



Power Points

www.diversepower.com

FEBRUARY 2014



diversepower

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*Innovation through vision.
Quality through service.*

Don't miss out!

Deadlines for Diverse Power Foundation scholarships and grants are just around the corner.

School Grants are awarded for innovative instructional programs for students in grades 1-12. The deadline to apply is **Feb. 7, 2014**.

Student Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors. Applications are due **Feb. 18, 2014**.

Applications for grants and scholarships are available at dpfi.org or by contacting Ken Pope at Diverse Power, (706) 845-2000, ext. 347, or (800) 845-8362. Scholarship applications also are available in high school counselors' offices.

Send completed scholarship and grant applications to Diverse Power Foundation, Attn. Ken Pope, P.O. Box 160, LaGrange, GA 30241.

Scholarship winners will be announced in April and grant winners in May.

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Help us keep your power affordable

Diverse Power Incorporated joins electric cooperatives throughout the state and nation—along with their members, employees, directors, friends and allies—in a grassroots response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed regulations on new coal-fired power plants.

Paul Wood, CEO of Georgia Electric Membership Corp., released the following statement regarding the EPA's proposed regulations governing carbon dioxide emissions from new power plants:

"Georgia EMC and the 41 member co-ops in the state are disappointed to learn that the administration has abandoned its All-of-the-Above energy strategy and embraced an All-but-One approach that restricts the future use of coal to generate affordable electricity. In doing so, the administration is gambling with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation's economy."

"As not-for-profit, consumer-owned utilities, electric co-ops are deeply concerned about maintaining affordable, reliable electricity. It's worth noting that residents of rural communities already spend more per capita on energy than anywhere else."

"Georgia EMC, together with electric co-ops across the country and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, urges the administration to reconsider this proposal and focus on working with co-ops as we continue to reduce power plant emissions, increase efficiency and develop affordable new technologies. Together, we can improve both the environment and the quality of life for future generations."

The proposed regulations require new coal-burning power plants to capture and store carbon dioxide, an expensive technology that has not been proven commercially viable. With these regulations, the EPA essentially prevents construction of new coal-based power plants.

The EPA will propose carbon dioxide emissions standards for existing power plants in June 2014 with a final rule due in June 2015. Wide speculation suggests that severe restrictions on existing coal generation will follow in the wake of this proposed rule for new plants.

While the Obama administration has claimed support for an All-of-the-Above energy plan, electric cooperatives across the country have rightly labeled this EPA rule as an All-but-One approach. These new regulations will result in an increase in energy costs for cooperative members nationwide, without any assurance of a corresponding environmental benefit.

In response, Diverse Power joins co-ops nationwide to urge employees, directors, members, community leaders and friends to take part in this grassroots campaign to send a clear message to the EPA: Withdraw this rule and work with electric cooperatives on common-sense, affordable solutions.

To send your message to the EPA, go to action.coop, and share this link with your friends and neighbors.

For more on how you can help, see Diverse Power President/CEO Wayne Livingston's message on page 14B.

**Diverse Power Incorporated, an
Electric Membership Corporation**

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Power Points is the official newsletter of Diverse Power Incorporated and is distributed monthly to all its members.

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A Word from Wayne

We need an All-of-the-Above energy strategy

Electric cooperatives are disappointed that the All-of-the-Above energy strategy, which calls for multiple sources of electric power, may be abandoned for an All-but-One approach that effectively would remove coal from the nation's fuel mix.

The policy, proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sets stringent limits on carbon dioxide emissions from future coal and 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 as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the technology doesn't make financial sense. In a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report, engineers estimated it would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75 percent.

The switch to an All-but-One energy approach would limit Americans' access to plentiful and affordable electricity. Now is not the time to gamble with the economic well-being of future generations.

Already concerned about making ends meet, many Diverse Power members cannot afford the significant increases in electric bills that this policy would trigger. Like consumers throughout the nation, our members remain focused on the economy

as our country ever so slowly recovers from the Great Recession.

Historically, the price of coal remains affordable and relatively stable. The U.S. Energy Information Agency reports the U.S. has 236 years' worth of recoverable coal reserves. Our biggest energy source by far, coal generates 37 percent of the nation's electricity.

In 1978, Congress embraced an All-but-One philosophy when they passed the ill-conceived Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act that, for nine years, banned natural gas for power generation. Yes, natural gas—the fuel source being sold to the nation today as a cleaner option. With gas off the table, electric co-ops were forced to choose between building coal or nuclear plants, and they invested heavily in coal-based generating plants. Thankfully, Congress repealed its mistake in 1987.

Let's not repeat past mistakes. Stand with us as we fight to keep electric bills affordable. Raise your voice through the Cooperative Action Network at action.coop. We need you. Help us tell the EPA we need an All-of-the-Above energy strategy.



Wayne Livingston
President/CEO

This Month



RENEWABLE ENERGY



NUCLEAR POWER



NATURAL GAS



CLEAN COAL

America needs an ALL OF THE ABOVE STRATEGY to keep electric bills affordable

**URGE EPA TO RECONSIDER
ITS "ALL-BUT-ONE" APPROACH**

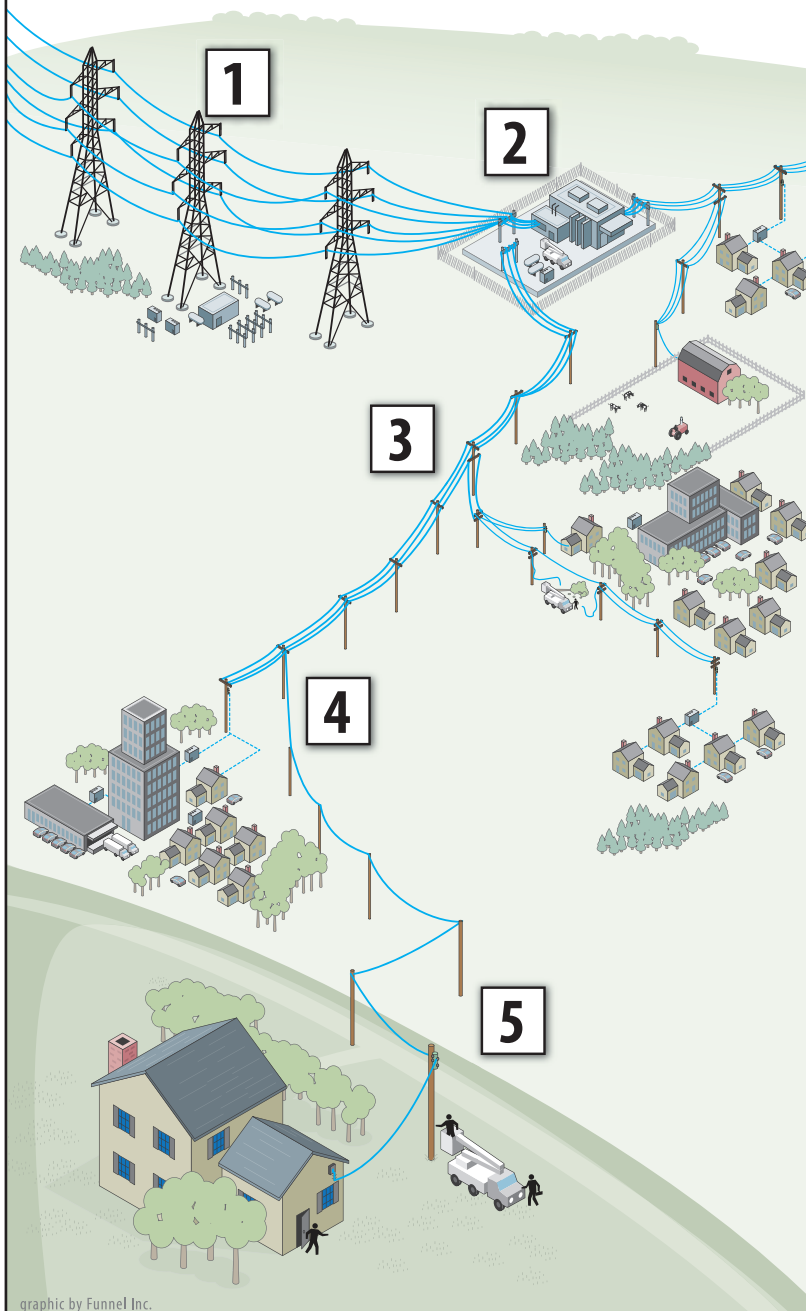
VISIT ACTION.COOP

How we restore your power

Inevitably, from time to time, winter storms or spring tornadoes damage the electricity distribution system, leaving you without power. At these times, our No.1 goal is to get your lights back on. To do that, we start with the most crucial components of the electric grid and work our way out to individual neighborhoods and homes, as illustrated below.

Our internal communications systems alert us automatically when the power is out, but to ensure we know your situation, contact us at (706) 845-2000 to report an outage. In the coming weeks, we will introduce a mobile outage reporting system that will enable you to report outages from your mobile devices. Stay tuned for more information about that.

In the meantime, here are the steps we take to restore power after storms:



graphic by Funnel Inc.

1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, from the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

3 Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in communities or housing developments.

4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.

Community Connections

Co-op Connections® introduces 3 new ways to save cash



Diverse Power's Co-op Connections® program, coordinated by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, introduces three new features, each designed to save you time and money. Using your Co-op Connections Card to obtain cost-saving deals on goods and services is just another benefit of being a member of your local electric cooperative.

Co-op Connections Card mobile app

For smartphone and iPad users, finding deals from local, national and online retailers just got easier with the release of the updated Co-op Connections Card mobile app.

The new mobile platform offers a full database of all active deals within the Co-op Connections network along with a GPS feature that allows you to map deals in your immediate area. Just say, "I want restaurants," and you'll get a list of all your nearby options.

Your Co-op Connections Card provides access to more than 21,000

discounts brokered by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives or their member electric co-ops. The markdowns can be substantial. Nationwide, members have saved approximately \$33 million at more than 60,000 pharmacies alone since Co-op Connections launched in May 2007.

The Co-op Connections Card app is currently available for the iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch. To download, visit the iTunes Store and enter "Co-op Connections" in the search box. The Droid version is available in the Android Market. An app for Blackberry devices is scheduled for release in the near future.

Healthy Savings Medicare Assistant

Your Co-op Connections program introduces the Healthy Savings Medicare Assistant, a Medicare comparison service that allows our members to consult with licensed Medicare agents who will help them choose the best plan for their individual needs.

We know Medicare can be a complex issue, and we hope this new service, managed by Joppel, will help turn complexity into simplicity for you.

To speak with a Joppel-licensed agent, call 1 (866) 754-8957, or visit <http://ma.joppel.com> and fill out the form.

Earn cash back from online purchases

With the Co-op Connections' Cash Back Mall, Diverse Power mem-

bers can earn cash back when purchasing items online.

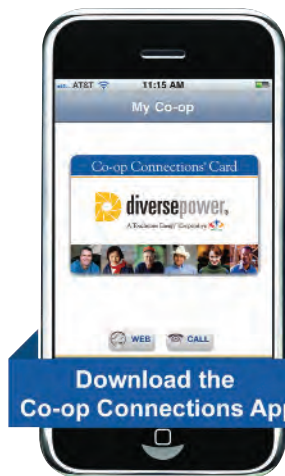
You may be among the multitude of shoppers who do business online and, if you are, you'll appreciate this new benefit, which gives cash back to Diverse Power members who make online purchases from more than 5,000 participating stores on more than 300 million products.

To start earning, visit Connections.coop/CashBackMall and click on the Cash Back Mall link on the Co-op Connections Card menu. Click the Download Now button and follow instructions, and a free shopping assistant toolbar will appear at the top of your Internet browser. This toolbar keeps track of the cash you've earned. Watch the money in your checking or savings account build up as you buy online from Best Buy, Walmart, Target and other big-name retailers.

When setting up your account, choose how you would like to receive your cash back, whether directly deposited into your account or as a printed check mailed to your address.

This new benefit costs nothing but pays you tax-free income for doing what you're already doing. Make Cash Back Mall a part of your online shopping experience.

For more information on any of these new features, visit the Co-op Connections Card website at connections.coop or the Co-op Connections Card link at diversepower.com.



**Download the
Co-op Connections App**