

Here's your chance to express yourself
SECO Corporate Communications • PO Box 301, Sumterville, FL 33585-0301
• webmaster@secoenergy.com
and help us serve you better.

You don't have to call me to survey my satisfaction with SECO because I'm writing you today to tell you just how happy I am to be in your district.

Your service and rates are extremely good in these economic hard times and I appreciate you very much.

I believe your company is very well run and I believe you have oversight and are a conservative company and it is to your credit. So many companies these days think nothing of overspending and focus on greed which is the reason the economy is in the mess it's in. Apparently you have people in SECO who have wisdom.

I am a senior citizen and I'm happy I can enjoy having air-conditioning because of SECO.

I am a native Floridian and was born in Miami and have had FPL there and City of Ocala Electric here and worried over receiving their bills every month as there were gluts in their bills that were over the top.

Thank you SECO. Sincerely,

Pat Floyd

Ocala, Florida



I wish to inform you of the outstanding service I received, on Sunday, November 4, 2009, from your employees: Gerald Melvin and Tommy Lankin.

Our problem began on Saturday, November 3rd; we noticed several of our interior lights blinking. We didn't pay much attention thinking it was a temporary brown out problem. When we returned from church on Sunday, November 4th, we noted the problem continued and was more intense. At this time my husband contacted SECO and was advised a serviceman would be there soon. Much to our surprise,

Gerald Melvin was here within the hour. After much investigating, he identified the problem, made the temporary repairs and was on his way.

Later that evening while cooking dinner, I again noted the blinking lights. Once again we called SECO and requested a service call. Within a very short time, Gerald Melvin appeared. He and a co-worker, Tommy Lankin, checked all the service coming into our home and determined the problem was not outside but was on the inside of the home.

Both servicemen thought there might be a threat of a fire within the breaker box so they checked it out and confirmed that was part of the problem. We immediately contacted an electrician.

I was very concerned and apprehensive because of possibility of a house fire, so your serviceman, Gerald Melvin, stayed until the electrical problem was corrected.

Words cannot express our gratitude at Mr. Melvin's concern for our safety. I cannot ever remember a serviceman who went to such lengths to assure our safety.

I hope that you will acknowledge the extent Mr. Melvin and his co-worker Mr. Lankin went to, by assuring our safety and comfort. Both these men, but especially Mr. Melvin, are an asset to your company!

With deep gratitude,

Eileen & Michael Leo

Ocala, Florida



On Sunday morning, October 4, 2009 my whole neighborhood was put in the dark by a couple of loud explosions. I called the service number and a responder called me back in just a few minutes. In about half an hour workers were on the scene

and power was restored. We received calls on Monday morning that the company would have the power off for an hour or so. Soon power was restored again. And finally a worker came later in the afternoon to check and be sure everything was alright.

Thank you for employing such concerned employees who take their positions seriously.

Bernice Odums

Tavares, Florida



I wish to thank you for the check that I received.

SECO is the finest company that I have done business with. You represent true American values.

Sincerely,

Maria Brandstatter

Apopka, Florida



We requested an energy check because our power bills were excessive. On November 4th, Karen Bennett, your representative, came to our home. She was so professional, knowledgeable, and helpful. We just want to commend you for having such a wonderful employee. She came in as a stranger but, when she left, we felt we had known her for a long time.

Thank you for your help and for Karen.

Sincerely,

Don & Linda Cooper


Groveland, Florida

ATTENTION H.S. SENIORS
You can pick up a 2010
SECO Scholarship Application
at your high school guidance
office or at your local SECO
customer service center.



SECO News

January 2010

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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SECO's Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, January 25 at 2:00 p.m. in the Corporate Offices located 330 South US Highway 301 in Sumterville.

A Trustees' meeting will also be held on February 22, 2010.

Climategate, Cap and Trade, EPA, Copenhagen and You *Power Cost Adjustment Impacted*

At SECO we work hard to be environmentally responsible and we continually offer our members ways that they, too, can help conserve energy and save resources.

SECO employees have been trained to help developers build green homes. We were the first co-op in the state to offer net metering to our members who wanted to place solar panels on their homes. Our speaker's bureau did over 130 community presentations on practical ways to really save energy in the home in 2009. Our energy services specialists performed hundreds of free home energy audits last year to show homeowners exactly where energy was being wasted in their homes. Our free publications and Internet site are goldmines of information on everything from energy conservation tips to how we live in harmony with the wildlife in our service territory. And, the list goes on and on.

Being environmentally responsible is a good thing. Exaggerating environmental problems can be a very bad thing with enormous consequences. That brings us back once again to the cap and trade/climate legislation that the Administration and the Congress want to place on the backs of American citizens. What we have seen to date does nothing of any consequence for the environment, but, if enacted, would crush consumers economically.

Climategate

While Al Gore and his fellow climate alarmists were predicting doomsday was imminent and saying that "consensus" on climate change had been reached, there were many reputable scientists and other experts who were saying just the opposite. Sadly, it now appears that there was indeed a concerted effort to suppress any information that did not support the alarmist point-of-view.

Remember what highly respected United Nations' scientist Dr. Kiminori Itoh said about the suppression of data and the attempted demonization of those who have opposing views on climate change. He warned that warming fears are **"the worst scientific scandal in history... When people come to know what the truth is, they will feel deceived by science and scientists."** Then along comes Climategate.

Not well covered by the mainstream media, Climategate has certainly reinforced what Dr. Itoh and thousands of others have been saying about the so-called consensus on climate change.

Climategate refers to the public exposure of troubling e-mails from scientists associated with the University of East Anglia in Britain. These 1,000 e-mails were sent to or from members of the University's Climatic Research Unit (CRU) and indicate that there was a conscious attempt by these scientists to massage climate data to fit their own preconceived view on climate change. The e-mails also showed that there was an effort to personally discredit scientists who had a different view and prevent their scientific papers from being printed in scientific journals. As this is being written, Professor Phil Jones who heads the CRU has stepped down while an investigation into data tampering is conducted.

Why are these e-mails from the University of East Anglia so important? They

are important because the University's CRU is supposed to be one of the world's leading research bodies on climate change. Its data was used in creating the seriously flawed and misleading report from the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Al Gore then seized upon the IPCC report, combined it with his own brand of slight-of-hand, and PRESTO! – *An Inconvenient Truth*. The Administration used all that to push their cap and trade plan. And, now the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has seized on much of the same flawed data to come out with an unwarranted endangerment finding about greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide (CO₂). Meanwhile, the mainstream media continues to try and downplay or ignore the real truths about climate change.

Why would the scientists associated with East Anglia do what they apparently did? It could be that they simply did not want any opposition to their own climate hypothesis. It could be they wanted to insure the continuation of generous government research grants. It could be that some have made investments in green companies and maintaining the so-called consensus on climate change meant more profits or the promise of profits to come. Certainly, Mr. Gore's green investments have made him a multi-millionaire.

Some have tried to explain the e-mails away. However, whatever the reason(s) might be for what has transpired at East Anglia, it is imperative that a full and independent investigation be conducted. You can do a computer search on Climategate and draw your own conclusions.

It is interesting to note that the Australian government was considering a cap and trade proposal very much like the one being considered here. They finally concluded that there were very serious questions about the accuracy of the climate science used to justify this proposal. They also realized that the cost of living for their citizens would rocket out of sight. Cap and trade is dead in Australia.

Cap & Trade and the EPA

There appears to be significant concern on both the Democratic and Republican sides of the aisle about passing a cap and trade bill in the U.S. Senate. However, a new player has emerged to take up the Administration's cause. The EPA has entered the fray and it looks like their actions are aimed at forcing the Congress to pass a cap and trade bill.

Just before President Obama's trip to the U.N. Climate Change conference in Copenhagen, the EPA came up with what is called an endangerment finding declaring that all greenhouse gases are dangerous to human health, including carbon dioxide. This finding would allow the EPA to regulate greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, without the pesky input of the American people or their elected representatives. Carbon dioxide is, of course, the gas animals and humans exhale with every breath after inhaling oxygen.

A *Washington Times* editorial said in part, "The timing of the EPA's ruling is manifestly a political play meant to coincide with the Copenhagen climate conference... Congress, not the EPA, should decide whether to impose such drastic new rules on the struggling U.S. economy."

The *Orange County Register* said, "We suspect this is more about collecting fees and taxes than controlling climate."

Here is a sampling of what other newspapers said about the EPA ruling:

- ◆ "This is a job killer of unprecedented magnitude that will doom any economic recovery."
- ◆ "Economy-crimping, freedom-denying, Draconian controls."
- ◆ "A radical move that stands to destroy countless American jobs."
- ◆ "This proposal effectively will place the EPA in charge of the American economy."

As noted earlier, the EPA's ruling is based on science that has now been called into serious question. Are the American people comfortable with having unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats at the EPA, who are political appointees, seize command of 85 percent of the U.S. economy?

Not only will electric bills across the country skyrocket if cap and trade legislation is passed, the cost of just about

everything else that is manufactured and purchased by consumers will cost much more. The overall effect on business and John Q. Public will be economically staggering.

You and Your Co-op

It should be noted that our power supplier, Seminole Electric Cooperative, has literally hundreds of millions of dollars invested in various types of pollution control equipment on their existing coal-fired units in Palatka, Florida.

In the past two years they have invested an additional \$250,000,000 to add or upgrade systems intended to reduce emissions from those plants. In fact, the two Seminole units are among the cleanest coal fired plants in the country.

In addition to the initial investment in pollution control facilities, the annual cost of maintaining those systems and purchasing the various chemicals needed in their operation adds dramatically to Seminole's annual cost.

The three system improvements mentioned above add approximately \$28,000,000 per year to Seminole's cost of generation and will impact their cost of wholesale power to us. Seminole will also continue paying exorbitant rail transportation rates for coal during 2010 and will incur significantly higher transmission wheeling cost from the investor owned utilities in the state.

The end result is higher cost of wholesale power to SECO and the other nine member/owners of Seminole that will necessitate an increase in our PCA by 2.2 mills per kilowatt hour – \$2.20 per 1,000 kilowatt hours effective January 1.

It seems clear that whether the EPA takes control or the Congress passes a cap and trade bill, it is the American citizen/taxpayer that will get it in the neck. You'll experience ever increasing utility bills, higher gasoline prices, higher prices for services like lawn care, higher prices for everything that is manufactured, transported and much, much more. Your Co-op will not be immune from these ever upward spiraling costs, nor will businesses large and small across this nation. Our national economy and your personal lifestyle will be severely impacted.

As was noted at the top of this article we take great pride in SECO's environmental profile. We are very much in favor of doing things that have a genuinely beneficial effect upon our environment and for which there is a proven need. Cap and trade does virtually nothing for the environment, but it sure does have the potential for crushing our economy. We are of the opinion that the Congress and the EPA should back off. We must get the science right about what really causes climate change before taking knee jerk actions that will take us down the road to economic ruin. How much do natural events like solar activity, volcanos, etc. affect the climate? Does human activity have the catastrophic influence on climate the "consensus" folks think it has? Is there really significant warming or are we actually in a cooling period? Solid answers are needed. When we have those answers we can then take affirmative action to address the issues and take clear-headed and practical steps to resolve them. ■

tips & quips
about our
environment
and its
inhabitants



NATURE'S reflections

THE CHECKERED WHITE

A small butterfly that is also a useful pollinator

The checkered white butterfly (*Pontia protodice*) is a small white butterfly found throughout parts of the U.S. and Canada. It is common locally along roadsides, in pastures and Florida's agricultural farmlands and home gardens.

With a wing spread of just one to two inches, this little butterfly is mostly white above, with grayish-black patches that generally form a checkered pattern. Males are white with charcoal markings on the front wings. Females are grayish-white with charcoal checkered markings on both front and hind wings. During cool weather, adults tend to be smaller, darker, and more heavily patterned.

This little butterfly darts from plant to plant in a somewhat erratic flight pattern preferring open fields to heavy cover. In warmer climates, like Florida, it is active year round and it is usually seen in groups.

Males patrol in search of females which lay yellow eggs on the leaves and flowers of host plants. In Florida's warm climate there may be as many as four generations per year. During colder climates they rest in a state of halted development called diapause.

Favorite host plants are in the mustard family: cabbage, turnip greens, mustard, broccoli, collards, horseradish and wild pepper grass. The checkered white caterpillar is known as the southern cabbage worm. Caterpillars feed on buds, flowers and fruits but will also eat the leaves of the host plant. The larvae eat only the outer leaves in contrast to larvae of the cabbage white butterfly (an imported cabbage worm), which bore into the heads.

The checkered white is attracted to both vegetable and flower gardens. Adults take nectar from a wide variety of flowers. They are also very useful as pollinators. Both butterflies and caterpillars are an important food source for vertebrates.

When adult populations are sparse, a female may mate more than once during its lifetime. When populations become too prolific for an area, females will migrate to less densely populated areas to lay their eggs.

Column & photo by Sandi Staton – sandi.staton@secoenergy.com



Breaking news: Just as the U.N.'s Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen was wrapping up in the middle of a severe blizzard, word of yet more manipulation of climate data has emerged. In what many are calling Climategate II, Russian scientists have just revealed that scientists from the Hadley Center for Climate Change in Britain "have probably tampered with Russian climate data." Apparently the Hadley group has cherry-picked temperature data from Russian urban areas where it is warmer and largely ignored the colder data from rural areas and Siberia. This would totally skew the data Hadley supplies to the U.N., NASA, NOAA and others making it look like there is a greater warming trend than actually exists.

