

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

“Owned By Those We Serve”

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Comments from the CEO



Charles Gibson
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

We need an all-of-the-above energy strategy

Electric cooperatives are disappointed that last September the administration officially abandoned an all-of-the-above energy strategy for a new, all-but-one approach that effectively removes coal from the nation’s fuel mix in the future.

The policy, proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA), sets stringent limits on carbon dioxide emissions from future coal or natural gas plants. Trouble is, the new standards are impossible to meet with existing technology.

For several years, cooperatives have tested carbon capture and storage (CCS) as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the technology doesn’t make financial sense. It has never been used on a commercial scale at a power plant over a prolonged period to demonstrate its viability or cost. In a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report, engineers estimate it would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75 percent.

The administration’s switch to an all-but-one energy approach would limit Americans’ access to a plentiful and affordable resource. I don’t think we should gamble with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation’s economy.

Already worried about making ends meet, many members cannot afford the significant increases in electric bills that this policy would trigger.

Historically, the price of coal remains affordable and relatively stable. The U.S. Energy Information Agency reports the United States has 236 years remaining of recoverable coal reserves. Coal generates 37 per-

cent of the nation’s electricity—our biggest energy source by far.

Seems the administration lets history repeat itself. We saw this all-but-one game in 1978 when Congress passed the ill-conceived Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act. Never heard of it? Few have, but for several years the government banned natural gas for power generation. Yes, natural gas—the fuel source being sold to the nation today as a cleaner fuel option. With gas off the table, electric co-ops were forced to choose between building coal or nuclear plants.

Back then, co-ops were in the midst of a major power plant building cycle. With few options, they invested heavily in coal-based generating plants in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Thankfully Congress repealed its mistake, but not until nine years later.

Let’s not repeat past mistakes. Please take a minute and send a message to the EPA at www.Action.coop. Stand with us as we fight to keep electric bills affordable by urging the EPA to find a common-sense solution for America.

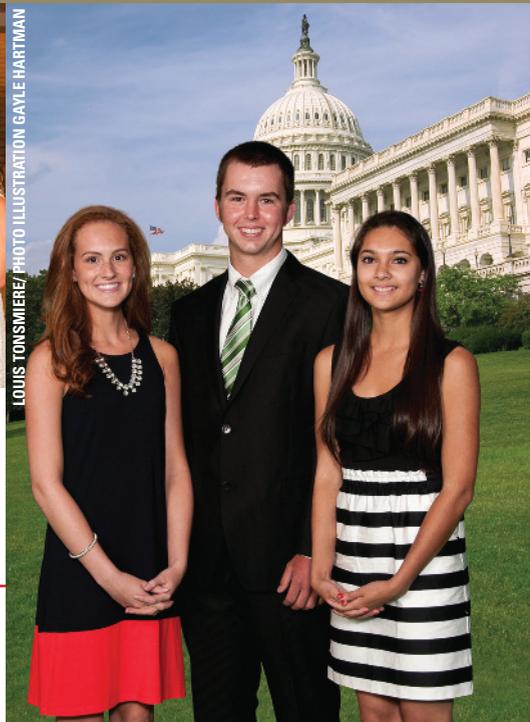
**COOPERATIVE
ACTION NETWORK**

**STAND WITH US
AS WE FIGHT
TO KEEP
ELECTRIC BILLS
AFFORDABLE.**

ACTION.COOP

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Be part of the 2014 Washington Youth Tour

Attention, high school students: Here are some of the reasons to get excited about the Washington Youth Tour (WYT):

- ★ Meet in Atlanta and spend a great week in Washington, D.C., and its environs, taking in many of that historic city's iconic locations, museums, memorials and monuments.
- ★ Make more than 100 new friends from every part of Georgia, all of them your age or within a year or two. The friendships you form can last a lifetime.
- ★ Meet WYT participants from across the country and even take a boat ride on the Potomac River with some other states' delegates.
- ★ Taste the cultural scene with several stops, including a theater performance.
- ★ Meet your U.S. senators and representatives on their turf—the U.S. Capitol—and get a glimpse into how laws are made.
- ★ Stay on the go from early morn-

ing until late at night—and love every minute of it.

- ★ Work as part of a team and develop leadership skills that will serve you well, no matter what career you pursue.
- ★ Learn about the beginning of rural electrification and visit its birthplace.
- ★ Learn about the role of Georgia's electric cooperatives, sponsors of the tour.
- ★ Add a great accomplishment on your college applications.
- ★ Have fun!

The 2014 Washington Youth Tour, set for June 12-19, starts in Atlanta, where delegates representing electric membership corporations (EMCs) from throughout the state gather for kickoff events. After a day in Georgia, it's off to the nation's capital, where the schedule is jam-packed until the return flight.

Delegates on the 2013 WYT had the time of their lives, as these

Above: From left, Abbigale Brown, of Dawsonville; Ben Weatherby, of Canton; and Gayla Cagle, of Ellijay, represented Amicalola EMC on the 2013 Washington Youth Tour.

Top left: From left, Abbigale Brown, Ben Weatherby, and Gayla Cagle pose in front of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington.

Top middle: Gayla Cagle (front row, second from left), Abbigale Brown (front row, third from left) and other delegates meet with Doug Collins, U.S. congressman for Georgia's 9th District.

photos and personal accounts of their trip show. Now, electric co-ops across Georgia are looking for delegates to represent them on the 2014 tour. Interested? Contact your EMC to see how local students are chosen.

Washington Youth Tour and scholarship deadlines

Mark your calendar! Jan. 31, 2014, is the deadline to apply for the Washington Youth Tour for high school juniors OR the Amicalola EMC Scholarship Program for high school seniors. Applications are available at your school counselor's office or at www.amicalolaemc.com. For more information, please call 706-253-5287.

Amicalola EMC rates remain low

Winter 2013	
Amicalola EMC	\$ 184.20
Local investor-owned utility	\$ 192.20
State average	\$ 204.65

Summer 2013	
Amicalola EMC	\$ 234.20
State average	\$ 239.22
Local investor-owned utility	\$ 278.68

Source: Georgia PSC Summer 2013, based upon 2,000 kWh per month

The price Amicalola EMC members pay for electricity continues to be lower than both the state average and the local investor-owned utility.

We need your help to keep it that way.

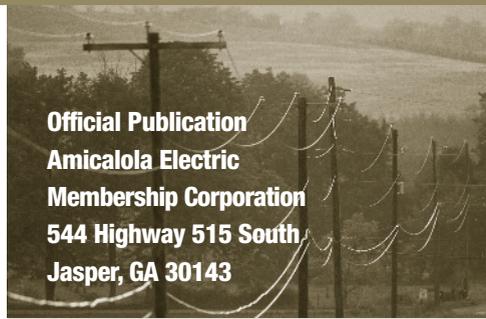
Earlier this year, the president released his Climate Action Plan, and soon after, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released proposed rules effectively banning coal-fired generation plants. We depend on coal.

Stand with us as we fight to



keep electric bills affordable at www.Action.coop. It's a quick and simple way to send a message to the EPA, urging them to find a common-sense solution to America's energy needs.

If you prefer, we'll send it for you. Just clip and return the coupon below.



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TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CALL IN CASE OF POWER INTERRUPTIONS:

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(CLIP AND RETURN)



Name _____

Email address _____

I authorize Amicalola EMC to communicate on my behalf regarding America's energy challenges.

Signature _____

STAND WITH US AS WE FIGHT TO KEEP ELECTRIC BILLS AFFORDABLE.

ACTION.COOP



Trees and safe, reliable electric service

Trees are part of the natural beauty in Amicalola EMC's service territory. They give us shade in the summer and beauty in the fall. However, trees can be a power line's worst enemy. Strong winds and storms can blow trees over or break branches, pulling power lines down from poles. It is possible for the line to remain energized and potentially electrify the tree and nearby objects.

When a tree falls on a power line, it could cause a major outage, taking out entire electrical circuits and leaving hundreds of members in the dark. More than 40 percent of power outages are caused by trees.

Amicalola EMC spends more

than \$2 million a year keeping our rights-of-way clear. We trim and remove trees on a regular, rotating schedule. We clear branches away from power lines and brush away from rights-of-way. Sometimes this includes the complete removal of a tree that is too close to a power line.

If you have a tree on your property that you believe would pose a threat, give us a call. Our right-of-way employees can come out and do an assessment. If it is determined that the tree is a danger and could strike the wires in falling, it could be removed at no cost to you.

You'll be helping us supply you with safe and reliable electricity.

What is a co-op?

Cooperative Principle #1

Voluntary and Open Membership—Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Cooperative Principle #2

Democratic Member Control—Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Electric bills rise in the winter for lots of reasons — indoor activities, house guests and shorter days and longer nights. Take small measures to help control costs like turning down the thermostat, washing clothes in cold water, swapping out lightbulbs for high efficiency versions and using microwaves or toaster ovens to cook.

Source: *TogetherWeSave.com*

