

Big plans

Call for big changes with energy

On Dec. 18, President George W. Bush signed the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which will improve vehicle fuel economy and help reduce U.S. dependence on oil. This bill is President Bush's response to the challenge of his bold "Twenty in Ten" initiative, which he announced in January 2007.

What does this mean for us? It represents a major step forward in expanding the production of renewable fuels, reducing our dependence on oil and confronting global climate change. It will increase our energy security, expand the production of renewable fuels and make America stronger, safer and cleaner for future generations.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 will help reduce America's dependence on oil in two areas.

First, it calls for increasing the supply of alternative fuel sources by setting a mandatory Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), requiring fuel producers to use at least 36 billion gallons of biofuel in 2022. Although the president proposed a more ambitious alternative fuels standard in his State of the Union address, the RFS in the bill represents a nearly five-fold increase over current levels.

Second, the act calls for reducing U.S. demand for oil by setting a national fuel economy standard of 35 miles per gallon by 2020 — which will increase fuel economy standards by 40 percent and save billions of gallons of fuel. Last January, the president called for the first statutory increase in fuel economy standards for automobiles since they were enacted in 1975, and this bill delivers on that request. The bill also includes an important reform the president has called for that allows the U.S. Department of Transportation to issue "attribute-based standards," which will ensure that increased fuel efficiency does not come at the expense of automotive safety.

By addressing renewable fuels and fuel economy, this bill will build on progress made by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 in setting out a comprehensive energy strategy for the 21st century. The Energy Policy Act signed by the president in August 2005 represented the first major energy security legislation in more than a decade. The act encourages energy conservation and efficiency by promoting residential efficiency, increasing the efficiency of appliances and commercial

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To make doing business with FPU more convenient, we offer the following services:

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Big plans

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products, reducing federal government energy usage, modernizing domestic energy infrastructure, diversifying the nation's energy supply with renewable sources and supporting a new generation of energy-efficient vehicles.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 will add to the president's ongoing efforts to enhance energy conservation and efficiency. The bill includes provisions to improve energy efficiency in lighting and appliances as well as requirements for federal agency efficiency and renewable energy use that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The bill will require all general purpose lighting in Federal buildings to use Energy Star® products or products designated under the Energy Department's Federal Energy Management Program by the end of fiscal year 2013.

The bill will update the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to set new appliance efficiency standards that will save Americans money and energy. The act amends the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prescribe or revise standards affecting regional efficiency for heating and cooling products, procedures for new or amended standards, energy conservation, energy efficiency label-

ing for consumer electronic products, residential boiler efficiency, electric motor efficiency and home appliances.

The bill will establish an Office of High-Performance Green Buildings in the U.S. General Services Administration. This office will promote green building technology implementation in Federal buildings.

The bill responds to the President's "Twenty In Ten" vision and will produce some of the largest carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission cuts in our nation's history. Taken together, all of these measures could reduce projected CO₂ emissions by billions of metric tons.

We must continue changing the way America generates electric power through even greater use of cleaner coal technology, solar and wind energy and clean, safe nuclear power. Everywhere you look today, energy conservation and cleaner energy production are concerns.

The bottom line is that we must increase our domestic supply of oil in a prudent and environmentally sensitive way with results that can bring about lasting positive changes for our future generations.

*For more information about the new **Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007**, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's Web site at www.doe.gov.*

Change a Light, Change the World Campaign

Will the new energy bill end incandescent lighting sales?

Moving to more efficient lighting is one of the lowest-cost ways for the nation to reduce electricity use and greenhouse gases. In fact, it actually will save households money because of lower utility bills. Ninety percent of the energy that an incandescent light bulb burns is wasted as heat. And yet, sales of the most common high-efficiency bulb available — the compact fluorescent (CFL) — amount to only 5 percent of the light bulb market. Australia and Canada have already announced their plans to ban incandescent bulbs by 2010. The changeover in the United States will be more gradual, with a speculated mandate to begin in 2012 and then phase out the bulbs through 2014. However, don't be surprised if some manufacturers phase out earlier.

Being a wise consumer means being an informed consumer — even when dealing with something as simple as the type of light bulbs you use. Here are some of the most commonly asked questions about CFL bulbs and the details you need to make wise purchases for your home or business.

How do I save money when a CFL costs six times as much as an old-fashioned bulb?

Each cone-shaped spiral CFL costs about \$3, compared with 50 cents for a standard bulb. But a CFL uses about 75 percent less energy and lasts five to nine years instead of a few months. A household that invested \$90 in changing 30 fixtures to CFLs would see recovery of its initial cost of replacement within just a few months and would reap the savings on monthly electric expenses for lighting.



I've heard that CFLs don't really last as long as they say. Is this true?

Turning a CFL on and off frequently shortens its life, which is why the government's Energy Star program says to leave them on for at least 15 minutes at a time. Also, if you have dimmable light fixtures, make sure to buy CFLs labeled "dimmable." All CFLs that carry the government's Energy Star label are required to carry a two-year limited warranty, so contact the manufacturer if your bulb burns out prematurely. The Energy Star Web site has a good frequently asked questions section on CFLs.

Someone said that CFLs produce a color of light they didn't like. Is this true?

When they first hit the market, CFLs had a limited range of tones. Now, manufacturers offer a wider variety, but there is not an agreed-upon labeling standard. The Energy Star program is working to change that. But for now, look for lower "Kelvin temperatures" like 2,700 to 3,000 for "redder" light, closer to old-fashioned incandescent bulbs, while bulbs with Kelvin temperatures of 5,000 and 6,500 provide more "blue" and intense light.

I've heard that CFLs have mercury in them. Isn't that bad?

Consumers are rightly concerned about the toxic substance mercury that helps CFLs produce light. Even though the amount sealed in each bulb is small — one old-fashioned ther-

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Incandescent lighting (Continued from page 17)

meter had about 100 times as much mercury — contact local trash collection for disposal instructions. Environmentalists agree that more work must be done on bulb recycling programs. Right now, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Earth911 have sites you can search for recycling programs near your home.

If you break a CFL, you **WILL NOT** have a serious toxic spill in your home, as some may believe. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the greatest risk if a bulb breaks is getting cut from the glass shards. Research indicates that there is no immediate health risk to people should a bulb break if it is cleaned up properly. Simply follow these steps to clean the area and remove the broken glass and powder:

1. Don't use a vacuum.

2. Use a broom and dust pan to sweep up the broken glass fragments and particles.
3. Place the broken pieces in a sealed plastic bag and wipe the area with a damp paper towel to pick up any remaining stray shards or dust. Put the paper towel in the sealed plastic bag when you are finished.
4. If weather permits, open the window and ventilate the room.

Just like with any light bulb, the CFL bulbs must be handled with caution.

Isn't there efficient lighting without mercury?

Yes. By 2012, the chances are good that consumers will have many more options to replace incandescent bulbs. Manufacturers already are deploying advanced incandescent bulbs that are efficient enough to stay on the market after 2012, although they are not yet as efficient as CFLs. Even more exciting are the

developments with light-emitting diodes (LEDs), which are jazzing up holiday lighting. The European electronics firm Philips this year acquired several pioneering small technology companies and plans a big push to make LEDs practical for ordinary lighting purposes. The lights used on the Times Square New Year's Eve Ball could one day brighten your own home. LEDs last even longer than CFLs and may someday make "bulb buying" more like an appliance purchase rather than a throw-away item.

Energy efficiency is bringing about many changes, but none as easy to implement as the replacement of incandescent bulbs with the energy-saver CFL bulbs.

Remember that compact fluorescent bulbs are available at Fayetteville Public Utilities. You can purchase the 13-, 20- and 23-watt light bulbs from FPU and begin saving energy today. Call us at 931-433-1522 for details.

FPU's e-Synchronist service networks business and industry to valuable resources nationwide

"Knowledge used strategically is the most important tool that successful community leaders and businesses can employ to maximize economic growth opportunities," says Pat Haynes, Fayetteville Public Utilities key account and economic development manager. "That's why TVA and Fayetteville Public Utilities have partnered with the e-Synchronist Business Information System®, which offers an effective approach to gaining the knowledge needed for retention and expansion of local business and industry."

The e-Synchronist service is a software tool and interview system that communities across the country use to gather intelligence about their existing companies. The system was developed by Blane, Canada Ltd., a national leader in economic development marketing and business retention strategies. e-Synchronist is a Web-based application available to Valley communities with help from TVA Economic Development.

"Simply stated, the e-Synchronist program gauges the strengths and weaknesses of a community in the eyes of its local business and industry," says Haynes. "Local business leaders complete a detailed 45-question survey in which they give their opinions on areas like local schools and education, road conditions, utilities, health care, housing and childcare, to name a few. Their opinions about a community's offerings to recruit, maintain and support the future growth of local industry are compiled and reviewed by city and county leaders who will then work together to resolve any pressing concerns of our local business leaders and, we hope, bring about positive changes for all."

FPU is working closely with the leadership of the Fayetteville/Lincoln County Industrial Development Board and Fayetteville/Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce to provide the e-Synchronist program, conduct the interviews and surveys and compile the data received.

The e-Synchronist program is a joint effort of the city and county as a means of evaluating our local workforce and community offerings as a whole so that we can move in the right direction for our future.

Five local industries have completed the e-Synchronist program, and FPU plans to conduct 15 to 20 additional surveys with local business and industrial leaders by the end of 2008.

"The e-Synchronist service is undoubtedly the best tool to assist in business retention with consistent results and real-time access to the information," says Haynes. "The e-Synchronist program will reveal to us, in a collective way, those areas in which we can pull our resources together to support the retention of jobs, lower the risk of an industry leaving or downsizing and increase our community's value to our current business and industry. It's all about sharing experiences, networking and finding solutions to continue the success of our local business and industry."

Radon gas — the invisible poison

Free radon gas test kits offered by Tennessee

You can't see, smell or taste radon gas. But it may be a problem in your home — and it could cause serious illness.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is produced from the natural breakdown of uranium in the soil. Radon gas has been found in every state in the US. It enters your home, school, worksite and other buildings, usually through the foundation.

Radon gas decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in the lungs when you breathe. As they break down further, these particles release small bursts of energy. This can damage lung tissue and eventually lead to lung cancer. Not everyone exposed to elevated levels of radon will develop lung cancer, and the amount of time between exposure and the onset of the disease may be many years. It is important to note that the higher the radon level, the greater the risk of illness.

The U.S. Surgeon General has stated that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon exposure accounts for 20,000 deaths each year. The risk of lung cancer from radon drastically increases if a person is now or has ever been a smoker.

Daily exposure at 4 picocuries (pCi/L) of radon is the same as smoking half a pack of cigarettes each day. One year's exposure to 10 pCi/L of radon equates to having 500 chest X-rays each year.

It is currently estimated that the average American will receive more than half (55 percent) of his or her lifetime radioactive exposure from radon. Other sources of radioactivity include manmade devices such as X-rays and naturally occurring sources in the environment.

There are actions you can take to protect you and your family from radon exposure. Testing is key to knowing whether your home has elevated levels of radon. This testing can be done with great ease and little cost.

If your home is found to have an elevated level of radon, it can be fixed. A radon mitigation system, properly installed by a certified radon mitigator, can bring the level of radon below the Environmental Protection Agency's action level. The cost is similar to other home maintenance, usually less than \$2,000.

If you have concerns about radon gas and would like to receive a free radon test kit, please call the Tennessee Radon Hotline at 1-800-232-1139. Supplies are limited, so call today.

FPU cable rates adjust to meet rising programming costs

Fayetteville Public Utilities' cable customers will see a 9.38-percent rate increase starting Feb. 1, 2008.

"This increase is a direct result of increased programming costs announced for the new year," says Britt Dye, FPU CEO/general manager. "This adjustment includes no overhead or administrative adjustments for our telecom operation. We are simply passing along the adjustment for programming costs."

The cost of cable programming is a concern across the nation. No doubt, the demand for FPU cable and Internet services continues to grow, technology improves and cost of service increases. With these issues at hand, FPU and its board of directors will always make the best decisions to continue FPU's telecommunication services and offer those services at the most affordable cost to our customers.

This new rate applies to only cable subscribers at this time. No adjustments have been made to FPU's Internet service.

Cable service prices effective Feb. 1, 2008:

Package	Price was	Effective Feb. 1
Budget Basic	\$14.25	\$15.59
Basic Plus	\$41.00	\$44.85
Digital Basic	\$55.45	\$60.65
Digital DVR only	\$59.99	\$65.62
Digital w/ HD only	\$59.99	\$65.62
Complete Digital	\$62.00	\$67.82
Hometown Package*	\$60.54	\$66.22

These prices do not include tax.

FPU continues to offer great service for a competitive price. FPU has always given its customers 24-hour emergency service and friendly, hometown tech support that's second to none. This pledge of service will continue to all our cable and Internet subscribers.

If you have questions about the cable rate adjustment, please call FPU at 931-433-1522.

* The Hometown Package was grandfathered into the new cable packaging but is no longer offered to new cable subscribers.



FPU receives grant, partial moratorium liftings to improve sewer services

With the approval of the \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and two partial liftings of the moratorium, FPU is putting plans in motion for needed improvements to its sewer service.

Last December, Gov. Phil Bredesen and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Matthew Kisber announced the approval of the Community Development Block Grant in a personal visit to Fayetteville. This was welcomed news for FPU and those residents who live in areas affected by the moratorium, which prohibited FPU from adding new sewer services until repairs to current sewer conditions were made.

Now that funding of the sewer rehabilitation has been received for the Laten Bottom area, FPU plans to move forward in making repairs and upgrades and constructing sewer service to residents in the area.

"The types of infrastructure repair and modernization projects funded by Community Development Block Grants benefit and boost development at the local level and lead to the continued improvement of our state's economic health," said Gov. Bredesen.

In Fayetteville, funding for the projected \$523,256 needed for sewer system improvements will incorporate the grant plus \$73,256 in city funds.

As you've already heard, a moratorium went into effect when heavy rains and deteriorating sewer lines caused sewer overflow problems in several neighborhoods served by Fayetteville Public Utilities.

Now that funding has been secured and plans for sewer upgrades and repairs have been approved, two partial liftings of the moratorium have been granted to FPU.

"First, the state allowed an additional 25,000 gallons per day of flow to be added to the current system," says Britt Dye, FPU CEO/general manager. "That's about 83 homes we could add at

that time to the current sewer system. Then in late December, FPU moved closer toward lifting of the moratorium as we accepted CFW Construction Company's bid of \$1.2 million for the work on the Laten Bottom force main and pump station."

According to Dye, the state granted the second partial lifting in January to give another 25,000 per day additional flow. Each step FPU takes to remedy problems at hand gets the utility closer to a full lifting of the moratorium.

"Addressing the overflow corrective action plan for the northwestern area of the city and planning for other needed maintenance and upgrades in the Laten Bottom, Harpeth Heights and Tanyard Branch areas have been the main focuses of FPU's workforce in 2007," says Dye.

"As we begin the new year, we await word on whether FPU will receive funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development program to further our water and sewer system improvement projects."

If approved for the USDA Rural Development funding, FPU will focus on sewage collection inside the city limits, the Tanyard Branch water and wastewater treatment plant upgrades, improvements to its water distribution system to enhance flow and pressure, replacement of the Industrial Park life station, sewage collection system rehabilitation, Howell water tank repair or replacement, Teal Hollow upgrades and rehabilitation and upgrades to the existing system. Projected cost of these improvements total \$10.695 million as of September 2007.

"Once the proposed system upgrades are complete, we expect to receive full relief from the state on the moratorium," Dye said. "This is good news for us and our customers. We've been working hard on this project, but it's going to take time. The important thing is that we're gaining ground, a little at a time."

— Courtesy of *The Elk Valley Times*

FPU's Arney named to statewide board of trustees

Marshall Arney, FPU's chairman of the board of directors, has been named to the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA) board of trustees.

Arney has served on FPU's board since 2000 and was elected chairman in July 2007.

"We are very pleased to have Mr. Arney serve on the TECA board," says Britt Dye, FPU's CEO/general manager. "It's been several years since FPU had representation on the statewide board."

TECA was established in 1942 to serve the needs of the 23 electric cooperative systems across Tennessee, all of which are distributors of Tennessee Valley Authority power. Twelve members — four from each of the grand divisions of the state — comprise the TECA board. The mem-

bers are both general managers and board members from the various power systems.

Each quarter, the board meets to review financial, legislative and other reports and takes action as needed to keep the statewide organization effective as it leads the other systems as a unified business.

The TECA board hires a general manager and provides services as needed to member co-op systems, including lobbying the state legislature and U.S. Congress; providing job training, safety programs and youth programs; communicating with member-consumers through *The Tennessee Magazine*; and maintaining business relationships with TVA, Rural Utilities Service and other industry-related agencies.

Marshall Arney

