



# Climate Change?



## Balancing Economic Prosperity with Environmental Stewardship

- The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas are non-profit, member-owned electric utilities that seek to provide their members with reliable power at a reasonable cost.
- As Arkansans, we are proud to live and work in “The Natural State,” and have a deep love and respect for our forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife. We love to hunt and fish and enjoy the outdoors with our families, and strive to be good stewards of nature.
- The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas employ more than 2,400 people in the communities they live in and serve, and are committed to helping families maintain reasonable electric bills and assist local businesses to compete globally.
- Additional electricity supplies needed to meet growing demand must be both dependable and affordable.
- The debate over “global warming” and its causes, whether natural or man-made, must be placed in the context of family budgets, economic growth and affordability. That presents unique challenges to our nation and to our state.
- New electricity capacity is primarily for “base-load” units, fueled by nuclear, coal or gas.
- Fifty-two percent of the nation’s electricity is produced from low-cost coal plants, and only 20 percent comes from nuclear. The next generation of nuclear plants will take 10 to 15 years to come online (2018–2022), so the addition of new, more efficient coal plants will be necessary to supply much of the 135,000 megawatts of new generation needed in the United States.
- Substantial investment in research and development is needed to find the best technology to capture and store carbon emissions from coal and gas plants; however, engineering and scientific estimates currently show a timeframe of 2020 or beyond to meet that technology goal.
- Any policy framework that targets carbon emission reduction goals needs to accommodate realistic timeframes for new nuclear plant deployment; carbon capture and storage technology; improvements in renewable power technology; and have no adverse effects on the economy.
- Any policy framework must include a cost-benefit assessment of each recommended action to ensure that households and businesses receive net economic benefits from all environmentally-based proposals.
- Any policy framework must also include ongoing and periodic reviews of new scientific evidence, new technology progress and new economic impact information.



**Electric Cooperatives  
of Arkansas**

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