

Clean coal - working for you

About 90 percent of your electricity is generated from burning coal. This has kept electric rates affordable over the years, since coal is abundant and inexpensive.

But coal-fired power plants can be sources of pollution. The world saw this during the Beijing Olympic Games last year. China has little or no pollution control on its coal-burning power plants and is building new ones as quickly as it can.

But our investment in environmental controls began in the 1970s, long before the current emphasis on “global warming.” Buckeye Power, our wholesale power supply cooperative, owns two units at the Cardinal Generating Station on the Ohio River.

We are investing \$900 million in environmental controls and by 2012, the base load generation owned or controlled by Buckeye Power will have full emission control capability for removal and reduction of particulate matter, nitrogen oxide (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and mercury. Our plants will literally be among the cleanest in the world.

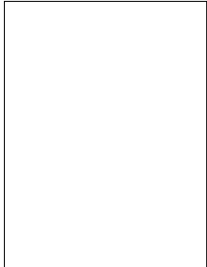
Today, about 15 percent of your electric bill is related to environmental investments. Here is what we’ve accomplished:

Precipitators — About 14 percent of the coal that is burned to make electricity is not consumed and remains as particles of clay, rock and minerals known as ash. Electrostatic precipitators at the Cardinal plant remove more than 99.5 percent of fly ash from being discharged into the atmosphere. The rest of the ash is sold as an ingredient in road construction material, cinder blocks, or for snow and ice control on highways.

SCRs — Late in 2001, Buckeye began to install selective catalytic reduction (SCR) technology at our Cardinal plants in order to reduce emissions of NO_x by 90 percent.

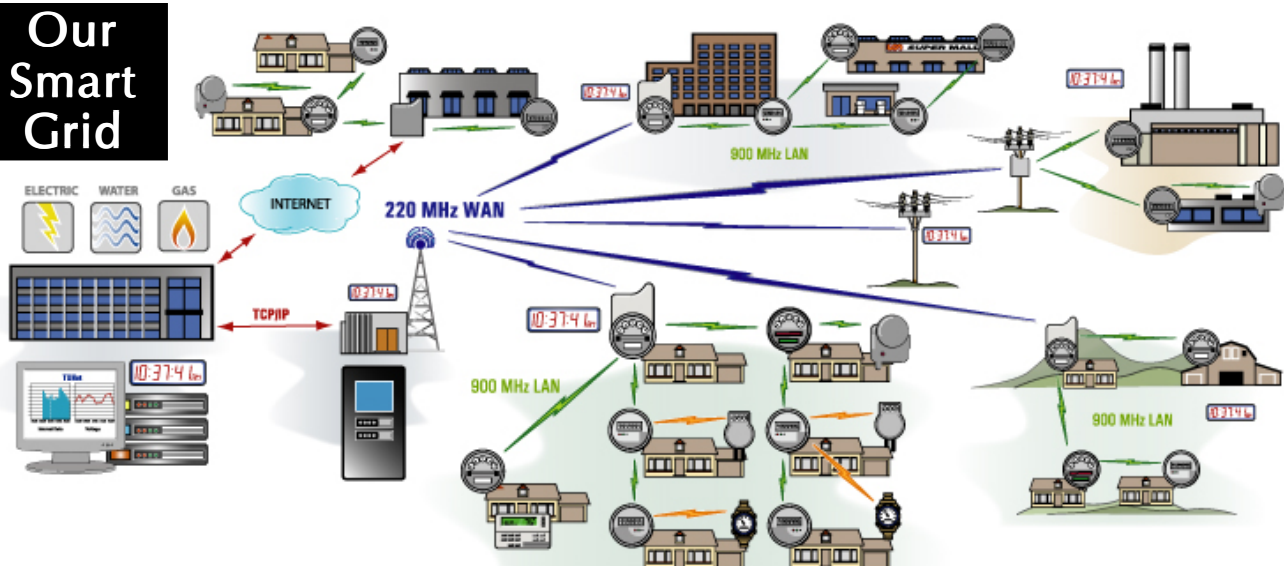
FGDs — The most recent environmental project at Cardinal is the addition of a flue gas desulfurization (FGD) system. The FGD scrubs approximately 98 percent of SO₂ produced during the generation process. By utilizing FGD and SCR systems in series at Cardinal, mercury also is effectively removed from the flue gas.

Almost 30 years of environmental investment by Buckeye Power and Ohio’s electric cooperatives proves that “clean coal” power plant operation can be achieved. It requires vision, commitment, technology and willingness to pay a little more for electricity today to make a better world tomorrow. Coal is too important a fuel resource for us to abandon.



Rick Gerdeman
Manager/CEO

Our Smart Grid



Midwest Electric's Automated Metering Infrastructure - or smart grid - will feature a 900 MHz radio communications from meter to meter; 220 MHz from central meter points to a radio tower; then a data connection from the tower to our office. About every 70 meters or so will have a "shark fin" which is a mini-central location point to gather data from nearby meters then send it to the tower base station. The project will begin this fall and continue over the next few years. Please continue to read your electric meter until further notice.

Another Touchstone Energy Home



Home Builders Services of Ft. Recovery built a Touchstone Energy Home for Cy and Helen LeFevre. It features geothermal heating and cooling from Roessner Energy, and insulation by Current Insulation. The insulation levels are R-60 ceiling, R-19 and R-24 above grade walls, and R-15 to 18 foundation walls.

The home scored a 5-Star Plus (the highest attainable) based on national home energy rating standards.

Congressman Boehner calls on Midwest Electric



Congressman John Boehner, left, met with Midwest Electric member Greg Fortkamp, Dave Berger of Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, and nearly two dozen other Midwest Electric members, staff and trustees at a private roundtable discussion on the cap and trade energy tax.

Heading south for winter? Use our vacation plan

Planning an extended stay outside of this area? Call us first.

We can forward your electric bill to your vacation home. And we can provide for estimated meter readings so you don't need to worry about getting a neighbor to read your meter while you're away. We can also have your electric bill automatically deducted from your bank or credit card account, if you want.

Then call us when you return and we'll change your account accordingly.

Caring for your heat pump

Q. We had an air-source heat pump installed a few years ago. Are there any special maintenance needs?

A. A heat pump is one of the most comfortable and efficient ways to heat and cool your home. Best of all it's more affordable than a gas or electric furnace.

Today's heat pumps typically last at least 15-20 years. To ensure satisfaction, here are some operating and maintenance tips:

- Replace disposable air filters monthly or clean permanent filters as recommended.
- Keep all vents and interior doors open, even in unused rooms. Restricted airflow can result in higher costs and could even damage the compressor.
- Keep the outside unit clear of leaves, grass, dirt, snow or anything that can restrict airflow. Maintain adequate clearance between unit and landscaping.
- You may notice a light on your thermostat that comes on in severe winter weather. This means your supplemental (back up) heat is on. This is a normal function during extreme cold weather.
- Consider a yearly maintenance plan through your contractor.
- If you purchased a manufacturer's extended warranty through your installing contractor, you should receive warranty information from the manufacturer. If you have not received any information on your warranty within six

weeks, you should contact your contractor.

• For the highest efficiency, change the thermostat as little as possible in winter,

since the more expensive back up heat may come on when you turn the heat up.

If the outdoor unit runs continuously...

- Debris may be restricting the outdoor unit. If so, remove debris.
- The weather may be excessively hot or cold. Long run periods are normal for these conditions.
- Filters may be dirty. If so, replace or clean them, depending on filter type.
- You may have a refrigerant leak. Call for service.

Before you call for service if the unit is not operating...

- The power may have shut off. Go to your electric panel and check your breakers. Also, check your thermostat setting.
- If the emergency heat indicator light is on, flip the emergency heat switch to off. If the unit does not operate, call for service.

Also, if there is steam rising from your outdoor unit during cold weather, this is normal. The heat pump has a built-in defrost system to eliminate frost collected on the coil in the winter.



by Dave
Waltermire,
Energy Advisor

What \$1 of electricity will buy

Run a blender for 39 hours

Listen to a stereo for 98 hours

Toast 4,800 slices of bread

Watch 78 hours of TV

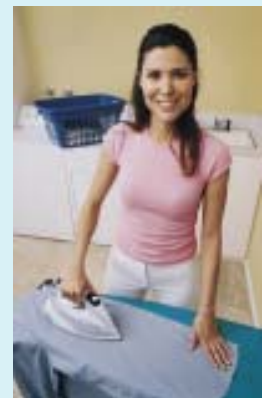
Run a digital clock for 3,921 hours

Dry your hair for 8 hours

Light a 100w bulb for 117 hours

Light a CFL bulb for 511 hours

Iron clothes for 12 hours



Electricity is Value

Based on appliance wattage and Midwest Electric standard residential rate.

Midwest Electric members donate \$8,452

Members of Midwest Electric recently donated \$8,452 to five west-central Ohio charities and community projects through the cooperative's Community Connection Fund.

Since the program began in 1998, the Midwest Electric Community Connection Fund has provided \$547,227 to 379 area projects.

The recent Fund recipients include the following:

- St. Henry Volunteer Fire Department, \$3,230 to purchase two new sets of turnout gear.
- Darke County Emergency Medical Services, \$2,000 to offset the cost of the annual EMS seminar, which provides continuing education to emergency personnel throughout west central Ohio.
- Auglaize County Historical Society, \$1,772 to create three traveling history exhibits for local schools and other public use.

- Fort Recovery Public Library, \$1,000 to purchase books.

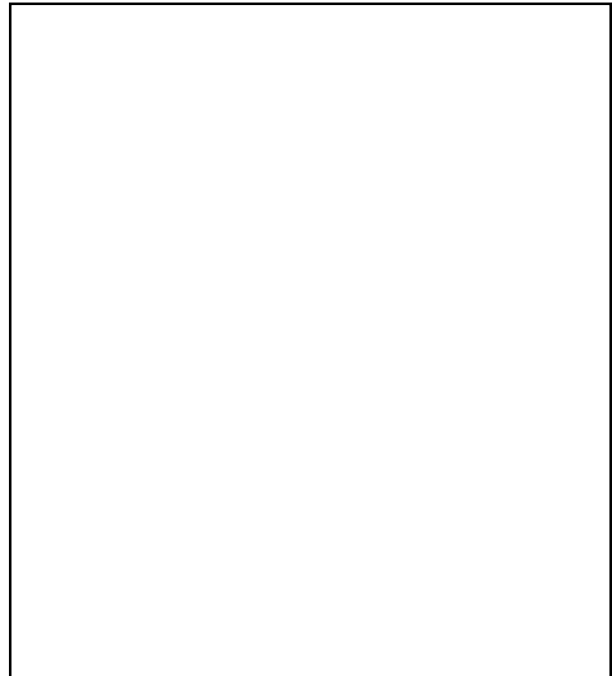
- Calvary Chapel Baptist Church, Minster, \$450 to buy two food carts for the food pantry.

The Midwest Electric Community Connection Fund is a voluntary charitable program. Participating members' monthly electric bills are rounded up to the next dollar, with the additional pennies deposited in the Fund.

A Board of Trustees, composed of cooperative members and separate from the Midwest Electric Board of Trustees, over-

sees the application and allocation process.

Individuals or organizations can obtain an application by contacting Midwest Electric, at 419-394-4110 or 1-800-962-3830.



James Hollman, aldfjaslkdfjsladjfl

You can serve on the Fund board

The Midwest Electric CCF needs three cooperative members - two from Mercer and one from Auglaize counties. The terms are expiring this fall for trustees Ginny Miller and Thomas Rampe, Mercer County, and Kelly Ernst, Auglaize County.

The CCF board meets four times a year, about 90 minutes per meeting, to review grant applications from area community groups. You'll learn a lot about community needs and you'll gain a tremendous feeling of satisfaction, according to current trustees.

No special background, work experience or education are necessary. It's a voluntary position, but you'll be reimbursed for related expenses. This is an appointed (non-elected) position. If interested, please contact Matt Berry at 1-800-962-3830 or mberry@midwestrec.com