



AMEA *Communiqué*

Power That Works For You[®]

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P.O. Box 5220
Montgomery, AL 36103-5220

804 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

www.amea.com

(334) 262-1126
(334) 262-2267 (Fax)

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MISSION STATEMENT

AMEA's mission is to provide for our Member communities a reliable and economical source of electric power, enabling them to preserve and enhance the benefits of municipal utility ownership for their citizens and the electric customers they serve. We strive to offer services that our Members need and can adapt to provide the best value for their communities and customers.

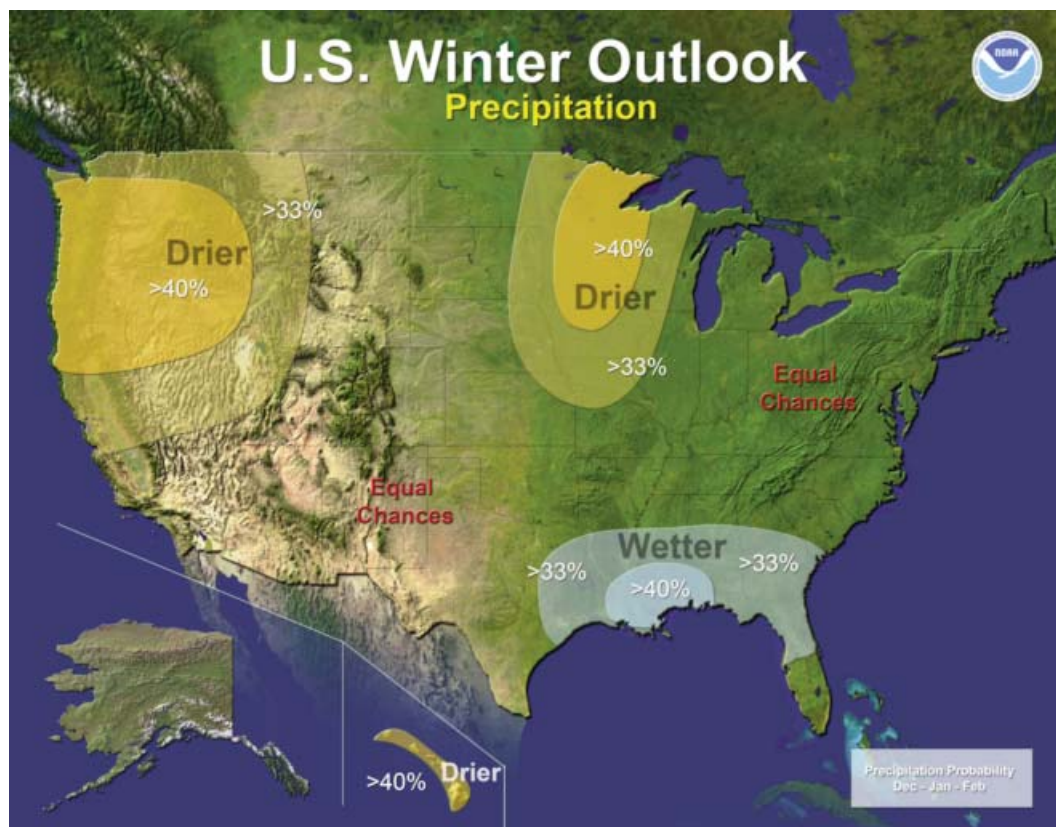
Elusive El Niño challenges NOAA's 2012 U.S. Winter Outlook

The western half of the continental U.S. and central and northern Alaska could be in for a warmer-than-average winter, while most of Florida might be colder-than-normal December through February, according to NOAA's annual Winter Outlook announced Oct. 18 from the agency's new Center for Weather and Climate Prediction in College Park, MD.

Forecasters with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center say a wavering El Niño, expected to have developed by now, makes this year's winter outlook less certain than previous years.

"This is one of the most challenging outlooks we've produced in recent years because El Niño decided not to show up as expected," said Mike Halpert, deputy director of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. "In fact, it stalled out last month, leaving neutral conditions in place in the tropical Pacific."

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Outlook

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When El Niño is present, warmer ocean water in the equatorial Pacific shifts the patterns of tropical rainfall that in turn influence the strength and position of the jetstream and storms over the Pacific Ocean and United States. This climate pattern gives seasonal forecasters confidence in how the U.S. winter will unfold. An El Niño watch remains in effect because there's still a window for it to emerge.

Other climate factors can influence winter weather across the country. Some of these factors, such as the North Atlantic Oscillation, a prominent climate pattern, are difficult to predict more than one to two weeks in advance. The NAO adds uncertainty to the winter outlook in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic portions of the country.

Areas ravaged by extreme drought over the past year are unlikely to see much relief from drought conditions this winter.

In the 2012 U.S. Winter Outlook (December through February), odds favor:

- Warmer-than-average temperatures in much of Texas, northward through the Central and Northern Plains and westward across the Southwest, the Northern Rockies, and eastern Washington, Oregon and California, as well as the northern two-thirds of Alaska.
- Cooler-than-average temperatures in Hawaii and in most of Florida, excluding the panhandle.
- Dryer-than-average conditions in Hawaii, the Pacific Northwest and Northern California, including Idaho, western Montana, and portions of Wyoming, Utah and most of Nevada.
- Dryer-than-average conditions in the upper Midwest, including Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and northern Missouri and eastern parts of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and western Illinois.

- Wetter-than-average conditions across the Gulf Coast states from the northern half of Florida to eastern Texas.

The rest of the country falls into the "equal chance" category, meaning these areas have an equal chance for above-, near-, or below-normal temperatures and/or precipitation.

This seasonal outlook does not project where and when snowstorms may hit or provide total seasonal snowfall accumulations. Snow forecasts are dependent upon the strength and track of winter storms, which are generally not predictable more than a week in advance.

NOAA's National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. NOAA's National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Working with partners, NOAA's National Weather Service is building a Weather-Ready Nation to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather.

Source: www.noaa.gov

Fairhope hosts Public Power Week activities

In celebration of Public Power Week, members of the Fairhope Electric Department visited with students in the fourth grade at Fairhope Intermediate School. Scott Sligh, Electric Superintendent, and Jeremy Morgan, Meter Substation Technician, presented a program to educate students about how to avoid the dan-



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Fairhope

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gers of electricity and what to do if a powerline is down or falls on your car.

Fairhope Mayor Tim Kant also attended one of the presentations to proclaim Oct. 7-13 as Public Power Week in the City of Fairhope.



Fairhope Intermediate students from Mrs. Curry's and Mrs. Tuveson's classes are Brendan Duncan, Keaton Fuller, Connor Robitaille, Jon Wesley Noble, Sarah Kate Sligh, Emma Strength, D'Aundre Matthews, Ella Biles, Bradyn Lyons and Aaliyah Ash. Standing in the back are Morgan, Sligh and Mayor Kant. *(Photo and article courtesy of Sherry Sullivan, City of Fairhope).*

Free promotional materials available through Enercom (Energy Depot)

Members now have access to a new resource through Hometown Connections vendor/partner, Enercom, to help promote Energy Depot to your customers.

Enercom's new AdBuilder website offers you free promotional materials you can use to engage and direct your customers to Energy Depot's online resources. It is easy and quick to use. This is a fun way to promote the Energy Depot site to your customers.

Promotional materials are professionally designed for three integrated ad campaigns. Items include:

- Full-color magazine style print ads
- Statement stuffers
- Trade show handouts
- Black and white newspaper ads
- Flash and static web banner ads

To get started, go to the URL for the AdBuilder tool, <http://63.66.21.232/CRS>. You can also type this into any web browser and go directly to the site. To access the AdBuilder, you will need a login, which was provided to Members in March. Every employee at each Member utility can use the same login, and two or more people can be in the AdBuilder resource at the same time.

For more information, please contact Lisa Miller, Manager of Communications and Marketing, (800) 239-2632, Ext. 118, or lmiller@amea.com.

AMEA encourages Members to help promote 2013 Scholarship Program

Thanks to AMEA and its Members, 33 high school graduates enrolled in a two-year or four-year college in Alabama in 2012. AMEA and its Members will make available 22, \$2,500 scholarships (two scholarships per Member city), and 11, \$2,500 technical school scholarships (one technical school scholarship per Member city) in the 2013 program. Application deadline is **Feb. 4, 2013**.

To be eligible for either of AMEA's scholarships, a student's family must receive electric service from a Member's electric utility and the student must attend an Alabama college or university. Scholarship applications can also be downloaded from AMEA's web site, www.amea.com, Scholarship Program. For more information, please contact Pamela Poole, AMEA Scholarship Program Coordinator, (800) 239-2632, Ext. 110, or pam@amea.com.

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