



The realities of a renewable energy future

Ask anyone to describe renewable energy, and nine times out of 10 they will include either wind or solar power in their answer. The two have become iconic symbols of “green electricity,” and rightfully so.

Wind energy has been harnessed and used to improve the quality of life for thousands of years. Solar power is unique in that it taps the most basic yet fundamental generation source available: the sun.

A recent survey conducted by Bisconti Research Inc. asked Americans where they think most of our nation’s electricity will come from in 15 years. The vast majority — 72 percent — answered solar as No. 1, followed by wind energy. In actuality, solar is expected to generate a mere 0.2 percent of our nation’s electricity by 2030; wind will generate just 2.4 percent. We will continue to rely on fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas as well as nuclear power and hydropower to produce most of our electricity needs.

But this doesn’t mean we’ll be hearing less about renewable energy in coming years. In fact, the opposite is true. Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia have already passed laws creating renewable portfolio standards, which require electric utilities and other retail suppliers of electricity to add a specific percentage of renewable energy to their power supply mix by a certain date. More states are expected to follow this trend, and a federal mandate could be passed by Congress this year.

In meeting these requirements as well as adding renewables as part of a diversified, cost-effective generation portfolio,

electric cooperatives will draw on the innovation they’ve been known for since their humble beginnings 75 years ago. Electric co-ops span our nation from

coast to coast, serving in 80 percent of all counties. Of course, in some locations, the wind may not always blow and the sun may not always shine. Where wind and solar power can be generated, transmission lines to move the electricity where power is needed may not currently exist.

But wood chips and slash from timber operations, switchgrass and even peanut shells can all be burned to boil water, create steam and turn an electric turbine.

Methane rising from decomposing landfills and mounds of chicken, cattle or hog waste can be captured and burned as well. Pipes can be sunk in the ground to capture the natural heat and steam created under the earth’s surface. A river’s steady current can be diverted and used to manufacture power without the aid of a dam. Even the constant bobbing of offshore buoys from ocean waves or the movement of tides can be harnessed to generate an electric current.

Electric cooperatives lead the utility industry in the amount of renewable power supplied to our consumers, and we’re ready to share our experience with policy-makers as they consider ways to make more green power available.

At Pickwick Electric Cooperative, we continue to work closely with the Tennessee Valley Authority and our elected leaders and are committed to supplying our members with safe, reliable and affordable power in an environmentally responsible manner.



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Pickwick Electric Cooperative

Serving members in all of McNairy County and portions of Chester, Hardeman and Hardin counties in Tennessee and Alcorn and Tishomingo counties in Mississippi.



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These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.



Rinks and Youngblood attend Youth Leadership Summit

Lani Rinks of Adamsville High School and Matt Youngblood of McNairy Central High School were among 44 high school juniors from across the state who attended the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit, March 16-18 in Nashville.

"The annual summit teaches students about the important roles of electric cooperatives and provides an opportunity for them to see, in person, the legislative process in the Tennessee Capitol," said Joe Jackson, TECA director of youth and member relations.

"Leadership Rocks" was the theme of the 2009 summit hosted by TECA and funded in part by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, a not-for-profit cooperative financing institute that provides an independent source of financing to member cooperatives nationwide.

"We had another excellent group of outstanding students attend the summit this year," Jackson said. "It's no surprise, really, considering the highly competitive and selective process they undergo to earn a spot on the trip. Local electric cooperatives, along with school officials and guidance counselors, chose these students based on their interest in government and their leadership abilities."

"It is encouraging to see such motivated students in our service area," said Kevin Roy, Pickwick Electric Cooperative electrification advisor. "These young people will one day be the leaders of our communities, and we are privileged to provide them with the opportunity to join their peers from across Tennessee to learn about state government and rural electric cooperatives."

The summit kicked off Monday night with dinner at the group's hotel. Get-acquainted and leadership-development activities followed, led by cooperative employees and special guests, including 2008 Miss Tennessee Ellen Carrington and Tennessee Titans cheerleaders Lindsey Roznovsky and Melissa Hodges.



From left, PEC electrification advisor Kevin Roy and students Lani Rinks and Matt Youngblood are greeted by Rep. Vance Dennis in front of the Capitol.

Tuesday morning began early with breakfast and preparations for a visit to the Legislative Plaza where students met their state legislators and sat in on House and Senate committee meetings. Speakers included Amy Gallimore, director of leadership with TRI Leadership Resources LLC, TECA Director of Government Affairs David Callis and State Rep. Phillip Johnson of Pegram, who welcomed the students to Tennessee's capital and dis-

cussed the legislative process with them. Callis also explained current bills affecting cooperatives and described what everyone should expect from the legislative committees they were to visit.

The 11th-graders then took a tour of the State Capitol and moved to the Legislative Plaza, seeing state government in action and posing for photos in front of the historic Capitol. Rinks and Youngblood also met Rep. Vance Dennis of Savannah.

Following the visit to Capitol Hill, the group enjoyed lunch and leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp. After dinner, students were treated to a tour of Nashville before returning to the hotel for a special competition playing on the summit's 2009 theme — a virtual "battle of the bands" featuring the interactive "Rock Band" video game. Finally the busy day was capped off with an ice cream social.

Wednesday morning the students learned more about Tennessee's electric cooperatives and the commitment these co-ops show toward the communities they serve. Then they fought it out in the "Energy Battle" competition, where teams answered trivia questions about electric cooperatives and the state.

"We offer these educational experiences for our students, our future members, because we want them to understand what makes a cooperative special," says PEC President Karl Dudley.

Lani is the daughter of Stacey Rinks of Adamsville, and Matt is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Youngblood of Selmer. Both families live in the PEC service area.



Recognizing McNairy County's Musical Heritage

In the city of Selmer, musical history is coming to life as Nashville artist Brian Tull, a McNairy County native, paints the Rockabilly Highway Mural.

Painting of the mural, which adorns the wall of the Visual Expressions building at the corner of Second and Court avenues in downtown Selmer, began in February and is expected to be completed in May. When finished, the project will add beauty and interest to downtown while calling attention to a fascinating and much-undervalued part of McNairy County's cultural heritage.

As documented by rockabilly historians, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley met on Sept. 17, 1954, for the first time at Bethel Springs High School. They claim that it was his hearing of Elvis' "That's All Right" that prompted Perkins' desire to meet Presley.

While Presley became known as the "King of Rock 'n' Roll," his career began as one of the first performers of rockabilly, an uptempo fusion of country and rhythm and blues with a strong back beat. "The King's" career continued as a singer, musician and actor.

In the fall of 1955, Perkins himself became a worldwide legend with his rockabilly hit "Blue Suede Shoes."

The music of both Presley and Perkins was first recorded under the Sun Records label, and the artists appeared together in theaters throughout the South and Southwest.

With Perkins calling Jackson, Tenn., home and Tupelo, Miss., being known as the birthplace of Presley, on June 27, 2008, the Tennessee General Assembly passed legislation designating a stretch of Highway 45 from Jackson to the Mississippi state line as "Rockabilly Highway." Legislators hoped that the initiative

would shine the spotlight on the music that developed in West Tennessee and north Mississippi, thereby boosting tourism and economic development opportunities in this area. McNairy County is the first to embrace this identity with a high-profile art project like the mural being painted in Selmer.

The project, aimed at highlighting McNairy County's significant role in the history and development of rockabilly music, is being cosponsored by the Selmer Business Alliance, the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce and Arts in McNairy. Also, Arts in McNairy was awarded an Arts Build Communities grant by the Tennessee Arts Commission and West Tennessee's designated arts agency, the Jackson Arts Council.

After Tull was contracted to paint the mural, he researched rockabilly music, and his painting was strongly influenced by a Nashville band, Phil Hummer and the White Falcons. All of Tull's art reflects his fascination for the 1930s-to-1960s era.

Tull expresses appreciation to his family and friends for welcoming him "back to McNairy County" while working on this project. He also thanks Shawn Pitts, Ron Bell and Arts in McNairy for being so enthusiastic; Pat's Cafe for lunch; Crump Electric for use of a lift; and the Visual Expressions owners for the use of their facilities. For more information on Tull, visit his Web site, www.briantull.com.

The mural is set to be officially unveiled on Saturday, June 13, at Selmer's first-ever Rockabilly Festival. This will be an all-day event featuring live music, food vendors and an antique car cruise-in with employees of local businesses dressing in clothes that represent the 1950s rockabilly era. As an added attraction, there will be a rockabilly reunion concert at the dedication ceremony with some of the original Sun Records recording artists in attendance.

Make your plans now to attend the Rockabilly Festival and celebrate a little piece of history in McNairy County. For more information, contact the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce at 731-645-6360.



Nashville artist and McNairy County native Brian Tull paints the Rockabilly Highway Mural in downtown Selmer. Galleries where Tull's artwork is showcased include Gallery One in Nashville, Lyon and Lyon Fine Art in New Orleans and The Haen Gallery in Asheville, N.C.

Holiday closing

The Pickwick Electric Cooperative office will be closed

Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

Should you have an emergency, we will have standby crews available.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Winners announced for 2009 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest

Pickwick Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest.

Approximately 300 high school students competed for prizes including a weeklong tour of Washington, D.C., cash awards and college scholarships. The first-place winners will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington June 12-18. They are Kelsey Copeland and Brandi Atkins from Adamsville High School and Gabbie Charette and Jessica Holmes from McNairy Central High School.

Only high school juniors are eligible to participate in the annual contest. This year, they wrote short stories related to the theme “Electric Cooperatives: Energizing Our Communities.” The short stories were judged on originality, appropriate treatment of theme, grammar and composition and knowledge of the subject. These students are to be congratulated for their accomplishments.

PEC has been participating in this program since 1968 and is proud to promote the youth in our communities.

First-place winners:



Brandi Atkins



Kelsey Copeland



Gabbie Charette



Jessica Holmes



Writing contest winners from Adamsville High School are, from left, Justin Shourd, Lani Rinks, Kerby Gray, Rebecca Bearden, Kelsey Copeland and Brandi Atkins.



Writing contest winners from McNairy Central High School are, from left, Emily Pitts, Ashley Petty, Jessica Holmes, Gabbie Charette and Kelsey Pierce. Not pictured is Chris Pymmer.