



The official  
publication  
of the members of  
Indian Electric  
Cooperative



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# Rates Increase in April

## Co-op Absorbs About Two-Thirds of It

“We are absorbing most of the rate increase,” says IEC General Manager Jack Clinkscale, “but a portion of the increase will have to be passed on to our members.”

Associated Electric Cooperative, who generates and distributes electricity to IEC through KAMO Power, is increasing what IEC pays for that purchased power by about 14 percent.

IEC will absorb about nine percent, so members’ bills will increase by about five percent.

“For the average member, using about 1,600 kWh per month, the monthly bill will increase by about \$6,” explains Clinkscale. He goes on to say all rate classes will see an increase.

The increase will begin with April electric usage and will appear on May bills, and will apply only to usage and not to any facility charges.

Clinkscale points out funds generated from this increase will not remain at IEC, but will pass through to Associated to pay for the power IEC purchases.

Clinkscale says the increase is due to costs associated with producing power going up and

governmental regulations.

“New power plants are desperately needed as current facilities are old and becoming inadequate,” he says. “But EPA regulations are so expensive to implement and change so frequently, that it is difficult to build plants to meet those regulations. Construction on a new generating plant in Missouri, that was scheduled to begin a little over a year ago, had to be terminated, because the costs continued to skyrocket past the budgeted amount.

“Governmental regulations are changing – there’s talk of a possible carbon tax – making it difficult to meet those regulations when considering building generating facilities to meet future demand; a demand we know is going to continue to grow,” he says.

Clinkscale points out electric cooperatives are involved in developing other forms of energy,



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# I Long for a True Statesman

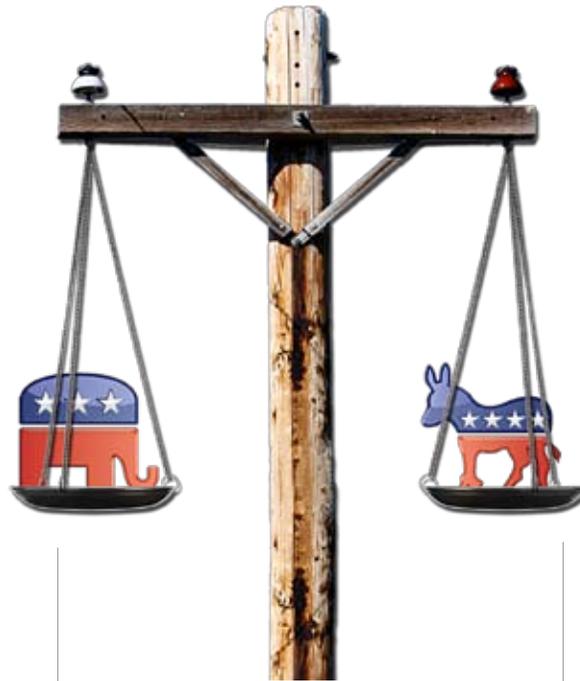
by Jack Clinkscale, General Manager

Winston Churchill once said that trying to spend your way to prosperity was like a man trying to lift a five gallon bucket while standing in it. It appears the new administration never heard this. How do you spend enormous amounts of money on stimulus packages loaded with pork and propose the largest federal budget ever while claiming to reduce taxes and cut our record federal deficit in half in four years? Now as Forrest Gump said "I may not be a smart man" but this just doesn't seem possible.

As a rural electric cooperative, Indian Electric is owned by our members. We don't have one dollar of revenue or one pole, truck, or wire that doesn't come from you, the member. We don't generate income, sell a product, or provide a service that doesn't come from capital that comes from your pocket. The board, management and employees of IEC never forget that. The federal government should operate in the same manner, but our politicians seem to have forgotten where the money to run this country really comes

from. Ultimately, it ALL comes from the pockets of the taxpayers.

Now, I don't want to appear to be cranky with the new administration,



because my displeasure goes much, much deeper than that. I am fed up with almost

everyone in the current federal government. Be they democrat or republican, conservative or liberal, man or woman, come from a "red" state or a "blue" state, it doesn't matter. We have such a partisan political system that it seems no matter what position one party takes, the other party's view will be totally different. It doesn't matter the right or the wrong of an issue, but how the party leadership says to vote.

That is why I long for a true statesman to emerge. I don't mean a politician; lord knows we have more than enough politicians, I mean a true statesman. A person who listens to the will of the people and votes to do what is right, regardless of what stance his political party might take. We truly need a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

As you read in other parts of this issue of the coming IEC rate increase, be prepared. We are probably going to see annual increases for several years to come. Why does power keep going up and up you ask? The current administration does have some ways to make

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## THE LAMP

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# Keep Electricity from Going down the Drain

Water use and electricity go hand in hand. Heating water can account for 14 percent to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home. What's more, systems used to clean public water supplies and deliver it to homes require large amounts of electricity. If your home receives water from a well or spring, the pump also draws power. So when we use water, hot or cold, we're also using energy.

Techniques for trimming water use in your home are surprisingly simple. For one, you can significantly reduce hot water consumption by simply repairing leaks in fixtures—faucets and shower heads—or pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.

You can also reduce water heating costs in a matter of seconds by lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater. For each 10° reduction in temperature, you can save between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs. Reducing the setting also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

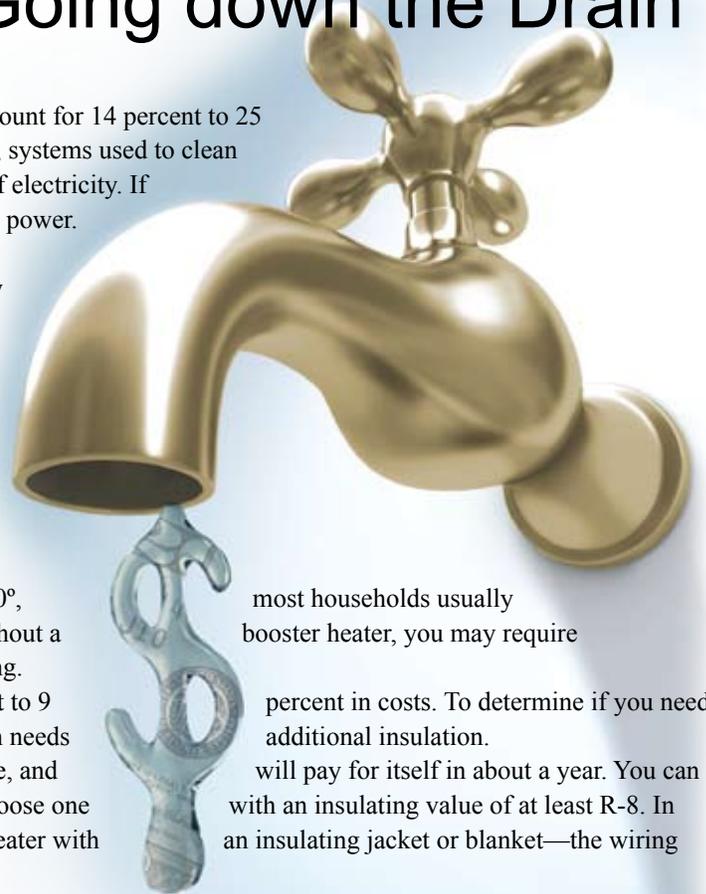
Although some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140°, only require them set at 120°. However, if you have a dishwasher without a water temperature within a range of 130° to 140° for optimum cleaning.

Adding insulation to your water heater can save around 4 percent to 9 percent in energy costs. To insulate your water heater, touch it. A tank that's warm to the touch needs

Insulating your water heater tank is fairly simple and inexpensive, and you can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$10 to \$20. Choose one that fits. In addition, don't set the thermostat above 130° F on an electric water heater with a tankless heater.

Installing insulation on gas- and oil-fired water heaters is more difficult. For a tankless heater, a plumbing and heating contractor perform the work.

For more tips on trimming water use in your home, including pipe and water heater insulation techniques, visit [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).



most households usually  
booster heater, you may require

percent in costs. To determine if you need  
additional insulation.

will pay for itself in about a year. You can  
with an insulating value of at least R-8. In  
an insulating jacket or blanket—the wiring

these appliances, it's best to have a qualified

## True Statesman...con't. from page 2.

new revenue to fund the massive federal spending.

The words "cap and trade" are being used quite often in Washington, D.C. "Cap and trade" would set a limit, or cap, on carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use. The effect of such a cap would be to impose rationing of coal, oil, and natural gas on the American economy. Each covered utility, oil company, and manufacturing facility would be given allowances based on past emissions or some other formula. Those companies that emit less carbon dioxide than permitted by their allowances could sell the excess to those that do not; this is the trade part of cap and trade. Over time, the cap would be ratcheted down, requiring greater cuts in emissions. Sounds like a good measure to reduce "greenhouse gases" and help the environment doesn't

it? In reality it sets up a marketplace for emission credits. Initial estimates by the Congressional Budget Office project that an economy-wide cap-and-trade program would generate at least \$50 billion per year, but could reach up to \$300 billion for the federal government. Where does this money come from? It ultimately will come from all utility rate payers and users of products of any manufacturing plants that emit carbon dioxide.

What can our cooperative do to offset these potential increased energy costs? Increased conservation will help in the future, but we must also express our concerns relating to federal legislation. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has created a program called "Our Energy, Our Future." You can go to the Web site at [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop)

and voice your concerns for our future energy prices and reliability. This site will allow you to send a letter via E-mail to all of your federal legislators. It is quick, concise and will send your message to each one of your congressional representatives and senators based on your home address. This site will allow you as a cooperative member to urge Congress to work with electric cooperatives to meet their public policy goals and your need for affordable, reliable electricity. Take a few moments and let your legislators know your feelings.

In future issues, we will keep you informed of current legislation and its potential effect on you. We will also be offering suggestions on what you can do to keep energy affordable. Stay tuned, we may be in for a bumpy ride.

# More Federal Funding in 2009 for Weatherization

The Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program will get \$5 billion from the federal economic stimulus bill. The act also increases the eligible income level under the program, and ups the funding assistance program per home.

The Weatherization Assistance Program focuses on assisting low- and modest-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient.

Oklahoma's share of the national allocation will dramatically increase to more than \$5,437,000. Funds will be available from April 1, 2009 through March 30, 2010.

Anyone interested in applying for free weatherization services should contact their local Community Action agency or the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies at (405) 949-1495. Visit [www.okacaa.org/info/listings.html](http://www.okacaa.org/info/listings.html) for local county contact information.

## National Energy Expert Doug Rye Coming to Annual Meeting

America's leading energy expert Doug Rye will be featured at IEC's annual meeting on its new date, Thursday, October 8, 2009.

More information on Rye and other meeting activities will be included in future issues of The Lamp, but mark your calendars now, and notice the new date – **Thursday, October 8, 2009.**

# RECIPE



## Stuffed Mushrooms

**1 lb. large mushrooms with stems**  
**1 cup (stick) of real butter**  
**Italian bread crumbs**  
**Parmesan cheese**  
**Garlic salt**

Break the stems from mushrooms and clean both the button and the stem. Chop, using a food processor, although it is not mandatory.

Melt the butter in a medium-large frying pan and saute the mushroom stems, add enough bread crumbs and parmesan cheese to absorb all the butter.

Sprinkle generously with garlic salt. (I think the more garlic the better. Place the mushroom caps on a baking sheet and stuff with the stem mixture.

Cook at 350° for about 20 minutes.

## Rates to Increase...

Con't. from page 1.

including wind, hydro-powered electricity, and other alternative energy.

"Congress is looking strongly at our nation's energy situation. The Department of Energy forecasts economic growth will drive a 30-percent increase in demand for electricity by 2030. Any solution will have to include the environment and new climate change policies.

"But the foundation for those solutions has to be that energy must be affordable for the average American. That is why co-op members need to contact their legislators to stress to them the importance of being involved in finding those solutions."

The National Rural Electrification Association can help with that effort through the "Our Energy, Our Future" program. By visiting [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop), members can voice their con-

cerns and support of legislation that will keep energy affordable while protecting our climate.

"We realize this could be a difficult time for electric rates to increase," says Clinkscale. "That is why we are absorbing the majority of that increase. I encourage anyone with questions about how the increase will affect them to contact us. We will be glad to discuss this with them. I also encourage them to call us to learn how to use electricity more efficiently so they can get the most out of their energy dollars."

Clinkscale suggests members contact IEC's Member Services Director David Wilson at (918) 295-9557 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.