

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

# What is **beneficial electrification**?

If you're like most Americans, you're interested in saving money on energy costs and in doing your part to help the environment. But wouldn't it be great if you could do both? Well, you can! It's through a concept called "beneficial electrification." This utility industry term means the innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity instead of fossil fuels, in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs.

In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As Hancock-Wood and other utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.

So, here's how this concept impacts you: It means that electric appliances, such as your water heater, clothes dryer, oven, and even your lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener in the future than they are even today. As Hancock-Wood and Buckeye Power (the power supplier for Ohio's electric cooperatives) take advantage of advances in technology and the market, it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the consumer-member. Buckeye Power embraces an "all of the above" approach to power generation, and that means incorporating renewable sources into our portfolio of generation sources.

### **Electricity is getting cleaner**

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of about 10 years, it means that you are able to benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the particular appliance. In other words, the high-efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources in the near future. This would not be the case with gas appliances. You are locked into the technology of that gas appliance for the 10-year lifespan.

As Hancock-Wood is able to tap into more renewable options in the future, your electric appliance has the potential to become greener and more energy efficient.

### **Small steps to help the environment**

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally friendly options, choosing electric appliances, tools, and cars over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers, and weed whackers or through electric water heaters and other appliances, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping our environment.



George Walton  
PRESIDENT & CEO

### **How we're doing our part**

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, Hancock-Wood is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. This means Hancock-Wood can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable, and affordable power to our community.

We also promote energy efficiency through programs like ENERGY STAR appliance rebates and LED lighting rebates for our residential and commercial members. In addition, through our free mobile app, HWE Connect, we offer our members the convenience and ability to manage and monitor their energy use.

We care about our community because we live here too. I hope you'll reach out to Hancock-Wood, your trusted energy partner, to discuss ways to reduce your energy use. When you participate in the energy efficiency programs and incentives we offer, you're doing your part to save energy and better our environment. While each member's reduction might be small, together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions. And that means a brighter future for all of us.

# Think Energy \$mart with Bruce



It seems everywhere we look these days, someone is trying to sell us a device to make our home “smarter.” These devices are manufactured for many different purposes, such as convenience, energy savings, or security. The items that I am most interested in are ones that can assist with energy efficiency. Many of these items allow for

DIY installations, making the total cost of purchase more affordable. Below is more information about my favorites.

- **Smart/programmable thermostat**

These thermostats allow the owner to set different temperatures on a schedule for occupied and unoccupied time in the controlled space. The smart feature allows for remote temperature adjustments from a computer or phone. Owners can maximize savings by adjusting the thermostat after leaving the home or just before arriving home after an extended absence.

- **Occupancy sensors or timers for lighting**

Adding a smart device to your home lighting system can save you energy and provide some safety by

keeping lights off unless motion is detected or when you have them programmed to activate. Save energy and prevent walking through dark areas to find a light.

- **Smart power strips**

The most popular place to use one of these is on entertainment systems. Many entertainment devices such as DVD players, gaming systems, and stereo components use electricity even when they are in standby mode. A smart power strip allows you to disconnect these devices when they are not in use.

Please consider these devices to make your home more energy efficient and maybe a little “smarter.”



## Get to know the Hancock-Wood Board of Trustees

Each month, we will feature one of the 10 trustees from our board to help our members learn more about who represents their district on the co-op board of trustees.



### Timothy Phillips

Phillips is the current District 1 trustee, serving portions of Henry, Wood, Putnam, and Hancock counties. He has been a trustee for 5½ years and currently works as a part-time water and wastewater consultant. In his free time, Phillips likes being with his wife and grandkids and traveling. “I like working together with the board members for the betterment of our members. The board of trustees has a great working relationship that I enjoy being a part of,” says Phillips.

Member-owners of Hancock-Wood have a voice in the service they receive, and trustees represent the member voice. One way a member can exercise their ownership in the cooperative is by expressing opinions and concerns to your trustee representative. The Hancock-Wood Board of Trustees typically meets once per month to establish basic business policies and rates.

# 2021 Employee service awards

We would like to congratulate these employees for their dedication and service to Hancock-Wood Electric!



Danita Higgins

Danita Higgins, distribution scheduler – 20 years

Rod Barnhisel, lineman 1 – 20 years

Lee Brodman, lineman 1 – 15 years



Rod Barnhisel



Lee Brodman



Leslie Guisinger

Leslie Guisinger, director of marketing and communications – 5 years

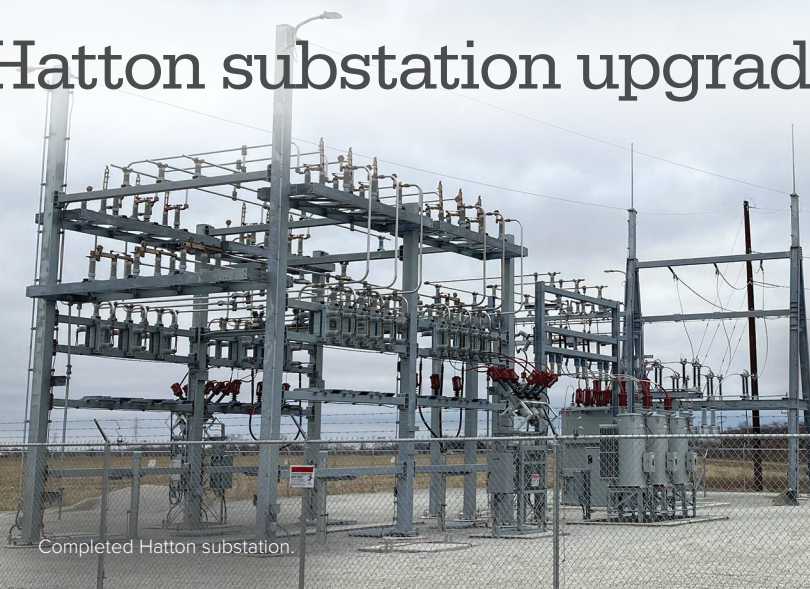
Bruce Warnecke, energy services advisor and key accounts representative – 5 years



Bruce Warnecke

*Our office will be closed on Friday, April 2, to recognize Good Friday.  
Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative  
wishes all of our members a happy Easter.*

## Hatton substation upgrade complete



Completed Hatton substation.



Line crew training at the substation on Jan. 13.

In 2019, the Hancock-Wood Electric line crew began work on the upgrade of our Hatton substation, located near West Millgrove, which serves 476 accounts. At an estimated cost of \$1.9 million, Hatton was the first substation project completed by HWE crews since Marion substation in 1989.

Utilizing our crew to do the work not only provided expertise and training in this area, it saved the cooperative approximately \$200,000. The board of trustees approves major projects such as substation upgrades to provide better service reliability to our members throughout the service area.

## *consider applying* to run for the **board of trustees**

Our cooperative will be looking for nominations for districts 1, 4, 5, and 10 for our upcoming election in May. Please refer to our website for more information about how to apply to become a board member at Hancock-Wood Electric's website, [www.hwe.coop/about-us/trustees-and-elections](http://www.hwe.coop/about-us/trustees-and-elections), or call our office. You can have a voice in how your electric cooperative operates by running for our board of trustees.

### 2021 trustee election timeline

March 29	Trustee election nomination ballots mailed
April 12	Deadline for trustee election nomination ballots to be returned
April 18–25	President to contact trustee nominees
May 10	Trustee election ballots mailed
May 27	Deadline for trustee election ballots to be returned
June 12	Annual meeting



#### CONTACT

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#### WEBSITE

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

#### OFFICE

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North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-0190

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Gene Barker**  
Chairman

**William Kale**  
Vice Chairman

**Ed Crawford**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Lee Anne Dierksheide**  
Assistant Secretary

**Tim Phillips**

**Duane Fry**

**Charles Beagle**

**Tom Kagy**

**Ron Riegle**

**Brian Terry**

**George Walton**

President and CEO

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS

online, dropbox, office, by phone, or  
automatic bill pay

#### HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:  
[leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop](mailto:leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop)

Members First!   
**HANCOCK-WOOD**  
**ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 