

Decisions in Washington Impacting Your Electric Bill

Decisions being made in our nation's capital will impact your electric bill in the future. The Obama Administration's 2011 fiscal year budget proposal sent to Congress would cut Rural Utilities Services Electric Loan Program levels

to \$4 billion — \$2.5 billion less than Congress passed last year. Our being able to borrow from RUS means that our interest costs are about half of electric co-ops which borrow from others. Remember, too, that we repay our loans.



Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

I Want to KNOW.

Decisions being made in the nation's capital will impact your electric bill in the future. Stay tuned to the latest news with e-mail updates from your local electric cooperative.

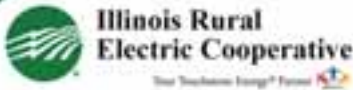
Return this form and get connected TODAY.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Account Number: _____

E-mail: _____

I authorize my local electric cooperative to alert me regularly about developments in Washington, D.C., and other important cooperative news.



Members will be receiving the above bill insert with their April bill. We ask that you sign it and return it with your bill.

The federal government isn't giving us the money.

A federal investment of less than \$10 million leverages more than \$6 billion in RUS electric loan investment. The small federal investment in the RUS Electric Loan Program over the years, coupled with strong management of the cooperative businesses, keep rural electric infrastructure strong and viable today. Electric cooperatives adapt to a rapidly changing industry environment because of the local, consumer-owned, consumer-controlled, form of governance.

As demand for power grows, the RUS Electric Loan Program is critical to making sure that adequate electric infrastructure remains available and new, cleaner technologies can contribute to the electric cooperative power supply. The low-cost RUS program compensates for the fact that cooperatives are not eligible for more generous federal subsidies, provided through the federal tax code, to the investor-owned and municipal utility sectors.

Electric cooperatives are consumer-owned, not-for-profit businesses. The low

interest loans are extremely important to keeping electricity affordable for cooperative members. Cooperatives' lines and poles span more than 75 percent of the nation's landmass. Here is a brief comparison of the three electric utilities:

- Co-ops serve an average of 7, we serve 3.6, consumers per mile with annual revenues of \$10,565 per mile of line;
- Investor-owned utilities average 35 customers per mile of line and collect \$62,665 in revenue per mile of line;
- Publicly owned utilities, or municipals, average 46.6 consumers and collect \$86,302 in revenue per mile of line.

Congress needs to understand the important role that RUS Electric Loan Program has in keeping electric bills affordable for our members. We are working very hard to make our voice heard and we ask that the member's do the same. So send us your e-mail by returning the bill stuffer or you may submit it to us on our website, and we'll work together.



GE Hybrid Water Heater

We still have the GE Hybrid Water Heaters available to our members. We are selling them at our cost: \$1147. These water heaters can reduce the electricity used for heating water by 60%. Water heating is the second largest household use of energy, so a 60% savings is outstanding. Savings could be up to \$300 a year. In 2011, the water heaters are eligible for a Federal Income Tax Credit for 10% of cost up to \$500.

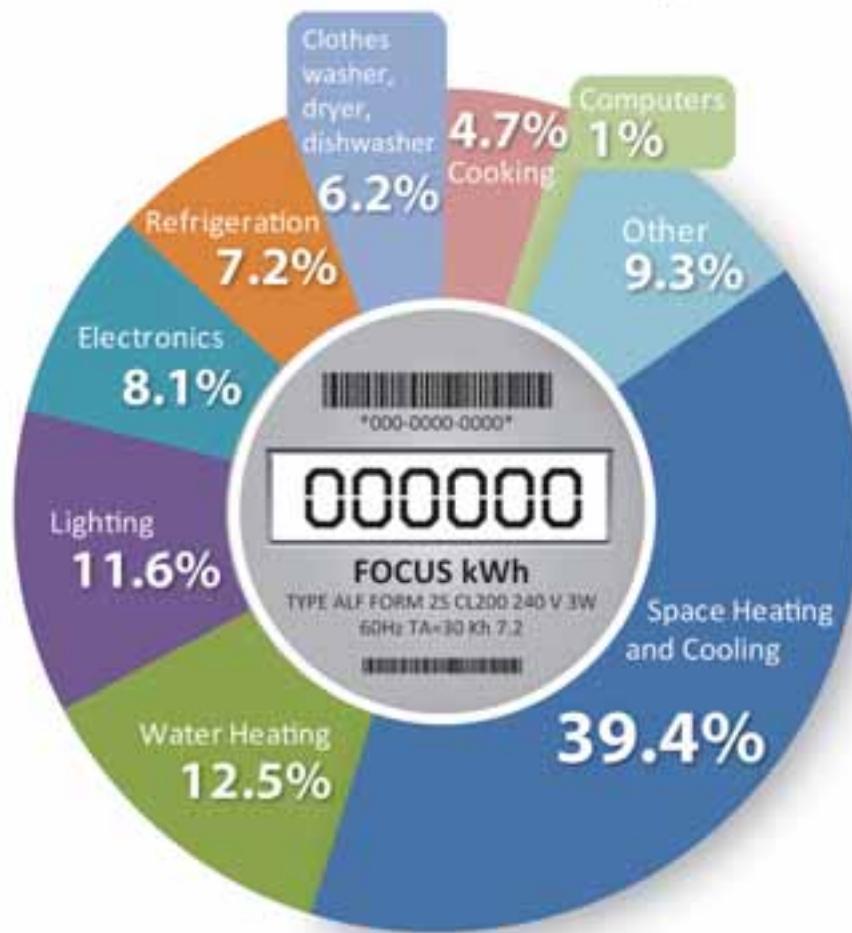
The water heaters come with a 10 year GE warranty. To receive the warranty and tax credit, the heater must be installed by a licensed plumber. They can be picked up at our office by you or your plumber. We can also deliver one to you for \$25.

If you haven't been late paying your bill for the past 12 months, with a \$250 down payment, you can pay the balance with your electric bill over 12 months.

These 50 gallon water heaters have a digital display with an array of features such as usage modes.

For more information on the GE Hybrid Water Heaters, call us at 1-877-468-4732 or visit us online at www.e-co-op.com

How Your Home Uses Electricity



Source: 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book, U.S. Department of Energy, Table 21.5. Represents an all-electric home. Updated February 2011.

**Join us
June 11, 2011
for the Annual
Meeting of Members**

