

EPA's Clean Power Plan is Troublesome for Electric Ratepayers

In early August of this year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the final version of the Clean Power Plan rules. The purpose of the plan, according to EPA, is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with a goal of a cleaner environment to comply with the Clean Air Act. The plan calls for a 32% reduction in carbon dioxide from power producers by the year 2030.

There is no debate about a cleaner world; we all want that. However, this plan raises numerous concerns among power producers and those of us who fight continually for affordable rates for our members. We believe that the plan goes too far too fast and will cause the price our members pay for electricity to increase significantly.

We believe that there is a better way to achieve the administration's mandate of reducing greenhouse gases. We need to be systematic and smart in the way we shift power production to cleaner methods. A rapid, sweeping shift away from current generation methods can only cause customers to bear the brunt of the expense of re-tooling the entire industry nationwide.

Back in 1935 when Volunteer Energy began, there was a huge effort to educate rural residents and farmers to the ways that electric power could improve their lives and the productivity of their farms. In these early years electricity was rather slowly adopted into the rural life, but once residents realized the benefits of this new technology, they joined the ranks of electrified America in growing numbers.

Fast forward to today. Can you imagine a world without electricity? The outages during the ice storms in February reminded us of how much we rely on electric power even in simple everyday tasks. When it is not available, our lives come to a standstill.

In the coming months we will be continuing the discussion about the Clean Power Plan with our lawmakers as part of our ongoing efforts to be the voice of the electric power consumer.



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative

What's Your eScore?

Program offers rebates for certain energy efficiency improvements you make to your home

Ready to perform some energy efficiency measures?

Visit VEC's website at www.vec.org, click the eScore link on the bottom of the home page, register, and select a contractor who is a member of TVA's and VEC's Quality Contractor Network (QCN). Arrange for the contractor to make any qualifying energy efficiency improvements and after the work is complete, VEC will schedule an inspection. A trained energy efficiency professional will inspect the work that has been done and calculate the home's eScore (energy efficiency rating). The evaluator will also make customized recommendations for other improvements the homeowner may want to consider to improve their homes energy efficiency – and eScore – even more. You can make additional improvements - and earn more rebates and incentives – as you choose.

Need some advice before you decide on an energy efficiency improvement?

Visit the VEC website at www.vec.org, click the eScore link on the bottom of the home page, register, and request an eScore evaluation; or call 423-334-7053 to schedule an evaluation.

Want a quick idea of what improvements might make your home more energy efficient?

Search for and download the eScore self-audit mobile app. It guides you through areas in the home and makes suggestions based on the information you provide.

For more information about the eScore program, call 423-334-7053.

Give your home an energy efficiency self-audit and get a FREE energy saving kit!

Download and install the FREE eScore Self Audit

October is Cooperative Month . . . and You are a Cooperative Member

Cooperative Month is a good opportunity to note the differences between being a member-owner of an electric cooperative and being a customer of a for-profit utility.

Virtually every American's life is touched in some way by cooperatives. About 47,000 separate cooperatives, with more than 100 million members, currently operate in the United States. Cooperatives exist to meet the needs of members as economically as possible – not to make a profit.

If you received this copy of *Powerlines* with your VEC electric bill, then you are a member-owner of at least one cooperative – Volunteer Energy Cooperative.

What is an Electric Cooperative?

- Private, independent, non-profit electric utility
- Owned by the customers they serve
- Incorporated under the laws of the states in which they operate
- Established to provide at-cost electric service
- Governed by a board of directors elected from the membership which sets policies and procedures that are implemented by the co-op's management

Cooperative Facts at a Glance

- Nationwide, rural electric cooperatives serve an estimated 42 million people in 47 states.
- 18.5 million businesses, homes, schools, churches, farms, irrigation systems and other establishments in 2,500 of 3,141 counties in the U.S. are members of rural electric cooperatives.
- Rural electric cooperatives provide power to more than 12 percent of the nation's meters are customers of rural electric co-ops.

It is true that you are a member of a very special organization. And we are proud to serve member-owners like you.

Happy Cooperative Month!





The VECustomers Share program funded \$30,600 in community service grants in August. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$5.4 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last working day of each month. For additional information, contact the office of Marketing and Economic Development, at 423-334-7051. Applications are also available online, at www.vec.org.



Meigs County VECustomers Share Board member Joyce Woods (second from right) presents a grant check to volunteers from Meigs Ministries (l to r) Carolyn Norris, Sheila Yarborough, and Carol Perkinson.

2015 4-H Electric Camp 'Save Today 4 Power Tomorrow'

Volunteer Energy Cooperative provided camp scholarships for a group of rising seventh- and eighth-grade students to attend the 2015 4-H Electric Camp. These campers joined hundreds of other students from across the state in discovering the world of electricity by participating in various camp learning centers that provided "hands-on" activities where 4-H'ers were able to "learn by doing."

VEC employees Kristy Kelly and Greg Hutsell served as volunteers for the camp, which was held July 7-10 on the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus. Kelly also serves as a member of the committee that plans and executes the 4-H Electric Camp each year. Highlights of the camp included:

Electric Trouble Light — Electric lamps give us light. In this learning center, students took a lamp kit and some electric insulators and made electric lamps to light their rooms.

Home Energy Conservation — We use electricity to light our homes, cook our food, play music and operate televisions. But as we use more electricity, our electric bills rise. In this activity, students learned how conserving electricity in their homes not only helps to lower their electric bills but also helps to protect our environment and conserve resources.

What is STEM? — This learning center covered the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) principles such as electricity, energy conservation, alternative energy sources, electronics, computer applications, robotics, electrical safety, engineering and other basic sciences through "hands-on" activities.

Electric Vehicles — Campers learned about batteries as well as

Rate Change in the Future for VEC Customers

TVA has announced a rate change, effective with the October 2015 billing. As of press time for this issue of Powerlines, the exact percentage of the increase had not been announced. Volunteer Energy will also announce a rate change in conjunction with the TVA increase.

Exact details of the amount of these changes will be announced through local media when details are finalized. The combination of the TVA and VEC increases is expected to total about 3%, or about \$3.00 for a customer who uses 1,000 kWh per month.

direct current and how it is used to propel electric vehicles. They also demonstrated their driving skills by maneuvering an electric golf cart through an obstacle course.

Solar Energy — Renewable energy resources reduce the use of fossil fuels to avoid negative impacts on our environment. In this activity, students learned how they can utilize the sun to power things they use every day.

Electrical Safety — Though electric power does a tremendous amount of work for us, we must be careful around it because it is such a powerful force. This learning center taught campers how to play it safe around high-voltage power lines.

The 4-H Electric Camp is a joint venture of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and its member cooperatives, including Volunteer Energy; University of Tennessee Extension; Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association and its municipal power systems; and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Organizations receiving grants in August

First Christian Church Youth Group	\$1,750	Stone Memorial High School Girls' Soccer Booster Club	\$680
Rhea County Veterans Coordinating Committee	\$1,500	Cumberland County Girls Soccer	\$600
Fair Park Senior Center	\$1,500	Morgan Scott Project	\$600
Red Clay State Historic Park	\$1,500	Meigs Senior Center	\$550
Family Cornerstones, Inc.	\$1,250	Midway Middle Soccer Club	\$500
Hospice of Cumberland County	\$1,250	Standing Stone Historical Society	\$500
Midway High School Band Boosters	\$1,250	Brown Middle School PTO	\$500
Quilts of Valor Foundation - Starr Mountain QOV Quilters	\$1,200	Meigs County Imagination Library	\$500
People Helping People	\$1,100	Meigs County-Decatur Chamber of Commerce	\$500
Highway 58 Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,100	Mended Hearts Chapter 127	\$500
Meigs High School Cheer Boosters	\$1,000	Rhea County Health Council/Give A Kid	\$500
Midway Youth Development	\$1,000	A Chance Stuff the Bus	\$500
26th Annual Monterey Fall Festival	\$1,000	Handfuls of The Harvest	\$500
Clarkrange Masonic Lodge #605	\$1,000	Kids on the Rise	\$440
Walk By Faith Ministries	\$1,000	Fentress Rescue Squad Crewettes	\$400
Polk County Health Council	\$900	Cherokee Removal Park - Blythe Ferry	\$400
Monterey Community Chorus	\$750	Meigs County Historical Society	\$350
"Happy Hearts" Seniors	\$750	Fairfield Glade Lions Club Charities, Inc.	\$350
Crossville Recreational Youth Soccer Association	\$680	Gamble Road Wild Game Dinner	\$250
		Brown Middle School Football PTO	\$250
		Ooltewah High School Girls Soccer Booster Club	\$250



4-H Electric Camp attendees from the VEC service area

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective September 1, 2015

2.122¢

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org
Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer

