

CLARK ENERGY LINES

A publication of Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc., proudly serving our members since 1938.

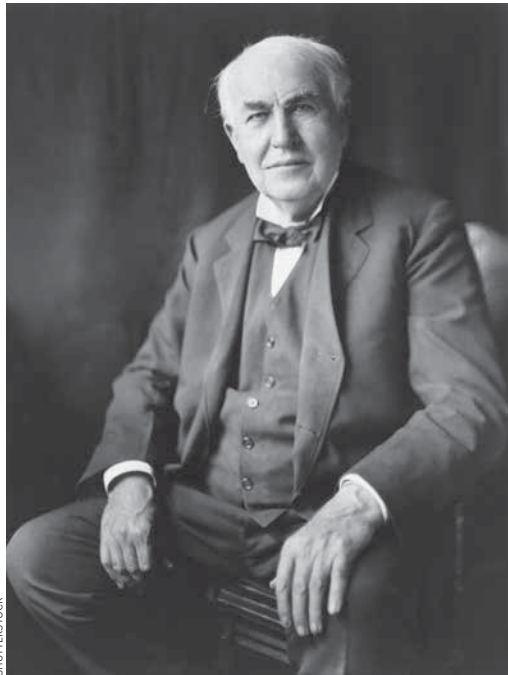
History of the lightbulb A bright idea

Contrary to many textbooks, Thomas Edison didn't invent the lightbulb. Nearly a century of independent and incremental breakthroughs by engineers and scientists led to the bright idea that revolutionized how people lived, worked and were entertained.

Sir Humphry Davy, an English physician, passed current through a platinum strip to create the first electric light in 1802. More than 30 years later, Scottish inventor James Bowman Lindsay demonstrated the first constant electric light, saying the artificial illumination made it possible to "read a book at a distance of one and a half feet."

Scientists tinkered with variations of the lightbulb for another 40 years. It was Edison's laboratory that crossed the finish line first with an incandescent bulb that could burn for 1,200 hours.

On New Year's Eve in 1879, Edison lit up his laboratory—a display visible for more than 20 miles—and the era of electric lighting was, literally, switched on. By 1925, more than



SHUTTERSTOCK

half of all U.S. homes were electrified and lightbulb manufacturers like Philips and General Electric were household names.

Incandescent bulbs dominated artificial lighting in homes for most of the 20th century despite a significant weakness: Less than 10% of electrical

power supplied to the bulb could be converted into visible light. The remaining energy was lost as heat. This fact opened the door for new technologies when energy efficiency first became a concern in the 1970s.

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) were the first viable energy-efficient alternative introduced in the mid-1980s. The CFL used 75% less energy and lasted 10 times longer than an incandescent. However, consumers weren't excited by the early bulbs' unattractive corkscrew design or their \$25 price.

CFL designs improved and prices came down in the 1990s, but not before light-emitting diode (LED) technology leapfrogged it. Even though today's incandescent bulbs use 25% less energy than their predecessors, they still lag far behind the LED's 80% efficiency and 25,000-hour lifespan.

From an English chemist's experiment to today's energy-saving technology, the lightbulb remains the ultimate bright idea.

Contact Us

CLARK EC OFFICE LOCATIONS

2640 Iron Works Road,
Winchester 40391

28 Bible Camp Lane,
Frenchburg 40322

170 Halls Lane, Stanton 40380

www.clarkenergy.com

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.,
Monday - Friday

OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

Winchester - (859) 744-4251
Frenchburg - (606) 768-2383
Stanton - (606) 663-4330
Toll Free - (800) 992-3269
Emergency - (800) 992-3269
Fax - (859) 744-4218

To report an outage, please call (800) 992-3269.

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Be Your Brother's Keeper

As I reflect on what May Electrical Safety Month means, I think about the terrible weather we've experienced this year. It underscores why it's so important for all of us to prepare now to keep our families and friends safe in the future.

I also want to thank the members for their patience during the February ice storm, and to salute our 170 lineworkers and field employees who worked 16-plus hour days to restore power.

I can't tell you how much all the employees of Clark Energy appreciate members who brought food and coffee to the crews, and who took care of their neighbors. You showed the true cooperative spirit by being your brother's keeper, and that is what our safety program is all about.

Despite the many punches Mother Nature threw day after day, week after week — beginning with sleet, snow and ice, and followed by record flooding — the co-op family kept fighting. The ice added tremendous weight to Clark Energy's lines, breaking poles and making it extremely difficult to restore power to many. Our crews spent days rebuilding entire line sections and replacing numerous broken poles.

New challenges seemed to emerge every morning, but the lineworkers never quit. Crews from outside our local area spent many nights away from their own families to help, and we still cannot get over the kindness that members showed and the prayers you offered each day.

Though the threat of winter storms has passed, spring and summer may bring more severe weather events. So now is a good time to think ahead and prepare for possible power interruptions. We can all do that by:



The February ice storm added tremendous weight to Clark Energy lines, breaking poles and making it extremely difficult to get to downed lines to replace the infrastructure. Photo: Tim Webb

- Having an emergency kit, nonperishable food and extra water in our homes.
- Purchasing a backup generator and installing it correctly and safely. We can advise you.
- Developing a plan for family members who depend on medical devices that require electricity.
- Elevating your furnace, electrical panel and other appliances if your home has a high flood risk.

Safety is Clark Energy's number one priority. Let's all renew our commitment to stay safe and be our brother's keeper.



Chris Brewer, President & CEO

Clark Energy Cooperative Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

Out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our members and employees and while following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines of social distancing and gatherings of large crowds, members can watch a live stream of the business meeting via Clark Energy's Facebook, @ClarkEnergyCoop, and www.clarkenergy.com.

Please read carefully, as times and procedures have changed from our typical in-person meeting.

When: Friday, June 18, 2021

Registration: 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at each local office*

Business Meeting: 2:30 p.m. (live streamed on Clark Energy Facebook page and on www.clarkenergy.com)

- Call to Order
- Invocation
- Establish Chairman for Meeting
- Welcome
- Recognition of Board of Directors
- Determine Quorum Present
- Reading of the Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing
- Approval of Minutes of Membership Meeting held June 21, 2019
- Announcement of Board of Directors Election Results
- Comments and Reports from Clark Energy Cooperative's President and CEO
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

***Registration will be held at each Clark Energy office in Frenchburg, Stanton and Winchester.**

28 Bible Camp Lane, Frenchburg


170 Halls Lane, Stanton

2640 Ironworks Road, Winchester

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. you may register and pick up your bucket and bulbs. Please follow the signs and stay in your vehicle at all times.

In order to register, you must:

- Hold an active membership in Clark Energy Cooperative.
- Register only once, even though you may hold multiple accounts.
- Be the person whose name appears on the membership application.



Clark Energy's offices in all locations will be closed on Monday, May 31, for Memorial Day. Dispatch services are available for emergencies by calling (800) 992-3269.

Tree trimming improves service for all

One of the best things about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade and a habitat for all sorts of birds and other wildlife. And Clark Energy's members appreciate our community for many of the same reasons.

At Clark Energy, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights of way (ROW).

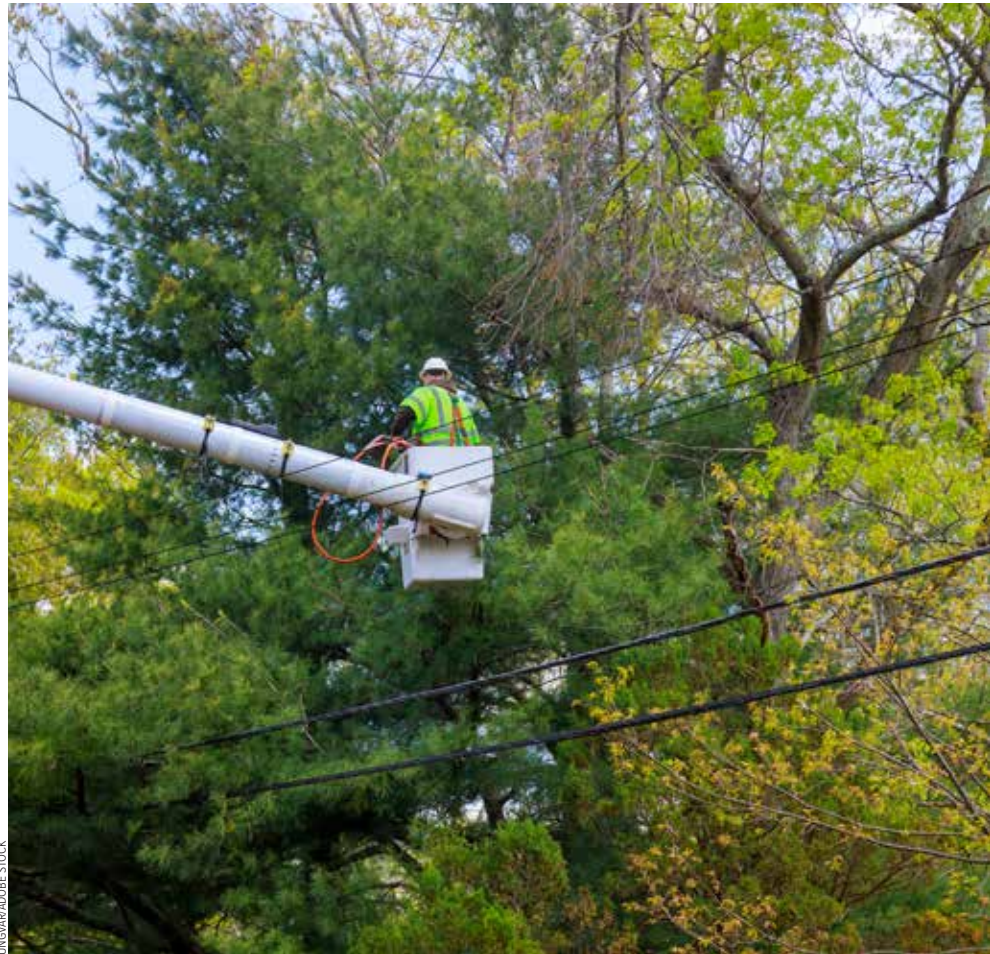
While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas. First, let's explain what a right of way is and how it may impact you. A right of way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines.

Rights of way enable Clark Energy to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder the power line installation, maintenance or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, Clark Energy must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW.

The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways.

Safety

First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A



proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

Reliability

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keeps lines clear to promote reliability.

We also use data and the technology to maximize the efficiency of our operation. This includes our vegetation management plan.

Affordability

As you know, Clark Energy is a not-for-profit cooperative, and that means we strive to keep our costs in check in order to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.