

# Electric co-op leaders speak frankly with Congress

Efforts underscore message of the ‘Our Energy, Our Future’ campaign

In early May, Mike Hammack, Don Braun, and Randy Kleaving, along with roughly 3,000 electric cooperative leaders from across the country, converged on Capitol Hill with a critical message for Congress — electricity must remain reliable and electric bills affordable.

In face-to-face meetings with lawmakers, the co-op representatives stressed if climate change legislation wasn’t enacted, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would take matters into its own hands. In mid-April the agency announced it was ready to use the federal Clean Air Act to curtail the release of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases blamed for contributing to climate change. Believing the Clean Air Act “not well-suited” to addressing global climate change, electric co-ops are urging Congress to act on a simple, affordable, flexible, and effective solution.

A proposed cap and trade plan being pushed by Congress, designed to curb carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, would set a specific limit on such emissions from sources like power plants, factories, and refineries, requiring those sources to account for all greenhouse gases with allowances. An ever-shrinking number of

allowances would be traded between companies. Unfortunately, under some parts of this plan the price to generate electricity from fossil fuels — a price directly tied to electric bills — could potentially fall into the hands of Wall Street speculators.

Glenn English, CEO of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, said “You can either side with Wall Street and the speculators, or you can side with Main Street, your constituents, and your electric cooperative.” (NRECA is the service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops.)

While messages from electric co-op leaders carry a lot of weight on Capitol Hill, nothing compares to the voices of co-op members themselves: the 42 million hard-working citizens who will ultimately foot electric bills impacted by federal climate change policy.

Become a part of the conversation today, and join the hundreds of thousands of electric co-op consumers already involved in the “Our Energy, Our Future™” grassroots campaign. Please visit [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) for more information on how your personal story can impact energy legislation on a national level.

## Touchstone Energy Homes mean savings for homeowners

Southern Indiana Power and other Touchstone Energy co-ops have placed a priority on energy efficiency for many years. Through the Touchstone Energy Home Program, prospective homeowners can receive guidance on how to make their new home more energy efficient as well as less expensive to operate, more comfortable, cleaner, safer and even have a higher resale value.

To qualify as a “Touchstone Energy Home” the structure must meet this set of qualifications:

- R-19 wall insulation minimum
- R-42 attic insulation minimum
- Attic ventilation with ridge vent and aerated soffit
- Conditioned crawlspace with perimeter R-10 insulation and moisture control
- Double pane, Low-E windows and glass doors
- Metal insulated exterior doors
- Whole house infiltration control to help prevent air leaks
- Externally-vented exhaust systems in bathrooms and kitchen
- Exterior house wrap and window wrap
- Weep holes in place brick or stone cladding
- Heating and cooling ducts located in conditioned space (no flex duct)
- Energy-efficient electric water heating with a .94 energy factor or better
- High-efficiency electric heat pump or geothermal unit

The homes shown below are the two most recent Touchstone Energy Homes built in the Southern Indiana Power system.

### Energy tip of the month

Switch to cold water washing of laundry to save energy and up to \$63 a year — detergents formulated for cold water get clothes just as

clean. Also, clean the lint filters in your dryer after every load. — *Alliance to Save Energy.*



**It's time to come together and change our future**

We have an energy challenge in America. When it comes to finding solutions, we must meet climate change goals while keeping costs down and electricity available. America needs a plan. Immediately.



**Our Energy, Our Future, Our Indiana**  
A Dialogue With America

*Go to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) to contact your elected officials and make your voice heard.*



**This 3,328 square foot Touchstone Energy Home owned by Josh Clark has a guaranteed heating cost not to exceed \$373 or cooling to exceed \$125.**



**This 3,220 square foot Touchstone Energy Home owned by Daniel Hedinger has a guaranteed heating cost not to exceed \$300, cooling not to exceed \$191.**