




# Consolidated Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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## Consolidated Electric Cooperative a Broadband Project Partner

Consolidated Electric Cooperative (CEC), is a member-owned, not for profit electric cooperative that provides electric service to nearly 16,000 home and businesses in Delaware, Morrow and surrounding counties. The vision of CEC's founders in 1936 was to provide services (electric) to those who were unserved in rural Delaware and Morrow County. While many in the more urban areas had the advantages of electricity, those in the more rural areas of the county, state and nation took a back seat in terms of productivity, education and convenience. This dichotomy as well as the vision still holds true today. Broadband access is as important today for the success of rural areas as electricity was 75 years ago.

CEC has followed through with their commitment to the rural community by applying for and being awarded an ARRA grant for the implementation of a middle mile fiber project. This is one of three projects highlighted by the White House in December of 2009. This one hundred and sixty six (166) mile fiber ring is designed to provide the backbone of fiber to Delaware and Morrow Counties, opening up the area for competitive broadband internet services. The project is funded through a grant/loan combination of \$2.4 million with CEC providing \$ 1.3 million into the project. The project is slated to begin construction in the summer of 2010 with completion by 2012.

In following the cooperative economic model, service is provided at cost with any margins going back to the member in the form of refunds or lower utility costs. This service based model conflicts with the model used by investor-owned utilities (IOUs) which provide the lowest cost service and margins or profits go to investors. Decisions are made on which investment provides the greatest profit for as opposed to which investment is provides the best service.

CEC established four subsidiaries following a similar cooperative model of providing needed services. Bright Energy and Consolidated Gas provide natural and propane gas services to the area where gas utilities were lacking. BCI has provided communications services since the 1980s including c-band satellite service, dial up and broadband internet services. The People Fund is a charitable nonprofit organization that provides funds to help those who can't find or do not qualify for help through other community and charitable agencies. These dollars originate from member donations through "rounding up" their electric bill to the nearest dollar amount.

### Rates as a part of the Cooperative Model

Consolidated Electric Cooperative (CEC), in conjunction with our power supplier Buckeye Power (BP), does offer special net metering rates for distributed generation projects which include renewable power such as photovoltaic and wind turbines. Small projects which are classified as less than 25 kW in size are handled on a local basis through CEC. The rate is set as a net metering where the member is credited for any energy they produce, as long as it does not

Consolidated Electric's family of companies:



exceed their annual usage. Larger projects, classified as 25 to 1,000 kW are handled through BP. The rate is based on BP's avoided generation costs. Projects over 1,000 kW are evaluated on a case by case basis. In all instances the member would pay the interconnection costs as well as meet other contract requirements.

Consolidated Electric's commercial and large power rates are developed to reward efficient use of capacity in the electric system, which is measured by power factor. The higher the power factor the more efficient the use of the system, thereby reducing the need for added generation and transmission facilities.