

Clark Electric Interconnects With Renewable Resource

Additional “Cow Power” Expected to Energize 336 Homes

Clark Electric has signed an agreement with the Norm-E-Lane Dairy Farm to distribute the energy and capacity from their anaerobic digester “cow power” facility located in Clark County (Chili, Wis.). Norm-E-Lane is owned by the Meissner family, members of Clark Electric Cooperative.

The facility at the 2,000-cow Norm-E-Lane Dairy Farm is expected to generate about 500 kilowatts of renewable energy, capable of powering 336 average homes.

Cow manure is collected and heated in the digester tank, a process that creates methane gas. This biogas fuels a large engine to produce renewable electricity. The process also has additional environmental side benefits. The process reduces animal waste problems associated with manure disposal on farms. The odor is reduced, and weed seeds and pathogens are killed during the digestion process, thus reducing the need for herbicides and pesticides on the farm. Also, a useful byproduct is bedding that can be used in the dairy.



Dave Meissner, Norm-E-Lane Farms, and Tim Stewart, CEO/general manager of Clark Electric, talk during the farm's open house and digester dedication.

Norm-E-Lane is the fourth dairy farm providing “cow power” to members in the Dairyland system.

“We continue to seek opportunities to expand our renewable resources and appreciate working with the Meissner family and Clark Electric Cooperative to bring this environmentally-friendly energy resource to our members,” said Bill Berg, Dairyland president and CEO.

Clark Electric is proud to have such an important renewable energy source on our. ■

Celebrating Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed on Thursday, November 20, and Friday, November 21, so we can celebrate Thanksgiving with our families. In case of emergency or for after-hours service, please call 800-927-5705



Business Hours

Clark Electric Cooperative

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc.

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 to noon

Directors Schmidt and Baxter Honored at Region V

In this era of ever-increasing complexity of the electric utility industry, it is more important than ever for cooperative directors to have the knowledge and skills to govern today's cooperative. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has designed the Credentialed Cooperative Director program and the Board Leadership program to address the learning needs of electric cooperative directors. The curriculum for the Credentialed Cooperative Director certification provides information on board governance, financial decision-making, strategic planning, and current and emerging issues.

The Board Leadership certification is a more in-depth study of the issues facing the industry and is attained after successfully completing the required credits and the CCD program. Congratulations to Clark Electric Cooperative Vice President Ron Schmidt and Director Jeremy Baxter for successfully completing the Board Leadership training. ■



Vice President Ron Schmidt with Glenn English, NRECA CEO, at the Region V meeting.



The Cows—You need lots of cows producing lots of manure. The Meissners have about 2,000 cows.



The Storage Pit—The manure enters in here and flows through channels in the enclosed pit. It takes 21 days from entering to when it exits to produce the methane gas.



How the Anaerobic Digester Works



The Byproducts—After the gas has been removed, the water is removed, leaving the best bedding available for the cows. The process starts all over again, with the bedding and manure getting mixed together.



The Generator—After the gas goes to the top of the pit, it is then pumped to this generator to produce electricity. It can generate up to 600 kw of electricity.

Decorate Safely for the Holidays

By Chris Grammes

Colorful, twinkling lights. Brightly lit plastic candy canes and snowmen on the front lawn.

Such decorations help make the holidays a magical time of year, but they must be handled with care. Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause more than \$930 million in damage, according to the United States Fire Administration, largely due to the misuse of electrical products and decorations.

Here are some tips for using electrical products safely during the holidays:

- Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturers' instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- Indoors and out, use lights and other electrical decorations certified by a recognized, independent testing firms such as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL).
- Use lights certified for outdoor use only for outdoor use. The same goes for indoor lights.
- Carefully inspect each light before plugging it into a socket. Cracked, frayed, loose, or bare wires may cause a serious electric shock or start a fire.
- Do not mount or support light strings in any way that might damage the cord's insulation. Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.



- Unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Do not connect more than three light string sets together. Light strings with screw-in bulbs should have no more than 50 bulbs connected together.
- Do not overload extension cords.
- Keep all extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.
- Use caution when decorating near power lines.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- Do not allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations.

- Always turn off decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Plug outdoor lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable GFCIs for outdoor use can be purchased wherever electrical supplies are sold. ■

—Sources: *Electrical Safety Foundation International*; *United States Fire Administration*

Chris Grammes writes on safety issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

REBATES FOR L.E.D. Christmas Lights

Clark Electric Cooperative will be offering a rebate on LED Christmas lights purchased before November 30, 2008. To receive the rebate, you must send a receipt with the request.

A credit of \$2 per string of lights will be applied to your electric bill.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

This season, decorate with LED holiday lights, which consume 90 percent less energy than traditional miniature lights, operate 30 times longer, and stay cooler (meaning increased safety when used on wreaths and trees.)

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

CHECK YOUR CLOCKS

Save Money by Being on the Right Time

Do you have a time clock controlling your water heater, or equipment that's programmed to cycle off at certain times? If you're on our Time-of-Day Rate you most likely do. Since we are no longer on Daylight Saving Time, you must make sure those clocks are also turned back.

It is important that these changes be made or you could end up having a higher-than-normal electric bill. Why? Because if you are on Time-of-Day Rate, your hours for control (where the clock shuts the device off) are different than what we would be billing by the meter. So, in essence you would be two hours in the high usage period.

Clark Electric Cooperative's Time-of-Day rate can save you money on your electric bill; however, you must be willing and able to shift your electric usage around so that you can utilize the lower-cost electricity. ■

Dual Fuel Test Date

**Wednesday,
November 19, 2008**

Winter testing of the Dual Fuel interruptible heating controls will be taking place on Wednesday, November 19. Control will start around 5:00 p.m., with all heating loads restored by 11:15 p.m. Please make sure your backup heating system is operational and working for this test.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION


Clark Electric Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs).

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Timothy E. Stewart, CEO/General Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Suite 1510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-1510; or the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410; or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



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