



We salute South Dakota's elected leaders.



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# Squashed in a Bug



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**Recently, my wife and I** traveled to Aberdeen with our youngest daughter for a sixth-grade basketball tournament. As we pulled into the parking lot at Roncalli Elementary School for our second game, our coach was just getting out of his car and he took great pleasure in watching me emerge from my wife's Volkswagen Beetle and then limp around for a minute to get the circulation back into my legs.

For those of you not familiar with the VW Beetle, it's small, very small. For those of you not familiar with me, I'm not small and for a few days after driving around in the bug all weekend, I walk around looking like a distant cousin of modern man; as in not walking fully upright. So why, at

6-foot 3-inches and 230 pounds, would I put myself through that when I have a perfectly good Suburban sitting in the garage?

Forty miles per gallon, that's why.

With the continuing escalation in energy prices, more and more Americans are recommitting themselves to energy conservation and it makes sense. As a matter of fact, it has always made sense and that is precisely why electric cooperatives have been providing energy-saving products and services for decades. As the typical American's appetite for energy

**As the typical American's appetite for energy continues to grow, conservation and new resource development will both be important in satisfying that appetite.**

continues to grow, conservation and new resource development will both be important in satisfying that appetite.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative's load growth forecasts suggest preparing for 1,300 megawatts in new demand in the coming years and Basin Electric is fully engaged in developing the generation resources to meet that demand. And in addition to planned coal-fired resource development, the Basin Electric membership is committed to continued development of renewable energy resources as well. In fact, the Basin Electric membership passed a resolution seeking to obtain renewable generation resources equal to 10 percent of the megawatt capacity needed to meet its member demand by 2010.

In this part of the country, conserving our resources is almost second nature for us. Although we certainly enjoy more luxuries than the generations before us, for the most part, we still carry with us a deep sense of appreciation for what the prairie and the fields begrudgingly give up to sustain our way of life. And although the demographics of the typical South Dakota electric cooperative family continues to change, a shared sense of responsibility to protect what belongs to us all remains.