

Gathering the Strength of Our Numbers



You are probably familiar with the saying, “there’s strength in numbers,” and while I don’t know the origin of that statement, it has been true of cooperatives and a truth that applies to our efforts today. The national debate surrounding our country’s energy policies is receiving a great deal of attention, especially in Congress, where committee hearings are being conducted, experts are testifying and bold strategies for dramatically increasing renewable generation are being embraced.

Recently I have wondered if participation in “green” programs is an accurate mirror of our viewpoints. The media reports a majority of U.S. citizens are in favor of increasing the use of renewable energy. Yet, only a small percentage of our members has actually gotten involved with any “take action” programs, such as Green Power Choice, peak shaving and the citizen-level grassroots political action, ACRE.

For the last two years, the Green Power Choice program (read more about this program on the next page) has been available to our consumers for \$2 per 100-kilowatt hour block. In that time, only 59 members have chosen to go green, and although those members have committed generously by purchasing a total of 149 blocks each month, it still seems there might be more than one percent of the membership who would want to promote the use of green power. Your cooperative is doing its part. For example, CAEC’s office and warehouse facilities operate on approximately 7,000 blocks of Green Power.

More recently the cooperatives of PowerSouth introduced a peak shaving program (see our ad in the back), and since November, CAEC has realized a greater level of participation, with more than 600 members already taking action to help

lower our power demand during high usage periods. While there has been a good initial response, more participation is needed for the full benefit to be recognized. As you know, the more we can reduce our system-wide use of energy generated by peaking plants, the more influence we will have on our wholesale power rate. Members’ personal cost for energy is helped when CAEC’s wholesale power cost remains stable.

Our other critical initiative is the grassroots ACRE program, which costs pennies a day at \$2.08 per month, but pays back tremendous dividends. It is through our collective membership nationwide that we literally find our strength in numbers. As a small entity (around 11 percent) in an electric industry dominated by huge, influential organizations, co-ops are able to speak with a strong voice because our elected leaders know that the cooperative’s ACRE members are average citizens, not paid lobbyists. They also know cooperative members are voters. Your trustees and employees have a strong participation level and are leaders in Alabama. In fact, CAEC is one of the first cooperatives to have members participate in ACRE, but we still need more members to send a message to elected officials.

To those of you who are actively engaged in any of these programs, I thank you for your commitment, and I urge others to become proactive. Please don’t wait for someone else to handle it. We need your participation to strengthen our numbers, with Green Power Choice, peak shaving and ACRE. Give us a call or visit our Web site at www.caec.coop and get involved. ☞

Tom Stackhouse, CAEC President and CEO

YOUR BOARD		LOCATIONS
Chairman Chase Riddle, Prattville	Patsy M. Holmes, Wetumpka	Prattville Headquarters 1802 U.S. Hwy. 31 North (334) 365-6762/(800) 545-5735
Vice Chairman Jimmie Harrison, Jr., Maplesville	Terry Mitchell, Stewartville	Clanton Office 1601 7th St. North
Secretary/Treasurer Ruby Neeley, Jemison	David A. Kelley, Sr., Rockford	Rockford Office U.S. Highway 231
C. Milton Johnson, Statesville	Van Smith, Billingsley	Wetumpka Office 637 Coosa River Pkwy.
Don Whorton, Wetumpka	Charles Byrd, Deatsville	CAEC Mailing Address: P.O. Box 681570 Prattville, AL 36068

It's Easy Being Green

The Green Power Choice Program is an economical way to buy 'green' energy for your home.

The major buzz words and topics during 2007 centered on the environment. In the last year, the word "green" has been transformed from an adjective used to describe the color of objects, like grass or frogs, to a way of illustrating the impact something has on the environment.

From green cars, hotels and laundry detergents to political debates and proposed legislation, the renewable energy discussion is everywhere we turn. So, do you know how green your co-op is?

For more than 70 years, CAEC has been one of 700 cooperatives across the country to receive renewable energy through hydro generation. From the federal dams that cooperatives helped finance to the first generators owned by our power supply cooperative, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative (formerly Alabama Electric Cooperative), renewable energy has been a part of our portfolio. More recently, and through a partnership between PowerSouth and Waste Management, CAEC offers its members the opportunity to help develop renewable alternatives with the Green Power Choice program (visit www.greenpowerchoice.coop for more information). With this first project, electricity is generated from the methane gas produced at the Springhill Regional Landfill in Campbellton, Fla. As the gas is extracted, it is burned to generate 4.8 megawatts of green energy. The electricity produced is then added to the transmission grid for distribution to CAEC and other participating co-ops.

What makes this process beneficial to our environment? Approximately five pounds of solid waste is attributed to each and every person in the United States per day. Landfill gas, consisting mostly of methane, is created through the natural decomposition of this waste material and can be used as an alternative fuel resource for electricity production.

The process begins with the disposal of organic-rich solid waste material into sanitary landfills. As the waste decomposes, methane gas is produced and recovered by a series of wells drilled into the landfill. The wells are interconnected by a common collection system that transports the gas to a compression facility. There, the gas is compressed, dried and filtered before being sent through turbines, or engines, to produce electricity.

Members can participate in the Green Power Choice program for less than the price of a gallon of gasoline. Green power is sold in 100-kilo-watt-hour blocks—the equivalent of about eight percent of a typical household's monthly energy usage—for \$2 each. There is no limit to how many blocks you can buy.

Helping the environment today is vital to protecting it for tomorrow. Consuming 400 kWhs of electricity generated from methane gas for one year prevents 3.6 tons of emissions. That's the environmental equivalent of planting 1.2 acres of trees or not driving 9,600 miles in the family car.

Unfortunately, the Green Power Choice program may not be a choice for much longer, and it may become more expensive if political plans move forward—actions taken now can have a positive effect on future power costs. Please take this important step with us to ensure safe, clean and economical green power for future generations...Make the Green Power Choice!

For more information visit www.greenpowerchoice.coop, www.caec.coop or call 1-800-545-5735 to sign up today! ☘



70 Years of CAEC and the Environment...

PowerSouth (AEC at the time) purchased the Gantt & Point A hydros from the Alabama Water Service Company in 1944. Around 1920, E.L. Moore, manager and principal stockholder of the Horseshoe Lumber Co., organized River Falls Power Co in partnership with Colonel C.A. O'Neal. The company first built a hydroelectric plant at Gantt at the site of a former grist mill, from which power was generated and sold in 1922. A second plant, named the Point A Plant, was completed and placed in operation in 1926.

2008 Board Election Time Line

April 3

Trustees appoint Nominating Committee. (Article IV, Section 4.01 of Member Bylaws)

April 17

Nominating Committee meets. (Article IV, Section 4.05)

May 9

Nominating Committee posts slate of nominees for Districts 1, 4 and 6 at all CAEC customer service centers and on CAEC's Web site, www.caec.coop. (Article IV, Section 4.05)

May 19

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

July

Alabama Living magazine will include mail-in ballot with names of candidates. All nominations will be posted at CAEC customer service centers and on the Web by the following business day. (Article III, Section 3.03)

August

Magazine will include CAEC's 2007 Annual Report. If you choose to vote at the Annual Meeting, please bring your registration form to the meeting.

August 1

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

August 8

Annual Meeting, Prattville headquarters, U.S. Hwy. 31, north of Prattville. (4 p.m. registration, 7 p.m. business session)

Co-op Principle #2

Take Advantage of Democratic Control

CAEC's 2008 Annual Meeting, set for Aug. 8, is the members' opportunity to take an active role in the second cooperative principle of democratic member control. Because of a Bylaws amendment two years ago allowing mail-in ballots, each member's ability to participate became easier.



Members register for and attend the 2007 Annual Meeting despite record high temperatures.

The first year mail-in ballots were used, a huge thunderstorm rolled in and the festivities had to be cut short. Having already met quorum from the combination of mail-in ballots and the members who registered in the first hour, however, the business meeting was still conducted in the auditorium. Last year on the day of Annual Meeting, our area experienced record high temperatures, but quorum had been met through the 2,134 members who mailed in their ballots.

"It's been encouraging to see how many more people registered by mail for our Annual Meeting the second year as opposed to the first year," said Chase Riddle, CAEC Board Chairman.

This will be the third year that CAEC members will receive a mail-in ballot, which will arrive with your July issue of *Alabama Living* magazine. Once you receive it, mark it and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope by Aug. 1, seven days prior to the Annual Meeting. Ballots postmarked after Aug. 1 cannot be counted.

CAEC's Bylaws determine time frames for particular actions taken by the trustees or members prior to Annual Meeting. Based on those prescribed dates, the trustees approved the calendar of events in the adjacent time line.

This year, the membership will elect trustees for Districts 1, 4 and 6, currently held by C. Milton Johnson of Selma, Terry Mitchell of Sylacauga and Jimmie Harrison of Maplesville. ☪

Youth Tour and Bright Ideas Winners Announced

CAEC's leadership team is chosen! Ten outstanding high school juniors have been named the 2008 Youth Leaders for CAEC and will attend youth conferences on behalf of the co-op.

All 10 students will attend the Alabama Rural Electric Association Montgomery Youth Tour and legislative sessions in March, and the Alabama Cooperative Youth Conference in Columbia in July. Four of the youth also qualified to represent CAEC in Washington, D.C., June 14-19, as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Washington Youth Tour program.

Michael Forst, Prattville High School, Camdyn Williamson, Prattville High School, Ashlee Lassiter, Prattville High School, and Carly Evans, East Memorial Christian Academy, were selected during the cooperative's leadership forum on Thursday, Jan. 17, to attend the Washington Youth Tour/Youth Leadership Program. They will join



Ten Students Will Have the Chance of a Lifetime to Expand Their Leadership Skills

13,000 high school juniors from cooperatives throughout the country. Joshua Powell, Prattville Christian Academy, will serve as first alternate in the event that one of the delegates cannot attend.

These five delegates will join the other five students, Rachel Alexander, Autauga Academy, John D. Johnson, Prattville High School, Josh Otstot, East Memorial Christian Academy, Thomas Price, East Memorial Christian Academy and Amber Shook, Billingsley School, for the AREA Montgomery Youth Tour and the Alabama Cooperative Youth Conference. Both programs offer exceptional learning and leadership opportunities for the high school students.

"Each year I am amazed and energized by the students who apply for these youth leadership activities," said Tom Stackhouse, President/CEO of CAEC. "These ten will not only be leaders of our communities to watch in the future; they have each proven themselves already." ☞



2007-2008 Bright Ideas Grants Awarded to 23 Teachers

CAEC assisted teachers, students and area schools by awarding \$16,000 in grants to benefit more than 7,000 students in Autauga, Chilton and Elmore counties through the Bright Ideas grant program.

CAEC's Board of Trustees presented 23 grants to area teachers (visit www.caec.coop for a complete listing of grant recipients) during the Bright Ideas Grant Awards Reception, held Jan. 17 at the CAEC headquarters in Prattville. Grant propos-

als were accepted in November and December of 2007 and evaluated by a panel of judges earlier in the month. The judges included several retired teachers from throughout CAEC's service area and employees of local community associations.

In the 10 years of the Bright Ideas grant program \$160,000 has been awarded to teachers from across the CAEC service area, benefiting more than 60,000 students. ☞

For more information on either program, contact Tiffany Trueblood at 334-351-2125

Save Energy and Money with AC/HP Maintenance



For most days of the year you use either your air conditioner or a heat pump, and if you've ever been without one for any length of time, you know how valuable each one is.

Keep your systems in tiptop shape all year with these maintenance tips:

- For your AC, check all hose connections for leaks, and make sure the condensate tube is draining freely. On your heat pump, check and clean the condensate pan, the drain or the tap.
- Change or clean the filter once a month on either system. This is especially important during the summer when dust and allergens circulate.
- Clean the outside compressor by spraying with a hose, and clean indoor coils if accessible.

- Keep plantings at least one foot away for adequate airflow around the entire outdoor unit.
- Vacuum registers and air vents regularly. Also, make sure furniture and other items don't block registers.
- Have your duct work professionally cleaned every few years.
- During the winter, keep the outdoor compressor covered.

These tips, along with having a certified technician perform a yearly check-up on both units, can add years to the life of your systems and help save money on cooling and heating costs. For more efficiency tips, visit our Web site at www.caec.coop. 

Don't Blow a Fuse When it Comes to Fuses and Breakers

A blown electrical fuse or circuit breaker is inconvenient, but can be fixed easily, quickly and safely. If a fuse blows or a circuit breaker trips, follow these steps to get the lights back on:

1. Unplug the appliances or any other devices that are on the circuit.
2. If you need to work on the electrical wiring or replace fuses, switch off the power at the main switch in or near your service panel. Never work with electrical wiring unless the main switch is turned off. If you don't have a main switch, turn all circuit breakers to "off."
3. If you have fuses: A blown fuse will look blackened or discolored. Replace it with a new one of the correct rating for the circuit. Never install a larger fuse or circuit breaker than the rating of the wiring.
4. If you have circuit breakers: Turn the one that is "tripped" to the "off" position and then to "on."

5. Try to determine what caused the problem and correct it. It is useless to replace a fuse or reset a circuit breaker only to have it blow or trip again due to the same issue.

6. Restore power.

Never change fuses or reset circuit breakers in the dark. Keep a flashlight handy for illuminating this job. NEVER, ever use a penny or a piece of metal to "jump" a blown fuse—this is very dangerous and could start a fire.

If your fuses blow or circuit breakers trip often, this may be a symptom of circuit overloading, with too many appliances or lights operating at once. Correct the problem by removing some of the load on the circuit, then replace the fuse or reset the breaker. Again, never increase the size of the fuse or circuit breaker; this could overload the wiring and cause a fire.

As always, if you have any other concerns or don't feel comfortable doing this yourself, consult a licensed electrician. 



CAEC Offices Will Be Closed March 21, in Observance of Good Friday



Green Power Choice from CAEC gives you the power to turn trash into treasure by purchasing electricity generated from renewable resources like landfill gas.

Through Green Power Choice, we invest in the future of our communities by promoting the conservation of natural resources and the development of natural resources - a win-win opportunity for CAEC, our members, our community and our environment.

By participating in Green Power Choice, you buy green power in 100 kilowatt-hour blocks (equivalent to about eight percent of a typical month's electricity use). Each block you purchase costs only \$2, in addition to your regular monthly power bill.

Fill out the form below or for more information contact us at (334) 365-6762 or visit our Web site at www.caec.coop.

It's easy being green

Mail form to: Central Alabama Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 681570, Prattville, AL 36067

**Yes, I agree to do my part to by purchasing electricity generated from renewable resources!
I understand I will be signed up for the Green Power Choice program for one year.**

Name: _____ Phone #(s): _____

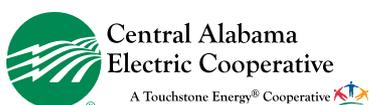
Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Account #: _____

Email: _____

Number of 100kWh blocks I wish to purchase at \$2 each: _____

Signature: _____



www.caec.coop

We're working to keep rates down... *Will you join us?*

CAEC's wholesale power costs are determined by our members' highest electricity usage and can affect your rates for the whole year if that usage is extremely high.... but there's something you can do through CAEC's peak shaving program.



This effort targets water heaters, which can use approximately 14 percent of your home's annual electricity. A peak shaving device for your electric water heater will be installed AT NO COST to you. While you still have hot water when you need it, the reheating process is delayed to off peak times.

Sign the form below or give us a call at (800) 545-5735. Join us and do your part to help keep rates down.

Mail form to: Central Alabama Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 681570, Prattville, AL 36067

Yes, I agree to do my part to help keep rates down with a peak shaving device for my electric water heater.

Name: _____ Phone #(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Account #: _____

Email: _____

Number & Size(s) of Water Heater(s): _____

Signature: _____

A licensed electrician will install a peak shaving device for your water heater at no cost to you.



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