

Keeping a Balanced Energy Mix



As we enter the New Year, we'll have plenty of holiday memories—especially of all the wonderful meals. Amy and I have three children and it is our elder daughter and middle child, Becca, who enjoys cooking. She can take many seemingly unrelated ingredients and create an amazing dish.

Becca's creations remind me of the "creation," or production of electricity; it takes many parts working together to create one end product that we all use every day.

The key ingredients necessary for the generation of electricity include coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydro and renewables (sun, wind, bio-mass, etc.). Each fuel source is different, but each one has its place when it comes to meeting the nation's energy needs and creating a successful energy portfolio for our country. Similar to baking a cake, too much of one ingredient and not enough of another can destroy the whole recipe. The same is true of a balanced blend for our country's energy fuels.

Unfortunately, some bills proposed in our nation's capital, such as a cap and trade law like the American Clean Energy Act, appear to be aimed at eliminating certain generation sources without a proper fuel to take its place. For example, the current cap and trade bill calls for the reduction of carbon emissions by 17 percent in 2020 and 40 percent in 2030 by placing a cap on the amount of carbon emitted in the U.S. Those not in compliance with the set "cap" will face fines or can purchase or trade "carbon credits" allowing them to avoid these fines. Due to technology constraints this carbon cap and trade system will significantly increase the costs of producing power with our main energy ingredient—coal.

As we know, when one ingredient goes up in cost so must the overall price for the end product, in our case, electricity. And since coal is such a large portion of our country's energy mix (accounting for almost half of our nation's electricity production), the costs could be huge — maybe as much as 30 percent added to your power bill. To compound the problem, the distorted outcome would be that no new electricity generation would result from these increased costs.

Often, Becca will substitute one ingredient for another. In the case of energy, there is only one other fuel and technology available to replace coal — nuclear. However, due to long construction lead times and government rules and regulations, it will take time to replace one fuel for the other.

Like any good cook who can influence the outcome of a recipe, we can persuade lawmakers who are crafting our nation's energy policies. Inside this issue is a listing of your state Senators and Representatives. I urge you to stay in touch with their work on energy policies to make sure they are balanced on the state level. On the national stage, continue to communicate with your Senators and Congressmen through the Our Energy, Our Future site www.ourenergy.coop and let them know that affordable electricity is essential and can be achieved with a common sense environmental and energy approach.

It doesn't take much to mess up a good recipe, but working together, we can make sure our leaders call for the right energy mix and technology to keep electricity affordable and palatable. ☞

Tom Stackhouse, CAEC President and CEO

YOUR BOARD

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Chase Riddle, Prattville

Patsy M. Holmes, Wetumpka

Vice Chairman
Jimmie Harrison, Jr., Maplesville

Terry Mitchell, Stewartville

Secretary/Treasurer
Ruby Neeley, Jemison

David A. Kelley, Sr., Rockford

C. Milton Johnson, Statesville

Van Smith, Billingsley

Charles Byrd, Deatsville

LOCATIONS

Prattville Headquarters
1802 U.S. Hwy. 31 North
(334) 365-6762/(800) 545-5735
Outage Hotline: (800) 619-5460

Clanton Office
1601 7th St. North

Rockford Office
U.S. Highway 231

Wetumpka Office
637 Coosa River Pkwy.

CAEC Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 681570
Prattville, AL 36068

2010 Board Election Timeline

March 23

Trustees appoint Nominating Committee (Article IV, Section 4.05 of Member Bylaws).

April 15

Nominating Committee meets (Article IV, Section 4.05).

May 14

Nominating Committee posts slate of nominees for Districts 2, 5, 9 and the at-large Trustee at all CAEC customer service centers and on CAEC's Web site, www.caec.coop (Article IV, Section 4.05).

May 25

Nominations by petition must be received by 4:30 p.m. (Article IV, Section 4.05).

June 22

All nominations by petition will be verified and posted at CAEC customer service centers and our Web site, www.caec.coop (Article III, Section 3.03).

July

Alabama Living magazine will include all candidates names and the mail-in ballot.

August

Magazine will include CAEC's 2009 Annual Report. If you choose to vote at Annual Meeting, please bring your registration form to the meeting.

August 6

Deadline for mail-in ballot to be post-marked (Article III, Section 3.03).

August 13

Annual Meeting, Prattville headquarters, U.S. Hwy. 31, north of Prattville. (4 p.m. registration, 6:30 p.m. business session) Election results will be announced.

Democratic Member Control: Making *Your* Vote Count

CAEC's 2010 Annual Meeting date is set for Aug. 13—a time to exercise your unique right as a cooperative member; to vote for your Board through democratic member control.

As stated in the Cooperative Principles, co-ops are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights—one member, one vote.

Last year, more than 2,900 members exercised their right to vote through mail-in ballots and at Annual Meeting, which far exceeded quorum and allowed the business meeting to be held.

Be on the lookout for your mail-in ballot in the July issue of *Alabama Living*.

Once you receive it, mark it and return it in the enclosed postage paid envelope by Aug. 6, seven days prior to Annual Meeting. If ballots are postmarked after Aug. 6, they cannot be counted.

CAEC's trustees approved board election dates, which are prescribed by the cooperative's bylaws. The dates are in the adjacent time line.

Each year three or four district positions are considered. At this year's meeting, districts 2, 5, 9 and the at-large positions will be voted on through this process. Refer to the district map at www.caec.coop.

Additional information about mail-in ballots and the Trustee election process will be highlighted in upcoming *Alabama Living* magazines. ☞



CAEC members register for 2009's Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will be held on Friday, Aug. 13.

CAEC Offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 18 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr./Robert E. Lee Day Holiday



STATE SENATORS...

...in your service area.



Sen. Jim Preuitt (D)
District 11
Year Elected: 1990
P.O. Box 1063
Talladega, AL 35161
(334) 242-7898



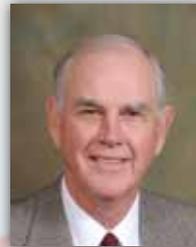
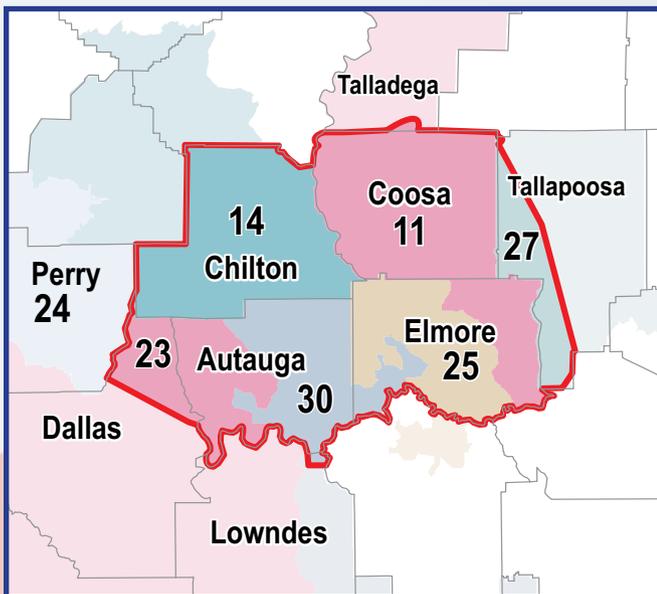
Sen. Hank Sanders (D)
District 23
Year Elected: 1983
P.O. Box 1305
Selma, AL 36702
(334) 242-7860



Sen. Hank Erwin (R)
District 14
Year Elected: 2002
123 Country Hills Rd.
Montevallo, AL 35115
(334) 242-7873



Sen. Bobby Singleton (D)
District 24
Year Elected: 2005
105 Cobb St.
Greensboro, AL 36744
(334) 242-7935



Sen. Larry Dixon (R)
District 25
Year Elected: 1982
820 E. Fairview Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36106
(334) 242-7895



Sen. Ted Little (D)
District 27
Year Elected: 1986
410 South Dean Rd.
Auburn, AL 36830
(334) 242-7865



Sen. Wendell Mitchell (D)
District 30
Year Elected: 1978
P.O. Box 225
Luverne, AL 36049
(334) 242-7883

STATE REPRESENTATIVES...



...in your service area.



Rep. Barry Mask (R)
District 31
Year Elected: 2006
41 Brokland Court
Wetumpka, AL 36093
(334) 242-7732



Rep. Ralph Howard (D)
District 72
Year Elected: 2005
700 M.W. Rollins Ln.
Greensboro, AL 36744
(334) 242-7759



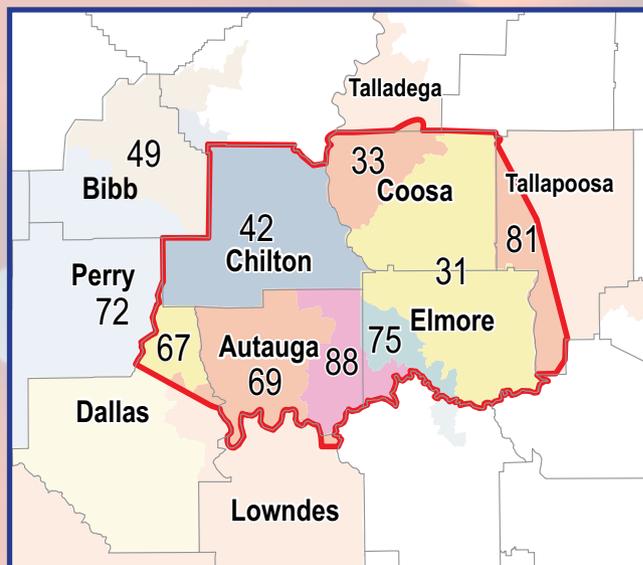
Rep. Ronald G. Johnson (R)
District 33
Year Elected: 1978
3770 Sylacauga-Fayette Hwy.
Sylacauga, AL 35151
(334) 242-7777



Rep. Greg Wren (R)
District 75
Year Elected: 2006
4213 Carmichael Rd.
Montgomery, AL 36106
(334) 242-7764



Rep. James "Jimmy" Martin (D)
District 42
Year Elected: 1998
P.O. Box 1214
Clanton, AL 35046
(334) 242-7714



Rep. Cam Ward (R)
District 49
Year Elected: 2002
124 Newgate Rd.
Alabaster, AL 35124
(334) 242-7750



Rep. Yusuf Salaam (D)
District 67
Year Elected: 2002
230 Franklin St.
Selma, AL 36703
(334) 242-7746



Rep. Betty Carol Graham (D)
District 81
Year Elected: 1994
3485 Cowpens Rd.
Alexander City, AL 35010
(334) 242-7741



Rep. James L. Thomas (D)
District 69
Year Elected: 1982
P.O. Box 1089
Camden, AL 36726
(334) 242-7701



Rep. H. Mac Gipson, Jr. (R)
District 88
Year Elected: 1994
507 Cook Rd.
Prattville, AL 36067
(334) 242-7695

The National Power Grid...

...many parts working together to keep America running

During the past year, *Alabama Living* has featured a series highlighting the complexities involved in delivering power to your home, including fuel sources for generating electricity and the transmission and distribution networks.

The infrastructure involved with generation and delivery comprises our nation's power grid which is owned and operated by 3,100 electric utilities—930 member-owned electric cooperatives, 213 stockholder or investor-owned utilities and 2,000 state or local government-run networks. Additionally, there are nearly 2,100 non-utility power producers, including both independent power companies and customer-owned distributed energy facilities.

America operates on approximately 10,000 power plants, 300,000 miles of electric transmission lines and a national “power bill” of \$247 billion paid by America's 131 million electric customers for an annual energy use of 526 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh).

Electricity demand has increased by approximately 25 percent since 1990, while the construction of transmission facilities has decreased by 30 percent. When this lack of infrastructure growth is compounded with the fact that the majority of the country's power plants are 30 or more years old, America is facing a significant need for new electric power generation and transmission equipment.

Smart Grid Technology

With an aging electrical infrastructure, federal agencies and electric providers are investigating the option to update and consolidate the national power grid to meet growing energy demands.

Electric grid stakeholders representing utilities, technology providers, researchers, policymakers and consumers are working together to define the functions of a “smart grid.” Through regional meetings under the Modern Grid Strategy project, the following characteristics have been identified as part of a smart grid:

- **Self-diagnostics from power disturbance events:** This allows the grid to “heal” itself by performing continuous self-assessment and by analyzing issues, taking corrective action and if needed, rapidly restoring grid components.
- **Operating resiliently against physical and/or cyber attack:** The grid will incorporate a system-wide solution that reduces physical and cyber vulnerabilities and will enable rapid recovery from disruptions.
- **Providing power quality for 21st century needs:** With a growing use of electrical appliances, an increasing population and innovations such as electric cars, a grid that can keep up with this demand is necessary.
- **Accommodating all generation and storage options, including renewables:** All types and sizes of electrical generation and storage systems will be seamlessly integrated.
- **Optimizing assets and operating efficiently:** Operationally, the smart grid will help to manage peak usage times, lower system losses incurred through transmission of power from the plant to the home and dramatically improve outage management. Operational, maintenance and capital costs will be reduced.

Whenever you flip a light switch at night to read a book or turn on your T.V. to increase your knowledge of the world by watching the news, the electricity you are using is being generated and delivered instantly.

As new technologies and investments are made to the national grid infrastructure, it's important to remember that the hard work of people from across the country helped to provide you those moments - whether those workers are in a mine, repairing a transformer in your neighborhood or running a power plant hundreds of miles away, they are all working together to help keep America running. 



Need \$500 for College?



College scholarship applications are now available to high school seniors graduating this upcoming spring.

Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded by the Electric Cooperative Foundation, Inc. (ECF), which provides scholarships for post-secondary institutions.

Applicants must be dependents of CAEC members. The scholarship will be paid by ECF directly to the educational institution for credit to the student's account.

Applications are available at www.caec.coop, any of our service centers or by calling (334) 351-2213 or 1-800-545-5735 ext. 2213 to have an application mailed to you.

**Deadline for
application is March 12**



Central Alabama
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Recipe for *Efficiency* from CAEC

Dryer Lint Traps and Vents

Clothes dryers are one of the many appliances that add convenience to our lives, but if not maintained properly, they can increase your home's energy usage.

Lint from clothes can become caught in traps and vents which decreases air flow in your dryer,

causing it to run longer and use more electricity. Simple maintenance can help keep your dryer running smoothly.

Lint can also pose a safety hazard since it's highly flammable. Follow the steps below to keep your dryer running efficiently and safely.

Utensils (tools):

Clean Towel

Toothbrush or small brush

Screwdriver

Water

Cleaning the Lint Trap:

1. Remove your dryer's lint trap.
2. Remove any accumulated lint and discard (this step should be done each time you use your dryer).
3. To remove any waxy buildup deposited from fabric softeners, wash with warm water and a small brush (such as an old toothbrush). Gently brush over the mesh grate of the trap.
4. Pat dry with a clean towel and let the lint trap air dry before placing back into your dryer. This process should be done every four to six months.



Cleaning the Dryer Vent Hose

1. Unplug your dryer and pull away from the wall. Using a screwdriver, loosen the vent clamp from the vent hose (you may have to remove the back panel of the dryer to access the clamp).
2. Remove the vent hose. Reach into the hole in the back of the dryer and pull out any lint buildup.
3. Reach into the vent hose and remove any lint. Most lint will accumulate at the ends, but also check the middle of the hose. Be careful not to puncture or damage the hose.
4. Slide the clamp back on vent, reattach the hose to the dryer and tighten the clamp. Slide the dryer back into place, making sure you do not kink the vent hose and that you keep it as straight as possible.



Remember, lint is your dryer's worst enemy. By removing it, you help your dryer run more efficiently and safely.