve considerable policy challenges if energy efficiency, renewable electricity and natural gas are to be adequate baseload resources.

English was also concerned that legislation provides unrealistically little time for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), other agencies, and regulated entities to prepare for a cap-and-trade program.

"Even with the best leadership, the best of intentions and additional resources, experience teaches us that federal agencies have significant difficulty meeting congressionally-imposed deadlines that are overly aggressive," he said.

English noted that the draft bill was largely silent on how emission allowances should be

distributed under the program.

"The NRECA strongly opposes an auction tax as a means of distributing emission allowances," English said. "Auctioning allowances is not necessary to achieve the environmental objective of a cap-and-trade plan - namely to achieve significant, long-term reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Those reductions are achieved by the cap established in the legislation. An auction of allowances will not result in any further reductions of CO2 emissions. It will only raise revenue."

**English told the subcommittee the only reason to auction emission allowances would be to raise revenue for the government. "The very definition of a tax," he noted.**

"The NRECA does not believe that climate change legislation should be used as a method to enhance the government's revenues. Such a scheme would only serve to establish a variable tax to fund government programs. Further, the level of the tax would not be set by Congress, but by the highest bidder in the auction," English said.

English said it was important that Wall Street speculators be prevented from setting electricity prices.

**"In just the last decade, we've had a technology bubble, an oil bubble, and a housing bubble, not to mention the Enron fiasco and California's electricity crisis, each of which was at least partly caused by speculators and manipulators trying to make a buck at the expense of consumers. Have we not learned our lesson?"**

English said climate change is a global issue the U.S. cannot address by itself.

"Unilateral U.S. action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions would disadvantage our industries that trade in global markets during the transition to a low-carbon economy," English said.