

ELECTRIC CO-OPS ARE ENGINES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Richland Electric Cooperative is deeply committed to providing affordable and reliable electricity to our consumer-members and empowering the communities that we serve. This means being more than just an electricity provider; it means being a partner in economic development and other activities that improve the lives of our members.

But have you ever stopped to wonder what kind of an impact the nation's roughly 900 electric co-ops have across the United States?

A new report on this very topic shows that electric co-ops supported nearly 612,000 American jobs and contributed \$440 billion in U.S. GDP from 2013 to 2017, or \$88 billion annually. Those are some big numbers.

The study "The Economic Impact of America's Electric Cooperatives" was conducted by FTI Consulting for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. The report quantifies what many rural American families and businesses know well—electric cooperatives are powerful engines of economic development in their local communities. Affordable and reliable electricity is a key ingredient for a successful economy. Because electric co-ops were built by, belong to, and are rooted in the communities they serve, they play a vibrant role as economic cornerstones for millions of American families, businesses, and workers.

Access to electricity was a vital component of economic development and diversification in the mid-20th century, and that remains true today. Roughly one in eight residents nationwide are served by an electric co-op, meaning direct co-op employment and investments can ripple throughout the economy and create additional economic value for local communities, regions, and the country.

From 2013 to 2017, electric co-ops contributed \$881 billion in U.S. sales output, \$200 billion in labor income, and \$112 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues.

Nationally, electric co-ops spent \$359 billion on goods and services across the economy, including \$274 billion on operational expenditures, \$60 billion on capital investments, \$20 billion on maintenance, and \$5 billion on credits retired and paid in cash to members under the membership structure of cooperatives.

In conducting its analysis, FTI Consulting used data from 815 distribution cooperatives and 57 generation and transmission cooperatives as inputs into a national model to simulate the eco-



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nommic effects from the direct expenditures by co-ops. The model also calculates the indirect effects throughout the industrial supply chain and the induced effects from consumer spending by the employees of co-ops and their suppliers.

The result of all this effort is a first-of-its-kind study that reveals electric cooperatives to be economic anchors all across rural America. And it demonstrates on a macroeconomic scale one of the seven guiding cooperative principles: Concern for Community.

POWERFUL CONNECTIONS

The Economic Impact of America's Electric Cooperatives

In 2017, electric cooperatives...

Supported

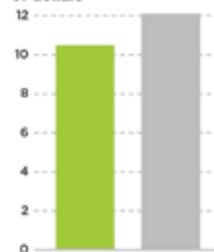
611,600
American jobs.

- 165,800 direct jobs
- 170,900 indirect jobs
- 274,900 induced jobs*



*Jobs that are created as a direct or indirect result of the work electric cooperatives do.

Taxes in billions of dollars



Generated

\$22.5 billion
in federal, state and local taxes.

- \$10.5 billion in federal tax
- \$12.0 billion in state/local tax

Contributed

\$88.4 billion
to U.S. GDP, including
\$40.4 billion
in labor income to
American workers.



NRECA
America's Electric Cooperatives

MY CO-OP



UNPLUG TO BE MORE CONNECTED

“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.” Author Anne Lamott cleverly captures the benefits of unplugging in today’s device-driven, multi-tasking world. Keeping up with work, family, and school activities or the latest trends on social media makes most of us feel compelled to constantly check our devices.

Summer is a great time to take a family vacation, but it’s also a good opportunity to unplug from our devices and enjoy the great outdoors with family and friends. Research has shown that we all need downtime after a busy day to recharge—even though we may resist it. Take a moment to slow down and enjoy some peaceful hours away from technology.

While you’re unplugging from your devices, take a look around your home to identify electronics that consume energy even when they are not in use (this is known as “vampire” energy loss). TVs, gaming consoles, phone chargers, and computers are some of the biggest culprits.

If your summer plans include a staycation, take time to recharge your relationships and be more present with those you love. Stop by farmer’s market, Eagle Cave, paddle the Pine, etc. Enjoy our beautiful surroundings with your family and friends.

Speaking of spending time outdoors, you can also enjoy energy savings by incorporating LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.

And don’t let any of that warm summer air that you’re enjoying get inside, where it doesn’t feel quite as good. Save energy by adding caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows. You can also employ a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when everyone’s out enjoying an unplugged day.

In our connected world, we have forgotten how to slow down. We multitask and text. We check email, then voicemail, then Facebook. Do yourself and your family a favor. Put down the device and smell the fresh air.

While Richland Electric Cooperative can’t help you recharge your relationships, we can help you save money and energy by connecting you with our energy-saving programs and services. When you do plug back in, we’re just a call or click away.



Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub

Life is fast, and it can be hectic, but it doesn't all have to be complicated. Paying your Richland Electric Cooperative (REC) bill shouldn't be a complex task, and with our SmartHub web and mobile app, it won't be.

You may have heard about SmartHub, our innovative tool for account management, but what can it do for you? SmartHub can help you take control of your REC account like never before, giving you more time to focus on other responsibilities.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, view your usage, contact customer service, and get the latest news.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks... or taps, if you're using the app. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous summer, if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll be able to view your actual use. You can see how your use is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill.

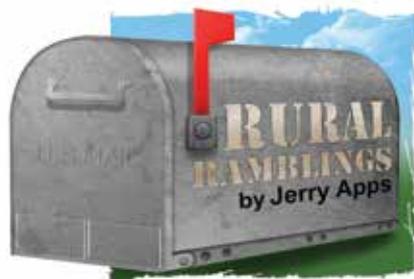
Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either through the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

You'll also be able to see important REC notices with SmartHub. You'll be able to select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging. You'll even be able to set usage thresholds so that you'll know when you're using more than you'd like, which can help you keep your electricity bill as low as possible.

Reporting a service issue is also quick and easy from the SmartHub mobile app. There's no need to call the office—just let us know about the issue with a few taps. You can also contact REC for customer service requests or with any questions you may have. SmartHub's contact feature makes it quick and easy.

Access SmartHub by visiting www.rec.coop or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices).

Plenty of things in life are complicated. Manage your REC account simply, quickly, and easily with SmartHub.



REMEMBERING THE ICE BOX

The icebox stood on the north wall of our kitchen, just to the right of the sink. It was creamy white, scarred and

scratched from years of use. But it was dependable; it had no moving parts, just an insulated piece of kitchen furniture with two purposes: to keep things cool in summer, and, ironically, to keep things from freezing on cold winter nights.

A little metal drainpipe thrust out from the bottom of the icebox, through a hole that Pa had drilled through the kitchen floor to drain the melting ice. The icebox stood about five feet tall and had a door on the top that when opened, revealed where the ice was kept. A door in the front allowed access to a couple of shelves where Ma kept the butter, milk, and other food items she didn't want to spoil during the hot days of summer.

The iceman, a huge burly man, drove a truck filled with 50-pound cakes of ice, covered with sawdust to keep them from melting. He wore a long, canvas apron that covered him from below his knees to just under his chin. He arrived at our farm once a week in summer, backed his truck up to the kitchen porch, and knocked on the kitchen door. Ma greeted him; he was a friendly chap with always a word about the weather or something he had seen on his trip from the icehouse on the shore of the Wild Rose Mill Pond to his customers scattered throughout the area.

"Got any ice left?" was his usual question.

"A little," Ma usually answered. How much depended on how hot the previous week had been. He removed the remnant of the ice he had delivered the previous week. It was sometimes a mere shadow of its previous self, or sometimes a sizeable hunk. He put the leftover ice in the sink, walked back to his truck, lifted the canvas covering, and with ice tongs, pulled out a 50-pound cake of ice. With a little broom, he whisked away the sawdust and then, with the ice tongs in one hand, carried the heavy hunk of slippery, dripping ice

into the kitchen where he eased it into the icebox. A little trail of water puddles followed him.

If the leftover piece of ice had any size to it, my brothers and I would appeal to Ma for some homemade ice cream. My brothers and I much preferred homemade ice cream to the store-bought kind, which we occasionally purchased with our nickel allowances on Saturday night when we went to town.

We rustled up the hand-cranked ice cream maker from its storage place in the woodshed. It was the kind with a wooden tub into which a metal container (for the ice cream) was immersed and fastened to the handle turning device. We chipped the ice into little pieces with an ice pick, an instrument that looked like a screw driver, but had a shaft with a sharp point, and filled the wooden tub with the ice chips, covering each layer with table salt. Adding salt to the ice slows the melting rate of the ice and causes the temperature to drop, thus hastening the freezing of the ice cream mixture.

Ma put the ingredients into the container, and my brothers and I took turns cranking until the crank became difficult to turn, a sign that the ice cream was ready. We'd remove the container with the ice cream, pull out the wooden paddles, which had the freshly frozen ice cream adhering to them, and argued about who got to "lick the paddles." Soon we were enjoying the best ever ice cream. [Excerpted from *Old Farm County Cook Book*.]



For more about Jerry's writing, go to www.jerryapps.com.

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