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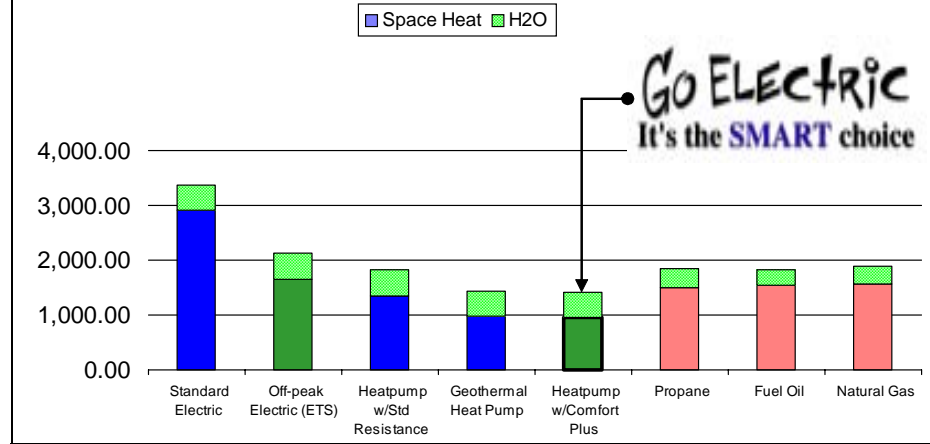
## Comfort Plus Off-Peak Heating at Northwestern REC...

Off-peak electric heating systems, such as the Comfort Plus, will convert electricity into heat during off-peak hours and store that heat in specially designed ceramic blocks for future use.

Off-peak hours are those times during the day or night when electricity is plentiful and can be supplied at a lower cost. During on-peak hours, the stored heat is utilized while Northwestern REC controls electricity to your heating system, which helps reduce overall power costs. This is also done for home water heating.

Northwestern REC first introduced an off-peak

### Estimated Annual Heating Cost Comparison



interruptible heat rate and program about 15 years ago. That rate provides a 46% savings to those members who heat with ETS room units. Unlike other heating fuels, over the past 15 years, Northwestern REC's residential and off-peak rates have only increased by less than one penny per kWh.

By joining a Load Management program, members help the entire Co-op membership by controlling power costs

**Constant Comfort & Most Efficient**  
The Comfort Plus heating and cooling system main-

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**Call 888.843.1621 to sign up today!**

Offered by Northwestern REC, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403 1.800.472.7910

(at \$4.95/month, you save \$59.40/year; at \$5.95/month you save \$71.40/year)

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No monthly fee!  
No codes to dial!  
Only 6.9 cents/minute!



**Together with PowerNet Global we offer great long distance savings.**

## Comfort Plus ~ Low & Stable Rate

### October through May

First 1,000 kWh.....\$.0973  
Next 2,000 kWh.....\$.0623  
Balance of kWh.....\$.0973

Discounted  
bucket for  
controlled heat

### June through September

First 1,000 kWh.....\$.0973  
Next 400 kWh.....\$.0623  
Balance of kWh.....\$.0973

Cycled, not  
controlled, air-  
conditioning

Monthly service charge.. \$13.00

## Comfort Plus Facts

- Off-peak electric heating with ComfortPlus is more efficient, more economical, and more AFFORDABLE than other heating fuels.
- Off-peak electric heat provides CONSTANT COMFORT and RATE STABILITY for the long-term.
- The Comfort Plus system at Northwestern REC can work with other utility rates, such as Penelec and Penn Power.
- The Comfort Plus system comes as a forced air unit or hydronic unit (in-floor or base-board heating). And will retro-fit most pre-existing duct work or hot-water baseboards in your home.
- If a house has a basement, Comfort Plus is the **SMART** choice for your home.
- Comfort Plus is a system designed to meet your heating & cooling needs. ♦

## Can you buy...

Propane for **84¢** / gallon?

or

Natural gas for **82.9¢** /ccf?

or

Fuel oil for **\$1.13** / gallon?

That is what  
you'd have to  
pay to beat our  
Comfort Plus  
off-peak rate.

(Continued from page 1)

tains a constant temperature in your home by utilizing electric thermal storage technology and a super efficient air-source heat pump. The high efficiency heat pump supplies the majority of the heat necessary, then during frigid temperatures, the ETS technology of the Comfort Plus assists the heat pump by providing all the comfort the homeowner wants. This combination on a low off-peak rate is virtually unbeatable!

### Program Benefits

When Co-op members sign up for this program, they get more than just a low Comfort Plus rate; this program offers...

- ✓ Super Efficient Heating & Cooling
- ✓ Comfort Plus (off-peak) rate other fuels can't beat
- ✓ **FREE** electric water heater\*
- ✓ **FREE** 24-hour water heater service
- ✓ No flames, no fumes
- ✓ No hassle of refilling fuel tank
- ✓ Better air-quality in your home

\* We will service existing electric water heaters then replace it when it no longer functions properly.

Contact Northwestern REC at 1.800.472.7910 for more information. ♦

## News about Transfer Switches

### - Contributed by Bob Joslin, NREC Field Services

Due to a number of inquiries and installations, we believe there is a need to address the issue of generator transfer switches. There have been questions as to the proper configuration for protection of both the consumer's property and Northwestern REC's line crews.

Improperly wired transfer switches, or not having one at all, can allow generators - no matter how small - to back-feed into the utility's electric lines. This poses a danger to line personnel working on the lines to restore power. It also may do major damage to a consumer's generator or home, and may be life threatening to the homeowner as well.

Running extension cords from portable generators to

specific devices is not a problem. The problem arises when an attempt is made to connect the permanent wiring within the home to a generator without a transfer switch.

There are many different types of transfer switches to choose from. One type of switch is similar to a small electrical panel. It may consist of four to eight circuits with a series of double throw switches. This specific switch is wired in as a sub-panel and is protected by the normal circuit breakers located within the main panel-board. Integral double throw switches transfer the connected loads back and forth from the normal utility feed to the generator. This allows selected devices in the home to be powered by the generator.

Another type of switch is the pole top switch, which is normally installed and maintained by the utility. This type of switch has no over-current protection and is accessible only by the utility. Pole top switches are generally installed at farming operations.

One other switch enables transfer of the entire connected load of the home and is installed between the meter and the home's panel-board. It may be a manually operated switch or a more sophisticated automatic transfer switch. This type of transfer switch needs to be protected by an over-current device, either as part of the switch or installed ahead of the switch.

Underwriters Laboratories basic standard UL1008 serves as the guideline for manufacturers of transfer switch equipment. The guideline is very specific about the ability of a manufacturer to be able to apply the UL label. Transfer switches that have been investigated for use as service equipment are marked "suitable for use as service equipment." The guideline states that any transfer switch marked as such is "provided with accessible means to independently disconnect both the normal and alternates sources."

The guideline further states that transfer switches without integral over-current protection are to be marked indicating the maximum rating of over-current protection "to be provided ahead of the switch." Any transfer switch that does not meet these criteria may not be used as service equipment and will be required to have over-current protection provided ahead of the switch.

Please call Northwestern REC's field services department at 1.800.473.3567 if you are planning to install any type of transfer switch. ♦

## Co-op News

### 68th Annual Meeting

Northwestern REC will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 7, 2004, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Crawford County Fairgrounds. ♦

### Member \$en\$e ~

### Advertise to 20,000

Each quarter Northwestern REC sends a coupon flyer to all of its members. The flyer contains advertisements from many local businesses and even features a members-only classified ad section.

For only \$50 per quarter, you can advertise your business to all 20,000 cooperative members.



Participating businesses also receive a link from Northwestern REC's website to yours.

For more information regarding Member \$en\$e, call Amy Fuller, Marketing Coordinator, at 1.800.472.7910. ♦

### Co-op Website Updated

Visit the newly designed Co-op website:

[www.NorthwesternREC.coop](http://www.NorthwesternREC.coop)