

## Is America ready for the electric car?

### President's Report



William R. Dodds  
President/CEO

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Much buzz surrounded the 2011 release of electric vehicles by two prominent automakers. The Chevrolet Volt and the Nissan Leaf were hailed as “the future is now” cars that would usher in a new era of energy independence and technological innovation for the United States.

Personally, I’m still waiting for the flying DeLorean that Doc Brown and Marty McFly promised us by 2015 in “Back to the Future.” Auto manufacturers have only three more years to figure that out.

In the meantime, I’ll have to settle for the phasing out of the gas combustion engine.

One question I hear a lot about electric cars is their affect on the environment. Because you plug them in just like any other appliance — creating more work for power plants — will we really prevent carbon emissions? According to the Electric Power Research Institute, a Palo

Alto-Calif., based consortium, the short answer is yes. Despite the extra load, various airborne emissions will decline with the onset of electric cars. Each region of the country will see reductions in greenhouse gas emissions over several decades, thanks in part to technologies that decrease carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. In addition, electric cars could actually help electric cooperatives if consumers plug them in at night — that helps the system run more efficiently because power costs and demand are at their lowest.

However, the costs may still be prohibitive for most Americans. The Cooperative Research Network estimates that payback in terms of gasoline savings would take about a decade (depending on your driving habits). And if you want the car to charge up quickly (instead of the usual four to eight hours or so with a regular 110-V outlet),

you’ll have to install a higher-voltage outlet at your home. Besides the cost of having the 220-V outlet installed — which one cooperative wholesale power provider estimates to be about \$2,000 — your home’s wiring may need to be updated to accommodate it. The costs add up.

Whether an electric car suits you also depends on your lifestyle, how much you drive, and whether you want your vehicle to have fancy amenities that use more electricity.

Cities across the country are attempting to do their part — electric vehicle charging stations are springing up at various locations here and there. But barriers, including cost, limited driving range on a charge, and easy access to chargers, still inhibit widespread use.

I wonder if we’d be any quicker to embrace a car that flies.



### Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Want to beat the heat? Run appliances like dish washers and dryers late in the evening to keep the heat from affecting your comfort. Use cold water to wash clothes, and remember to unplug electric chargers, televisions, and any appliances when you are not using them. Learn more ways to save at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com)

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives



*Work is underway on a new transmission line from Smithfield to Ipava. The line will connect two substations and will improve reliability of service for members.*

## Spoon River Electric Cooperative

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8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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### Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,249 • Number of members served: 4,944

Number of power poles in territory: 29,255

# Protect yourself against CO poisoning

Protect yourself and your family against CO poisoning at work and at home. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and potentially deadly. And it's the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States.

Carbon monoxide, or CO, prevents oxygen from being absorbed into the bloodstream. Without oxygen, of course, the body stops functioning properly, causing damage to tissues and the brain that can lead to disability and death. CO is produced by many common household and workplace appliances: gas

water heaters, kerosene space heaters, gasoline and diesel power generators, and others; cigarette smoke, spray paint, and paint removers are also possible sources.

Because you can't see it or smell it, be on the lookout for these symptoms:

- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea/vomiting
- Mental confusion
- Impairment of vision and/or hearing

- Loss of consciousness
- Feeling chilled

Your first and best line of defense is a reliable CO detector. Check and change its batteries regularly, or install detectors that plug into a standard AC outlet. In addition, have your heating/air conditioning appliances serviced yearly to make sure they're not leaking CO into your home or office. Avoid using any kind of fuel-burning appliance indoors.

*Victims of CO exposure should seek medical attention immediately.*



## THESE POLES HAVE ROOTS.

These poles stand for something. They bring us reliable, affordable electricity.

They also carry a vision that began back before the 2nd world war. These poles rose above the dust of the Great Depression, through blood, sweat, and tears. Cooperatives brought light to darkness, and electrified this country.

Power would no longer be confined to the big city limits. Lines stretched out to farms, ranches and schoolhouses. Appliances came to life. Factories sprouted up.

America spread her wings.

But these poles didn't just appear out of thin air.

These poles are pillars that were founded on principle by people with principles. Neighbors banded together, and communities came together to share ownership of the electricity that would advance everyone.

Today, these poles are yours. They come to you with a history. And they come to you with a responsibility.

It's up to all of us to take care of what we have and use only what we need. It's the cooperative way. It also happens to be the right thing to do.

By using electricity wisely, we can continue to build on a dream that started decades ago. And we can ensure that the spirit on which it was built continues for generations to come. Reliable, affordable electricity, for all.

**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**





Be present to win this year's sparkling grand prize – a gift fitting for a 75th anniversary!

## Mark your calendar!

Spoon River Electric Cooperative's 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Members will be held

**Thursday, June 14**  
*at Canton High School.*

Please join us for an evening of dinner, cooperative business and attendance prizes.

**The "After Hours" Barbershop Quartet  
will provide entertainment.**



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