

Doug Rye *says ...*



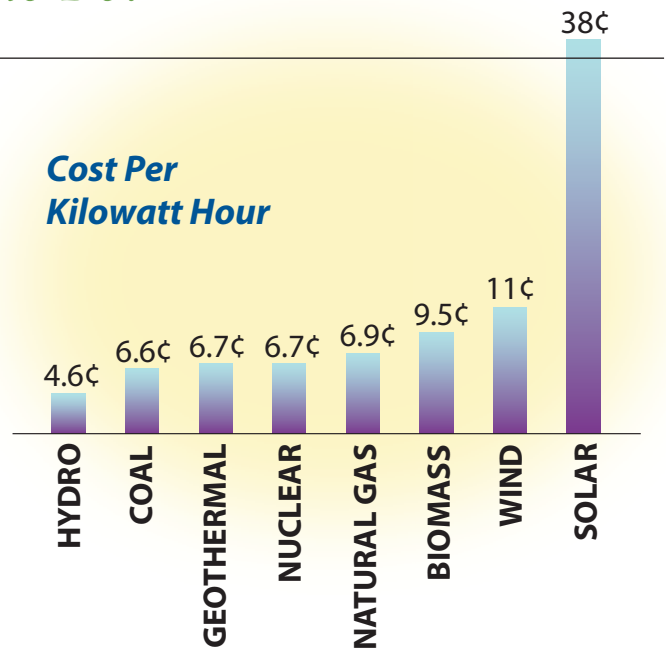
Oh My! What to Do?

In the past few weeks I have made presentations from Wisconsin to Southern Mississippi. As most of you know I conduct many seminars every year across this nation. All of them teach about energy efficiency. Everywhere I go the electric companies have the same concerns. Primarily, how they can continue to provide electricity to customers at an affordable rate. Although I do not claim to be an expert in this field, it appears to be an extremely difficult task. In one case a state government has asked the electric industry to provide 25 percent of their electric generation by using renewable sources by the year 2025. That may not sound like such a difficult thing to do but that particular state has almost no hydroelectric generation options, very little wind generation options and even less solar generation options. There are some possibilities for bio-mass generation but it would be a very small percentage of the need. I have learned that many states are in the same situation. As nuclear and coal generation appear to not be an acceptable option for some, I ask, what is one going to do?

Well, the electric companies have embraced the idea of energy efficiency as one of the ways to help reach their goals. Energy efficiency simply lowers the total amount of electricity needed. A percentage of a smaller number is more obtainable. For example, 25 percent of 100 equals 25, but 25 percent of 75 equals 18.75.

I have always felt that building a house or making an existing house more energy efficient was not only the smart thing to do, but the right thing to do. Everybody wins with energy efficiency. I feel honored and blessed to have the opportunity to

Cost Per Kilowatt Hour



teach others across the country how to have a more energy efficient house by writing this article, by hosting a weekly radio program and presenting seminars across the nation. Every week many of you tell me that I have helped you and you encourage me to keep up the good work. Sometimes when I pray I say, "Lord, I know right from wrong and I know what I am supposed to do. Please help me to always do right." I wish that each of us would make these improvements to our own house. Then we could say that we have done our part to reduce the total demand which would help us reach the desired goals.

For your information and knowledge, the chart above is the approximate cost of generating electricity with the different types of fuel.

You, my readers, are smart enough to understand why this is so important. See you next month.

Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Saline County and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show, works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video or ask energy efficiency-related questions, call Doug at 1-501-653-7931. More energy-efficiency tips, as well as Doug's columns, can also be found at www.ecark.org