



From the Manager... Investments in Efficiency Deliver Strong Returns



Scott Whittington

In today's troubled economic condition, people are searching for places to invest their money that offer the promise of a

healthy return. While no one can predict when, or if, the stock market will fully recover, let me offer one safe investment alternative: energy efficiency.

Even in good financial times the annual Wall Street return on stocks averages 14 percent, with even smaller returns on bonds and money market accounts. In comparison, incorporating 10 home efficiency measures carries a higher rate of return (16 percent), according to the U.S. Department of Energy Home Energy Saver program.

The energy bill for a typical Lyon-Coffey member's home averages \$1,283 per year, while a home that has purchased and installed EnergyStar® products spends just \$774. That's a savings of more than \$500 annually, a nice profit for smart investors to take to the bank. While investment incomes are normally taxed, you get to keep the money you save on your electricity bill

What are the two energy efficiency areas with the highest rates

of return? Lighting and sealing air ducts. Upgrading to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) in a typical home costs about \$200, but with an annual savings of \$80 the initial investment pays for itself in 2.5 years with a 41 percent rate of return. Proper duct sealing, which can cost up to \$250, pays for itself in 2.6 years and matches lighting's high rate of return.

Your next appliance purchase should be an EnergyStar® front-loading clothes washer. Even though one costs an average of \$194 more than a non-efficient model, you reap a 37 percent rate of return – allowing you to recoup the extra expense in less than three years.

A programmable thermostat provides another boost to your bottom line. With a 30 percent return it pays for itself through energy savings in 3.7 years.

A water heater tank wrap with an R-12 insulation rating should be your next step; the initial cost of \$85 saves you \$23 every year, offering a 28 percent return on your investment. An EnergyStar® refrig-



Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative, Inc

Find out more about how you can start investing in your home's efficiency on our website www.lyon-coffey.coop.

erator, heat pump, and dishwasher follow with rates of return ranging from 18 percent to 27 percent. Finally, adequate air sealing and increasing wall and attic insulation offer between an 8 to 9 percent return.

Start investing in your home's efficiency, Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative offer several efficiency programs on our website www.lyon-coffey.coop. Try out the link to the CFL Light Bulb Energy Saver calculator showing how much money you can save by using CFLs. Your children can learn about energy savings on the "Kids Zone." There is even a link to the rebate section where you can obtain more information on saving money by installing electric EnergyStar® rated water heaters, heating and air conditioning units in your home.

Lauxman Leaves Lyon-Coffey Electric



Ardie Lauxman, who has taken a position at an Arizona co-op, opens his Garmin GPS a parting gift from Lyon-Coffey.

Ardie Lauxman, Lyon-Coffey's Comptroller resigned his position from Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative effective February 18, 2009, to accept a position at Mohave Electric Cooperative in Bullhead City, AZ.

Lauxman has served Lyon-Coffey for over 10 years. At his farewell party, he was presented with a bright flowered shirt, orange flip-flops, sun screen, and a beach towel, and more practical gifts of a Garmin GPS and a nice barbecue set. We wish him success in his new position.

Watch Out for Electrical Hazards on the Farm

Those who live on a farm know that not only is it hard work, but it can be dangerous, too. Each year, farmers are electrocuted when large farm machinery comes into contact with overhead power lines.

Often the situation occurs because a newer, bigger piece of equipment no longer clears a line the way a smaller one did. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year to year.

The following tips will help keep everyone on a farm safe:

- Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles.
- Make sure you have ample

clearance when moving large machinery such as combines, grain augers, planters, other field equipment, bailers, and front-end loaders. Do this every year as equipment sizes or soil conditions may change.

- Store large equipment properly if near or under power lines. When planning new construction, factor in existing power lines.
- Be extra careful when working around trees and brush; they often make it difficult to see power lines.
- Train all farm workers to keep an eye out for overhead power lines.

Power Plant Technology Instructor Position Open

Flint Hills Technical College is seeking



FLINT HILLS
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

an instructor for the Power Plant Technology program. Must have technical experience; Bachelor's Degree preferred.

Send letter of interest, resume, unofficial transcripts, and names and contact informa-

tion for three professional references to Human

Resources, Flint Hills Technical College, 3301 W. 18th Ave., Emporia, KS 66801 or e-mail jhandley@fhctc.edu.

For questions contact Merlin Williams, 620-341-1376. EOE. Position open until filled.

Our Energy, Our Future™ Campaign Helps Keep Electric Bills Affordable

America's families are facing tough economic times. Many struggle to afford the basics: food, housing, and energy. The cost of residential electricity climbed an average of 26 percent from 2002 to 2007, and it is projected to go higher. As if that wasn't bad enough, today's electricity supplies won't be able to keep pace with future demand.

Now, elected officials in Washington, D.C., are poised to make important policy decisions that will determine our nation's energy future. To guide lawmakers in a sound direction, electric cooperatives are making sure that your voice, gets heard during legislative debates.

Through the "Our Energy, Our Future"™ grassroots awareness campaign, hundreds of thousands of electric cooperative consumers have already sent more than 1.5 million messages to their members of Congress. Through this outreach, co-ops have shared our insight drawn from decades of offering safe and reliable electricity at affordable rates; service that always makes consumers – not the bottom line – priority one.

Ask your elected officials to work with America's consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. Together we can face these hard times with resolve to build a brighter future. Visit www.ourenergy.coop today.