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Washington EMC leaders complete Management Internship Program

In May, Washington EMC’s Manager of Engineering Services, Zan Helton, and Vice President of Finance and Administration, Chad Davis, completed the Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP), which is offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. This program is an immersive six-week program that challenges participants and enhances their knowledge in all areas of the electric utility industry.

MIP is a unique experience for cooperative employees who aspire to become better leaders and position

themselves as integral pieces of their organization to better serve the members. The program teaches participants about leadership, project management, business acumen, governance and strategy, and how the cooperative works in areas that may be outside of their current job duties.

Helton and Davis collaborated with 33 other cooperative employees from across the nation and represented a wide variety of the departments that make up an electric membership cooperative. This wide knowledge base of the class allows par-



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

participants to gain a better understanding of the cooperative as a whole and how each aspect of the organization is affected differently.

Continued on page 18D



Washington EMC Vice President of Finance and Administration Chad Davis (left) with Gary Pfann, Director of Executive and Staff Education at the NRECA.



Washington EMC Manager of Engineering Services Zan Helton (left) with Gary Pfann, Director of Executive and Staff Education at the NRECA.



WashingtonEMC
A Member-owned Electric Cooperative

An electric membership corporation

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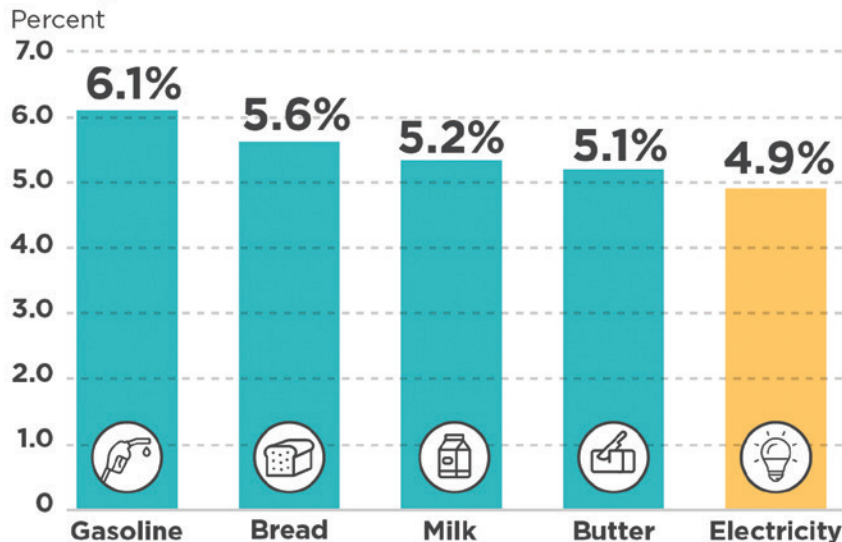
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ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Although inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods. Looking at price increases over the last five years, electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2018-2023



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

Providing your own power during an outage

How to sort the many choices in home generators

By Paul Wesslund

Some generators have gotten so popular to use in case of a power outage that manufacturers now offer a wide range of choices.

Options run from pull start gasoline models to permanent outdoor installations. This variety makes it even easier to get what you want, but harder to choose.

A good first step is to think about what you want a home generator to do. Do you want to keep your phone charged, make sure food doesn't spoil, have heat and air conditioning during an extended outage? Answering these questions will require you to know the wattage of the appliances you want to run so you know the capacity of the generator you need.

But do you really need a generator? The average U.S. home is without power about seven hours a year. Is that enough to justify the expense and attention?

Another part of your planning should be contacting your electric co-op to get their expert advice on the best and safest fit for your home.

Here's what to know about the four basic choices in home generators:

Portable generators are small enough that you might even take them on camping trips. Costs vary—from more than \$2,000 to as low as \$400. Most should be able to run a refrigerator or window air conditioner. Special attention to safety is required. They should never be used indoors, not even in a garage. The carbon monoxide they produce can be deadly in minutes.

Portable generators should be operated more than 20 feet from a house and be connected only with outdoor extension cords matching the wattage being used. Look for models with a carbon monoxide detector and automatic shut-off.

Appliances should be plugged into the generator, but the generator should never be plugged into an outlet or your home's electrical system.

You should also spend the money to have an electrician install a transfer switch. That acts as a mini circuit breaker to protect your appli-

Most standby generators are permanently mounted outside a home, then connected to the home's electrical system. Standby generators run on propane or natural gas, and they must be installed by a professional electrician.



Most portable generators are powerful enough to run a refrigerator or window air-conditioning unit. Special attention to safety is required, and they should never be used indoors, not even in a garage.

ances and can be an easier way to connect the house to the generator.

Inverter generators are higher tech versions of standard portable generators. The power they produce changes to match what the appliances are using, so although they are a little more expensive, they use fuel more efficiently and make less noise. The same safety guidelines apply to inverter and standard portable generators.

Standby generators can cost \$7,000, plus installation, but they have the benefit of turning on automatically during a power outage and running your whole house. They're typically a permanently mounted outdoor unit that's connected to your home electrical system and runs on propane or natural gas. It must be installed by a professional electrician.

Power stations, also known as batteries, charge themselves up while the power is on. They're not as powerful as some of the other options, and can be more expensive, but they're quiet, easy to operate and some are designed to look good hanging on the wall. They can cost between \$400 and \$6,000. One common use of power stations is to pair them with rooftop solar panels so that electricity from the sun can be available even at night.

With the increased intensity of storms and our reliance on electronic devices, power outages can be a bigger concern these days. However, today's technology gives you many choices for how to react. You may want to make sure you're never without power, or you may be willing to just light a candle and wait for the lights to come back on.

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

Management Internship Program,

Continued from page 18A

“Aside from the vast knowledge gained through classes and hands-on experience, I am grateful for the vast network of fellow EMC employees who I gained through the class, ones that I will be able to rely on for ideas and information sharing. This is the embodiment of Cooperative Principle 6, Cooperation Among Cooperatives,” says Davis.

When asked about the program and its benefits, Helton adds, “MIP has challenged me to be a better leader and provided me with a toolkit and network to facilitate my advancement.”

Helton and Davis have now joined an elite group of cooperative leaders who have completed this program. As of March, electric membership cooperatives employed more than 73,000 people—only 1,400 of whom have completed this program since its inception 50-plus years ago.



Overall, their experience and involvement in MIP will help enhance Washington EMC and allow us to better serve our members now and in the future.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energy.gov

