

A Service of **Cherryland Electric Cooperative**

July/August 2013

Michigan

COUNTRY LINES

A diver in a blue wetsuit and mask is swimming in clear blue water, exploring a large shipwreck. The wreck is heavily covered in brown seaweed and coral. The diver is holding a camera and looking towards the wreck. The scene is set in a shallow, clear body of water.

Visit Michigan's Underwater Shipwrecks

(For divers & landlubbers, too!)

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Tandem Ciders Of Suttons Bay



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MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Whack-A-Mole

As I was flipping channels on my TV, I came across a scene wherein a character was hitting the head of a mole in a carnival

game only to have another one arise elsewhere. We have all seen or done this over the years.

The energy scene has been like this for a few decades now. Take a look at the composition of the energy your electric cooperative purchases over a given year:

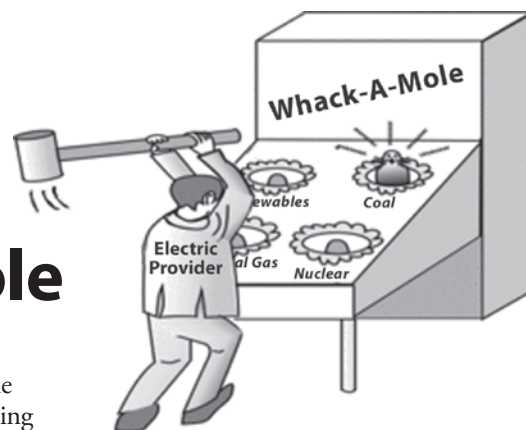
- Coal – 57.1 percent;
- Nuclear – 23.2 percent;
- Natural gas – 12.8 percent;
- Renewables (wind, solar, biomass) – 5.6 percent;
- Hydro (why this isn't considered renewable is also an issue) – 1.1 percent; and
- Oil – .2 percent.

There isn't one source of power that is immune to opposition by somebody or some group. As I have written in the past, there is simply not one "silver bullet." We must keep working on the balance of all fuels that is affordable while safeguarding the future of our environment with technologies that are proven and available.

The coal versus natural gas debate has heated up considerably over the past year as gas prices have remained low. As I walked down Front Street the other day, a passerby was wearing a button that read, "No Fracking Way." Well, that is all good and fine and I certainly respect the opinion of others. *But*, let's stop for a minute and play this button out.

Construction of gas generation has increased lately due to the price of natural gas. Anti-fracking groups run the risk of pushing the price of natural gas back up. Coal is a cheaper form of electric generation compared to natural gas and that will only get better as gas prices rise.

Will utilities get more support for increasing coal generation? If not coal or natural gas, then the answer must be



Tony Anderson
General Manager

nuclear? Yes, there is a little waste storage issue to overcome and the ability to build units on a smaller scale is needed.

Surely, wind must be the answer then? Prices for wind power have dropped as developers scramble to take advantage of the federal tax credits that may expire. What about the days with no wind, property issues, backyard issues and bird-kill issues?

Well then, the answer must be solar? What about storage and overcast days? Do we have enough land to hold the panels necessary for a project of any significant size?

Even a successful conservation program can have issues. Lower the energy sales and the monthly fixed costs go up in order to meet financial requirements. Poles and wires have to be paid for regardless of the amount of energy sold.

I believe we need all forms of energy in our portfolio. I only write this in an attempt to shed some light on the frustration felt on my side of the desk at times. As a society, we need more cooperation and support rather than opposition and anger. We need true meaningful solutions and less rhetoric (says the man who just gave you 500 words of his own rhetoric).

I wish I could whack-the-mole and win the giant teddy bear for everyone. I have no silver bullet or golden hammer. My only solution is to continue to work at affordability while maintaining a track record of bringing you power that is cleaner than it has been in the past.

It is simply a journey of small steps. After all, it's whack-a-mole, not whack-a-grizzly.





Two Memorable Cherryland Days

They were two memorable days for Cherryland Electric Cooperative that dawned with beautiful, early June weather. Cherryland hosted its 75th Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 6, at Wuerfel Park, home of the Traverse City Beach Bums.

A record 2,500 members showed up. They were treated to a free ticket to a baseball game, along with a ballpark dinner and 75th anniversary giveaways that included Cherryland's 75th anniversary hard cover book, a Willie Wiredhand figure, and prize raffles.

Member James Johnson of Traverse City won a \$500 drawing for sending in his mail-in ballot from *Country Lines* magazine. Dan Bodary of Grawn won an iPad for signing up to be part of Cherryland's grassroots network.

Board members John Olson, Melinda Lautner and Jon Zickert were re-elected by the membership.

On Friday, June 7, at Cherryland's home in Grawn, a ribbon-

cutting ceremony was held to unveil the first community solar farm in Michigan.

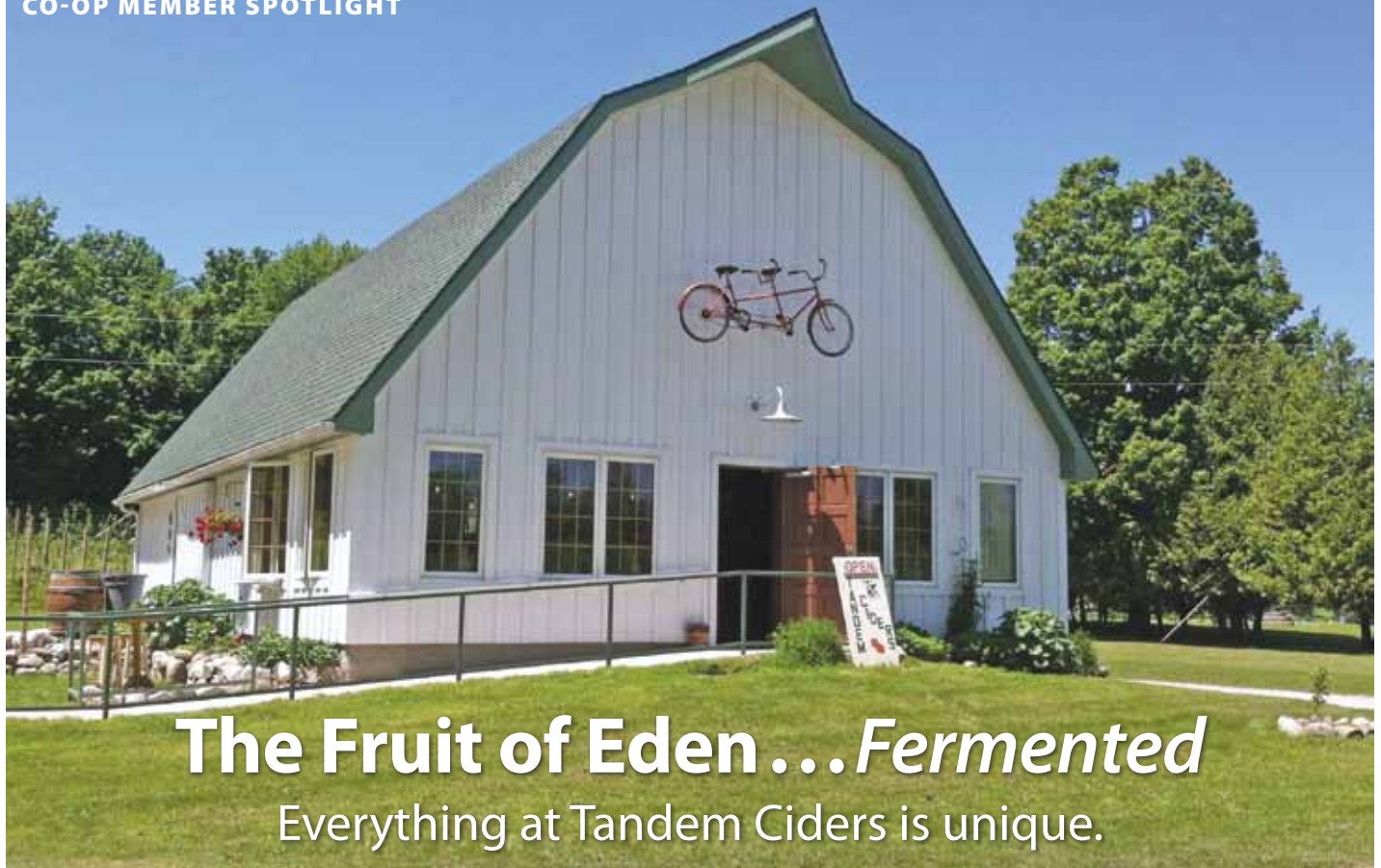
The effort is a collaboration between Cherryland and Traverse City Light & Power. The first 224 panels will be erected at Cherryland. Interest in the panels has been "very positive," according to Cherryland General Manager Tony Anderson, who opened the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Other speakers included Traverse City mayor, Michael Estes, Traverse City Chamber of Commerce board president, Rachel Roe, and Michigan Electric Cooperative Association CEO, Craig Borr.

Media outlets covering the event included TV 7&4, TV 9&10 and Interlochen Public Radio. Stories about the event had previously appeared in the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*, *Grand Traverse Insider*, and on WTCM radio.

PHOTOS: Cherryland's Annual Meeting – (Top, L-R) Cherryland gave away copies of its 75th anniversary book to members, and board president Tom Van Pelt throws out the first pitch as his grandson watches. **Solar Farm Unveiling** – (Bottom, L) Tony Anderson, Cherryland Electric Cooperative's general manager, joins TC Light & Power board chair Pat McGuire in cutting the ribbon to the community solar project. Looking on (from left) are TC mayor Michael Estes, Cherryland board member Betty Maciejewski and (far right) Cherryland board chair Tom Van Pelt.





The Fruit of Eden... Fermented

Everything at Tandem Ciders is unique.

Although it was built in 2006, the Tandem Ciders' tasting barn looks as though it's been there since the pioneer days of Leelanau County. This tasting room/cider pressing facility/neighborhood gathering spot is not a winery, not a brewery, but something else entirely unique.

Tandem Ciders, which is serviced by Cherryland Electric Cooperative, has an "everybody knows your name" feeling and an atmosphere of camaraderie, even if it's your first time in.

In addition to the crowds of tourists and passersby on the Leelanau Peninsula wine trail, Tandem Ciders has attracted a strong local following of regulars and devotees who helped to plant the orchard last year and sing to the trees at the annual Wassail. What's a "Wassail" you ask? In England, this tradition goes back hundreds of years, singing to the apple trees during the dormant season to wake them up, according to Dan Young.

Proprietors Dan Young and Nikki Rothwell value the strong connection between the land, the apple, and the community, which makes their location in traditionally agricultural Leelanau County a perfect fit. Tandem's artisanal hard ciders are crafted with Michigan apples (and other local ingredients, like Kolarik's honey) providing regional flavor and character, or what a wine connoisseur

might call "terror".

Although it's sometimes snubbed as "the fruity drink of the lightweight," hard ciders are gaining traction and credibility nationwide. With an alcohol content of 4.6 to 9 percent, Tandem hard ciders weigh in comparable, if not more potent, than your favorite beer. Artisanal hard ciders also have complexity to rival even the finest wines.

Hard cider can be confusing upon first taste to your average beer or wine drinker. Many suggest trying multiple sips and varieties to obtain your "cider mouth," as it can be an acquired taste. I personally have found the same to be true for wine, so I don't think this unusual. Reader-be-warned that if you have tried more commercially-produced cider varieties from your everyday grocery store, this is an entirely different experience that any food and drink lover wouldn't want to miss!

Hard ciders aren't anything new. Our founding fathers were producers of this "fruit of Eden" beverage. Gentleman farmers like Thomas Jefferson and George Washington were rumored to be talented apple growers and cider makers. And, hard ciders can still be found on tap at most any watering hole in Europe.

Common pairings for hard cider include pork and the tastes of Thanksgiving (turkey, stuffing, potatoes). It is perfect either for drinking warm with spices in the winter

months, or sipping chilled at a summer barbeque. Hard cider is also great used in place of white wine in a marinade or vinaigrette.

Even though Tandem has a little-guy feeling, they have made quite a name for themselves both locally and nationally. Their crowd-pleasing "Smackintosh" (my personal favorite) recently made Mario Batali's list of "Northern Michigan's 2013 Best Eats" and the hard cider family also brought home seven medals from the Great Lakes International Cider and Perry Competition.

If you haven't done so already, visit Dan and Nikki at 2055 North Setterbo Road in Suttons Bay. Look for the white barn with a red tandem bicycle. Take the opportunity to enjoy the new outdoor serving area in the tree grove out front.

Do you know about a secret northern Michigan "foodie hot spot" located in Cherryland Electric Cooperative's service territory? Email me at kimc@cecelec.com with your ideas. We might just feature your hidden treasure!

Kim Crockett is a member service representative at Cherryland Electric Cooperative



Magic Summer Nights with AM Radio

Gone are the summer nights of AM radio. If you're more than 50 years old, you know what I mean.

We'd be spinning that dial up and down, trying to catch the latest hits on Chicago's WLS radio.

Or we'd catch announcers Harry Carey and Jack Buck broadcasting Cardinals baseball games in the heat of the night on KMOX in St. Louis.

We'd hear them describe the scene and then let our minds take over, imagining what they were seeing as we listened.

On some nights, the static would drive you crazy when your favorite song was playing. On other nights, the sound would fade in and out as Bob Gibson delivered a fastball to Willie Mays.

So you'd turn the dial again, stopping to hear Ernie Harwell spin a tale about baseball's past in the middle of a Detroit Tigers game on WJR radio, the Great Voice of the Great Lakes.

Imperfection was part of the charm of AM radio. Radio waves determined



Nick Edson

whether you could listen to an entire song of the Beach Boys singing about surfing in the ocean's waves.

And yet, we loved AM radio. We had no choice. FM radio was in its infancy and it catered to the songs and choices that our parents liked. In other

words, it wasn't cool.

In the fall, when we were out on a Sunday drive with our families, we would persuade Dad to turn on the Detroit Lions game over the protests of our sisters.

Then we'd hear the great Van Patrick describe a long pass thrown by Lions quarterback Milt Plum. "He throws the HOME RUN ball and its... he would leave dead air time so we were in suspense... CAUGHT by Gail Cogdill at the Colts 23-and-a-half yard line. We'll call it the 24 and make it even."

We'd be going crazy in the car. Well, three of the six of us, anyway.

One Sunday I was getting ready to turn on the Lions game on TV. My mom walked into the room and announced we

were going to take a day trip to the Upper Peninsula from Mancelona. I never got mad. But I did that day. I pouted. I didn't want to go.

Thirty minutes later, pushed into the car by my dad's icy stare, I was riding miserably and saying nothing. That all changed when Dad turned the radio on and we listened to the Lions game. I actually had a great time that day, since we had an interesting trip. And the Lions won.

In the winter, the AM dial searched for basketball games. We'd listen to Cincinnati Royals games because we thought Oscar Robertson was the greatest all-around player in the NBA. My hero was the University of Michigan great Cazzie Russell and we endured static, bad radio waves and my mom telling us it was time for bed, in order to hear the entire game.

When spring came again, we turned the sound knob way up to hear Ernie Harwell's "Song of the Turtle" proclamation before the first spring training game: "For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

I miss "the turtle," I miss Ernie, and I miss the imperfections of AM radio.

Well, make that 2-out-of-3.

I only miss the memories of my life during the time of AM radio.

Cherryland Cares Seeks Grant Applications

Area nonprofit agencies who are seeking financial help can apply for a grant through Cherryland Cares.

Cherryland Cares is a five-member board, made up of Cherryland Electric Cooperative members, who distribute money from Operation Roundup to area non-profits. The next quarterly meeting of Cherryland Cares is Monday, Sept. 16. The deadline for applications is Friday, Sept. 6.

Operation Roundup money comes from Cherryland members who elect to round up their bills to the nearest dollar every month. This amount averages \$6 per year.

To receive a Cherryland Cares grant application or to join Operation Roundup, contact Nick Edson at Cherryland. His direct line is 486-9222 or email him at nicke@cecelec.com.

Next Member Input Session Is September

The board of directors at Cherryland Electric Cooperative is offering another opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board on a quarterly basis. Members will be able to talk to the board next on Monday, Sept. 16, at 9 a.m. at the company office in Grawn.

Members are asked to come to the lobby and request to speak to the board. Members are asked to keep their comments to five minutes. Member attendance at the board meeting is allowed for the public input portion of the meeting only.

Cherryland members are afforded a chance to meet with the board on a quarterly basis during meetings in March, June, September and December.

Co-op News

Pay Your Electric Bill Online

Want to save money and pay your Cherryland Electric Cooperative bill online?

It's easy to do. You can set up your accounts to get only an e-mail bill—no more paper bills.

If you would like to do this, access your account on cherrylandelectric.com. It will prompt you immediately after you sign in to make a decision on whether or not you want the paper bill to continue; if you do, check the box. If not, simply press "update."

Questions about the online payment can be answered by Cherryland's Member Service Department at 231-486-9200.



Follow "Cherryland Electric Cooperative" on facebook for all the latest news and happenings.

How Cherryland Electric Cooperative's Community Solar Works

SUN Share contract

Solar Up North (SUN) members sign a contract to purchase a SUN share.

Members can purchase multiple shares. Each share represents one full panel in the array.

Panels installed in community solar array

After the member purchases a SUN share, one panel is installed in the array for every share sold. If a member purchases one share, one panel will be installed. If a member purchases 10 shares, 10 panels will be installed.

Solar array produces electricity

Each panel in the array can produce approximately 300 kWh annually. As electricity is produced by the array, it is fed into Cherryland's office and used to power our community.

SUN member receives monthly bill credit

Each month, SUN members will receive a bill credit for the return on their shares.



Reserve your shares today
cecelec.com



SOLARUPNORTH
ALLIANCE



What Is Killing My Trees?

[Part 2]

Last year I wrote an article about the emerald ash borer (EAB) and its effect on trees in our service area (July/August 2012).

The winter of 2013 seemed hard on the affected trees and we received many calls from our members worried about dying trees near the lines. Most notably, after the winter was the change in bark color of the damaged trees.

This discoloration was actually caused by woodpeckers and not by the beetle. And while these trees look bad, they are not an immediate threat to our power lines. You will also likely have noticed that these trees have actually developed leaves this year.

If the damaged tree has retained 70 percent of its crown, it may still be saved by injections of pesticides. Contact a tree care specialist near you for more information if you are interested in saving your trees.

Cherryland Electric Cooperative has begun the process of inventorying the affected trees that could damage our primary lines. Most of these trees are outside of our 30-foot easement, but will likely cause outages for many members if no action is taken.

The trees that we believe are a threat will be marked with a red ribbon for destruction. Trees that will be cut down will be sawed into a manageable length and the brush stacked. Nothing will be removed from your property by our tree trimmers.

If you have trees that are a threat to your service line, we will disconnect your service while you have a tree service remove the trees.



Visit emeraldashborer.info for more information about this insect and how to deal with damaged trees.

We will not remove trees that are a threat to a member's service lines. A postcard informing you of tree work in your area will be sent prior to any cutting being done.

We will also provide updates on our Facebook page. There are thousands of trees that are affected at this time. We have begun the process of cutting them down and the work will unfortunately need to continue for several more years.

You can help stop the EAB problem by not moving wood to other areas.

If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 231-486-9217.

Jim Carpenter is the line superintendent at Cherryland Electric Cooperative.



Prevent Deadly Shocks —

Check Your Boats & Docks



For a fun, safe season on the water, there are items you must legally have on-board your watercraft—life vests, a fire extinguisher, a throwable flotation device, and properly working lights. But the list should not end there when it comes to helping prevent a tragedy, so make sure the boat itself and the dock is safe, too!

July 2012 saw some horrific fatal accidents near boats and docks. A 26-year-old woman was swimming in Lake of the Ozarks and was electrocuted when she touched an energized dock ladder, and a 13-year-old girl and her 8-year-old brother received fatal shocks while swimming near a lighted dock with an improperly grounded circuit.

Two young Tennessee boys died from electric shock while swimming between house boats when current from an on-board generator entered the water through frayed wires under the boat.

In Michigan, a 20-year-old Port Huron man entered the water behind a moored boat and became disabled as he tried to climb onto the swim platform. Friends trying to pull him onboard reported getting shocks. He could not be resuscitated. An investigation confirmed voltage behind the boat, caused by an AC to DC fault in the battery charger that energized the underwater gear; and there was no AC to DC bonding connection.

To help prevent such tragedies, it's important to ensure proper installation and maintenance of electrical equipment and inspect all electrical systems on or near the water. Also, remember that ropes, string, masts and rigging can also conduct electricity.

✓ Check your dock and the neighbor's, too!

Safe Electricity (safeelectricity.org), in conjunction with the American Boat and Yacht

Don't be the common ground between water and electricity!

Safe Electricity (SafeElectricity.org) urges boat owners to have dockside electrical systems installed by professional electricians guided by the National Electrical Code, and have them inspected regularly to avoid tragedy.

Council (ABYC) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/National Electrical Contractors Association, recommends these steps:

- At a minimum, all electrical installations should comply with the 2011 National Electrical Code (article 553-residential docks, and 555-commercial), which mandates a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) on all dock receptacles. A GFCI measures the current in a circuit and senses any imbalance, such as a discharge into the water, that trips the GFCI and cuts off the power.

- The GFCI should be tested at least monthly, or per the manufacturer's specifications. Locate the GFCI somewhere along the ramp to the dock so it can be easily found and tested by local fire departments, as needed.

- Metal dock frames should have "bonding jumpers" that connect all metal parts to an on-shore grounding rod. This ensures that any part of the metal dock that becomes energized because of electrical malfunction will trip the GFCI or circuit breaker.

- Neighboring docks can also be a shock hazard to you. Talk to your neighbors about ensuring that their dockside electrical systems are Code compliant and inspected, too.

- All electrical installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor.

- Docks are exposed to the elements so their electrical systems should be inspected at least once a year.

- Even if you are renting the dock, it is important to notify the owner of any safety violations so they can be fixed immediately.

If the owner will not make the corrections or properly maintain the dock, you might strongly consider moving your boat to another place.

✓ Check Your Boat

When it comes to a boat's electrical system, particularly those with onboard generators, use these tips:

- If you are unsure about how to install something, call an ABYC electrical certified technician.

- Household wire is not suitable for boats, as houses are motionless and generally dry. Even marine-rated wire that is not supported along its length will break with constant motion stress.

- Do *not* use wire nuts or splice connectors! (Wire nuts are for solid conductor wire, which should never be on a boat, and splice connectors can cut wire strands.)

- Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the stereo. If a fuse blows continuously, it should not be replaced with a larger one just to keep it from blowing again—something else is wrong.

- Have your boat's electrical system checked at least once a year, and also when something is added or removed from it.

Most wet environments are dangerous when it comes to electricity, but related drownings can be prevented by regularly inspecting for ground-fault failure and strictly enforcing the National Electrical Code through frequent pool, dock and boat inspections.

Judging By the Numbers...

Buried in our energy sales data is what some would consider a troubling revelation: Despite dire warnings and predictions; exhaustive coverage by media; saturation in our schools, work and politics, and cutting edge energy-smart product development, our energy sales continue to grow.

As I reported last month here in *Country Lines*, Cherryland Electric Cooperative has fully satisfied its state-mandated Energy Optimization objectives for four years running.

Those initiatives, including passing out 30,000 CFL lightbulbs, have resulted in a deemed energy savings of over 9,000,000 kWh (kilowatt hours). Further, during that same time frame, myself and numerous other contributors to this magazine have talked conservation, energy use, load shedding, and energy-saving tips ad nauseam, yet we continue to grow.

Why? My initial thoughts on growth centered on new members. Surely, I reasoned, the increased energy sales must be driven by new members, given our desirable location within the state. That theory proved true only to a point. While our member count has steadily increased, energy sales have increased faster.

I suspect part of the problem is that our green conversation tends to focus on generation rather than consumption. From a lifestyle perspective, sustainable generation promises a somewhat more pain-free solution. A serious look at consumption at some point leads to undesirable lifestyle changes.

Further, the economics of energy consumption, especially in the home, remain undeniably difficult. Take refrigerators, for example. Quoting from energystar.gov, "ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators are required to use about 15 percent less energy than non-certified models. Choose a new certified model rather than a standard model and cut your energy bills by more than \$80 over the

lifetime of your fridge."

Clearly, the savings will be greater if you replace an older model refrigerator, somewhere around \$200 – \$1,100 according to the same website. In other words, you are lucky if the energy savings eventually pay for the cost of the upgrade.

On the bright side, our mix of generation has never been cleaner. Since 2008, Cherryland Electric Cooperative has received energy from the Harvest Wind Farm located in the thumb of Michigan. For the first four months of 2013, our allocated share of wind energy from that proj-

equation is now reasonable. Commercial members in particular have recently embraced LED lighting solutions, especially for exterior lighting which has enormous potential.

But despite the many positive green and clean initiatives, and many other success stories like LED's, we, as a society, have a fundamental craving for more energy. It's who we are and what we do.

Most energy efficiency meetings I have attended will see an overflowing parking lot since our lives are too complex to figure out carpooling, over-conditioned

Since 2008, Cherryland Electric Cooperative has received energy from the Harvest Wind Farm located in the thumb of Michigan. For the first four months of 2013, our allocated share of wind energy from that project is just shy of 7,000,000 kilowatt hours. Last month we began adding solar to our mix.

ect is just shy of 7,000,000 kilowatt hours.

Last month we began adding solar to our mix. When fully built at our headquarters site in Grawn, an array of 224 solar panels will produce about 300 green kWh/per panel each year, or 67,200 kWh in total. While the impact is not nearly as significant as our wind source, it's a good start that we hope catches on and leads to a wave of community solar projects across the region and state.

Another exciting trend we see on the consumption side is the rapid acceptance of LED technology. The cost/benefit

air that requires an extra layer of clothing to stave off hypothermia, and, of course, a prepared hot meal.

A few years back at the Great Lakes Energy Fair, I recall chatting with a fellow who biked 20 miles to the fair. He not only talked the talk but he rode the talk. From my personal experience, he is still the rare exception.

Kevin Cragg is the member services manager at Cherryland Electric and oversees the Energy Optimization program





cherrylandelectric.com

Member Advisory Committee

Get Involved.



Be Heard.

- Have you ever wondered:**
- Why electricity costs keep rising?
 - How Cherryland prioritizes outage restoration efforts?
 - How Cherryland is affected by energy regulations?

JOIN our new Member Advisory Committee (MAC) to find out more about your electric cooperative and to provide valuable feedback on our programs and services. Our MAC will consist of representatives from all of our service areas. You must be a Cherryland member to serve on the MAC. MAC members will serve 2-year terms and are limited to 2 terms of consecutive service.

We will hold the first MAC meeting in September. The committee will meet 5 times — September, October, January, March and May — on the second Tuesday of the month, at 6 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact:
Rachel Johnson — 231-486-9275 — rjohnson@cecelec.com

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