

HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S

POWERLINES

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GOOD TO GLOW

BY GEORGE WALTON
PRESIDENT & CEO



energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. They offer the same warm,

soft light you're used to.

If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a CFL, it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 800,000 cars annually.

When you save electricity, HWEC saves, too. Since it's important to use energy wisely, Hancock-Wood wants to help you by getting these bulbs in your homes.

We also want you to take this opportunity to check out our new

building. Although we are not far from our old office, we want you to be familiar with our new location.

When you visit us, we'll give you an informative brochure explaining the benefits of CFLs in more detail.

So, make the switch today — for you, your wallet and for the environment. It's the smart choice.

"The Switch is On" at Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative (HWEC). That's because we recently introduced another exciting program. We'll now exchange your incandescent light bulbs with new energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

Just bring your incandescent bulbs (limit 9 per membership) to HWEC anytime during normal business hours, and exchange them for your **FREE** CFLs.

These ENERGY STAR® qualified CFL bulbs use about 75 percent less



- Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative Board Of Trustees: Chairman Ed Crawford, Findlay; Vice Chairman Steve Gerten, Leipsic; Secretary-Treasurer Tom Dierksheide, Bradner; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Marlene Barker, McComb; Dave Corbin, Arcadia; James Demler, Findlay; Clark Duncan, Bowling Green; John Edie, Arlington; Knut Lahrs, Kelleys Island; and Jack Putnam, Bluffton.
- President & CEO: George Walton.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.hwelectric.com

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Operation Round Up[®] – helping those in need

The HWEC Community Trust distributed a total of \$9,000 to worthy causes in 2008. The funds were gathered from members' contributions to a new program called Operation Round Up.

The most recent grant was given to a HWEC member whose young child has fallen ill. An emergency meeting was held to determine the recipient. The money will help the family with mounting medical bills.

Groups or individuals may apply for funding in 2009 by filling out an application available at www.hwelectric.com. The Operation Round Up board of directors reviews applications and makes decisions for funding.

Some examples of funding requests could include new equipment for a local volunteer fire department, educational equipment for a school or emergency assistance for a weather-related disaster.

NOTICE:

Please take note of our new office hours. We're now open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Join youth from across the nation on a trip to D.C.

You could join hundreds of Ohio students on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Study up on your knowledge of co-ops, and you may be chosen to attend.

High school sophomores and juniors are eligible for the Youth Tour if their parents or legal guardians are members of HWEC. A short test of co-op knowledge will determine this year's winners. A study book will be provided, so applicants can prepare.

While in Washington, winners will be able to learn about our nation's capital, the government and electric cooperatives. Many of the tours are VIP visits to areas not viewed by the general public.

E-mail HWEC today at info@hwelectric.com for more information and an application, or call (419) 257-5009. Applications must be postmarked or received by March 1, 2009.



Energy-efficiency tip

To trim high heating costs this winter, open draperies and shades on south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to enter your home. Close them at night to reduce the chill from cold glass.

Avoid carbon monoxide dangers this winter

Often called the “silent killer” because of its odorless, tasteless, and colorless nature, carbon monoxide remains the leading cause of accidental poisonings in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Carbon monoxide can be found in combustion fumes, such as those produced by vehicles, coal- and wood-burning stoves and gas heating systems. Carbon monoxide from these sources can build up in enclosed spaces, poisoning people and animals who breathe it.

The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. High levels of carbon monoxide inhalation can lead to loss of consciousness and death. Unless suspected, poisoning can be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms mimic other illnesses like the flu.



Photo by Honeywell International

To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning in your home, follow these tips:

- Have your fuel-burning appliances inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season. Make certain that flues and chimneys are connected, in good condition, and not blocked.
- Choose appliances that vent fumes outside whenever possible, have them properly installed, and maintain them according to manufacturers' instructions.
- If you cannot avoid using an unvented gas or kerosene space heater, carefully follow the instructions that come with the device. Use the proper fuel and keep doors to the rest of the house open. Crack a window to ensure enough air for ventilation and proper fuel-burning.
- Do not idle your car in a closed garage. Fumes can build up very quickly.
- Do not sleep in any room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.
- Install a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector in your home.

Take your education to the next level with a scholarship from HWECC

If you're planning to attend a college or university next fall, and need help with tuition costs, HWECC has the answer. The co-op provides at least \$7,600 a year in scholarships to area students.

HWECC awards either \$1,000, \$900 or \$800 each spring to three males and three females. Applicants must be high school seniors with a GPA of 3.5 and above and their parents or legal guardians must be HWECC members.

The cooperative also offers scholarships to active students at the University of Findlay and Owens Community College. For more information, contact the financial aid office at Findlay by calling (419) 434-4791 or the financial aid office at Owens Community College at (567) 429-3540.

HWECC also participates in the Touchstone Energy Special Achievement Scholarship. Applicants are awarded funds based on how well their activities reflect the four core values of Touchstone Energy: accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. Judges will also consider the applicant's drive and dedication.

There will be two first place \$1,500 awards and two second place \$750 awards, all for high school seniors of cooperative members. HWECC will submit one applicant, who will be judged next spring.

For students pursuing a degree in education, HWECC offers the \$1,000 Earl & Edith Dick Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship will be presented to one high school senior who lives on HWECC's lines and is enrolled in an education program at any university.

Signed and completed application forms must be returned to the co-op office or postmarked by March 1, 2009. For more information on any of these opportunities, or to download applications, visit our Web site at www.hwelectric.com.



Register now for the Spring Member Trip

Get your motor running. We're headed to the 2009 auto show in Detroit. You don't want to miss one of the industry's most exciting events.

The show features more than 700 vehicles from nearly every corner of the globe, including the worldwide unveiling of over 60 all-new models. See the latest in automobile technology, design and engineering.

This trip is open to all HWECC members and their friends, and it costs \$31 a person. This fee includes transportation and admission. The bus will leave the HWECC parking lot on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009 at 6:45 a.m. and will return by 4:30 p.m.

Reservations are available by calling Mary at (419) 257-5009 with credit card information, or by visiting our Web site at www.hwelectric.com.

