

LIVE WIRE



280 East Wood Road
P.O. Box 129
Rensselaer, IN 47978

PHONE NUMBERS AND HOURS

To contact your REMC

Business telephone: 866-4601

Long distance please use:

1-888-866-REMC (7362)

Emergency phone number: 866-5911

Anytime day or night to report

an outage or emergency.

E-mail address: jasperremc@jasperremc.com

Website: www.jasperremc.com

Office hours:

8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday

WATTS INSIDE

- October is National Cooperative Month
- Take advantage of REMC programs
- Employees complete leadership training

HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

There is a hidden account number within these four pages of *Live Wire*. Be sure to look them over. Maybe you'll spot **your** account number. If you do, just call our office before the last working day in October to claim the \$25 electric bill credit.

Coming soon — our new online energy calendar

When you visit www.jasperremc.com and click on the Residential Energy Calculator logo, you will see a new and improved calculator soon.



This calculator will provide you with estimates of energy costs based on your inputs. Not only will you find out which appliances use the most energy in your home, but the final detailed report will make suggestions as to how you can save energy dollars.

This is just one way we try to help you reduce the energy use in your home. You can also call us for a free energy audit to learn more about energy efficiency.

CO-OPNews

Information from your electric cooperative

FROM THE CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Analyzing the cost of service study and our long-range plans

In my column this month, I want to bring you up-to-date on a very busy summer for the staff and board of Jasper County REMC. We have been planning for the future. Here is a brief overview of the extensive work that has been accomplished so far.

First, as I discussed in my July *Electric Consumer* column, is the "cost of service" study we have initiated. The study analyzes the actual cost for us to serve all rate classes during a specific year. Each rate class has a different cost of service, from the substation to the location. This is due to the significant variation in the size and amount of equipment it takes to serve the different classes. It is important to make sure each rate class is paying its fair share of costs because those costs can change significantly from year to year.

In tandem with the cost of service study, your board has developed a 10-year, long-range financial plan. This plan will look at the future and predict the co-op's incremental revenue requirements all the way out to the next decade.

Although I am skeptical about the model being able to predict the requirements exactly at the 10-year mark, I think it is very feasible to predict five years out with some certainty. This plan will help ensure the cooperative is able to remain a viable supplier of electricity to our members and predict if a rate adjustment is necessary. If, in fact, a rate adjustment is necessary, the model will tell us which rate class should be adjusted and by how much it should be adjusted.

This tool is also used to predict the level of borrowing to which the cooperative should commit. Borrowing is something an ongoing electric system must do. If borrowing was not part of our financial strategy, rates would have to be significantly higher than they are, which would not be good for the membership.

In order to run an electric utility, it is also necessary to understand our business is very capital intensive. It requires significant and continual investment in infrastructure to serve our members. We must continually upgrade our system to allow for growth and for availability during high use times, like this unusually hot summer. If we do not keep our equipment in top-notch condition, we cannot



Bryan Washburn
CEO/General Manager

provide reliable service to you, especially during outages. The most imperative point to consider is that Jasper County REMC performs upgrades and maintenance with our members in mind. Excellent service is our number one goal.

All of these studies show revenues for this year are adequate. However, next year we will begin to have a shortfall in revenues needed to maintain our systems and provide reliable service. This is not particularly good news. It indicates we must make rate adjustments. We will look at how we can make the

adjustments and minimize the impact to our membership.

Our next step is to work with a rate consultant who will recommend ways to generate the needed revenue. In addition, this consultant will help us establish two very important strategies: rate structure and rate longevity. A rate structure strategy will help us decide if we should continue using our declining block rates. Declining block rates are counter-intuitive to energy efficiency, therefore, a flat energy rate might be considered. We will also receive recommendations on the level of our facility charge. The facility charge is used to help pay for the materials that are needed to serve each member.

In addition, we must take a look at rate longevity. Longevity of the rates encourages rate stability for our membership. This stability is important to many of our members, especially during tough economic times.

Although it is not the best news that we will have to adjust rates next year, I felt you should be informed of the situation as soon as possible. We want to give our members time to prepare.

Jasper County REMC stays committed to assisting our members through our current and future campaigns and programs. Our energy efficiency programs will continue to help you lower your bills. We have a budget billing program to provide you a level bill each month. We also have staff devoted to performing free energy audits which help members use electricity more wisely and stretch their energy dollars.

All of this is done with the member at the forefront of our thoughts. Rest assured, here at Jasper County REMC, we will keep the lights on for you at the most reasonable cost possible.

October is National Cooperative Month

Electric distribution cooperatives like Jasper County REMC serve more than 40 million consumers across the nation, making rural electrification America's largest electric utility network.

Why do we have electric cooperatives?

The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was created in 1935 to provide electric service to every farm and home in rural America. Cooperatives were formed when the investor-owned utilities showed little interest in using REA loan funds to build electric lines into sparsely populated rural territory. REA helped local leaders start electric cooperatives in order to electrify rural America.

Currently, there are approximately 900 electric cooperatives operating in the United States. In Indiana, there are 39 distribution cooperatives and two generation and transmission cooperatives.

What is a cooperative?

A cooperative is an independent, locally-owned business enterprise, incorporated under the laws of the state in which it operates. Consumers who receive service are member-owners of the cooperative and share responsibility for its success or failure, along with the benefits they receive. The consumers served own the cooperative, with each member of the cooperative having one vote in the election of directors. An electric cooperative is a utility, operated on a not-for-profit basis by returning any net savings to the member-owners.

What are the cooperative principles?

Seven principles guide the overall cooperative structure. They include:

**LOCAL.
TRUSTED.
SERVING
YOU.**TM

Voluntary and open membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination. Hidden account 21407001

Democratic member control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

Members' economic participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common

property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Autonomy and independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

Education, training and information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public — particularly young people and opinion leaders — about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Cooperation among cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Concern for community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

Watch out for those vampires!

You have numerous "vampires" in your house sucking energy and making your meter spin ... and you don't even know it!

Unless you have your power turned off at the main breaker, everything is not turned off. Here are some vampires that are always on: refrigerator(s), freezer(s), answering machine/phone, chargers (even if they are only plugged into the wall and not into the appliance), microwaves with clocks, stoves with clocks, VCRs, DVD players, most TVs, clock/radios and computers.

In our industry, these so-called vampires contribute to what's called "phantom load." Individually, phantom loads may seem insignificant. When grouped together, however, they are an enormous waste of electricity. In fact, the United States wastes about 43 billion kilowatt-hours of energy on phantom loads each year. That's enough energy to power the countries of Greece, Peru and Vietnam for one year! Now, isn't that scary enough to encourage you to slay some vampires in your home?

Here is some "garlic" you can use to drive the vampires out of your house and decrease your phantom load:

1) The obvious ... unplug whatever you (and your children) are not using.

2) Get rid of old appliances that use a lot more power than new Energy Star-qualified models. If the refrigerator isn't good enough for your kitchen, it's not good enough for your garage either.

3) When you service your pool for the winter, buy a timer to use on your filter/pump next year. It doesn't need to run all the time.

4) Turn off that big TV at a power strip. Big televisions use a lot of power even when they're "off."

5) Turn off your computer/printer/scanner at the power strip.

6) When you go on vacation, unplug as many vampires as you can. They don't go on vacation unless you unplug them, too.

Electric co-ops need you!

Need a job? Electric cooperatives across the U.S. are looking for employees. Pick a state, pick a job and go for it! Here are some examples of the 130 jobs available at www.touchstoneenergy.coop.

- General Accountant, Shelbyville, Ky.
- Government Relations Representative, LaCrosse, Wis.
- Electronic Technician, Keystone Heights, Fla.
- Staff Attorney, Benson, Ariz.
- Office Manager, Wheatland, Wyo.



Touchstone Energy[®]

The power of human connections

Take advantage of new REMC programs

Jasper County REMC recently announced three new programs for its members. All three programs began June 8 and continue through Nov. 15, 2010. Dates are subject to change without notice. The new member-driven programs are:

Program 1 — Refrigerator and Freezer Recycling Program

\$35 reward, free pickup, no paperwork, and no purchase necessary

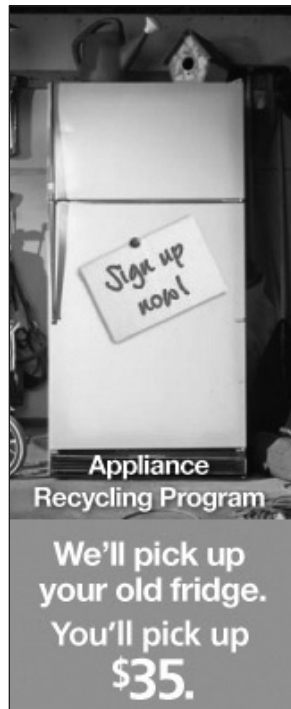
A refrigerator recycling program that pays people \$35 for each unit scheduled for free pickup has been expanded to the customers of Jasper County REMC through partnerships with our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association, and JACO Environmental. This program offers members the opportunity to make money, save money, and get rid of unnecessary and inefficient refrigerators and freezers.

In addition to the \$35 reward, the program will benefit members by helping them save up to \$150 a year in energy costs as a result of lower electricity use. Typically, appliances recycled through the program are outdated units used for extra storage and kept in garages and basements. But the convenience of chilling an extra six-pack and some leftovers can come with a steep price. Refrigerators manufactured before 1990 can use three times more electricity than new appliances.

To receive the \$35 reward, those qualifying for the program must schedule a pickup time to have their old, working refrigerator removed. Appliance recycler JACO Environmental will then recycle refrigerators through a process that returns 95 percent of their material back into the manufacturing stream. It also safely extracts various toxic components that are found inside refrigerators, including contaminated oils, mercury and CFCs.

To schedule the pickup of a refrigerator or freezer for recycling, call 1-877-395-5535 or visit www.jasperremc.com. Customers will receive a check from JACO for \$35 within four to six weeks after the collection of the appliance. Refrigerators and freezers to be recycled must be in working order with an inside measurement of 10 to 30 cubic feet.

The refrigerator recycling program is not a traditional rebate program because there is no purchase of a new appliance necessary. Offer dates are subject to change without notice.



Program 2 — Washing Machine Rebate

\$50 bill credit when you upgrade to an Energy Star®-qualified clothes washer.

A washing machine rebate program providing a \$50 bill credit has been expanded to the customers of Jasper County REMC through a partnership with Wabash Valley Power Association. This program offers members the opportunity to receive a bill credit and to save about \$135 per year on utility bills by using an Energy Star washer.

To obtain the rebate, you must use an electric water heater in your home and provide the REMC with proof-of-purchase of an Energy Star-qualified clothes washer (visit energystar.gov for a complete list). Please see our website, www.jasperremc.com, or call our office at 219-866-4601 for further details. The offer can be combined with other state and local rebates. Offer dates are subject to change without notice.



Program 3 — Heat Pump Rebate

Get rebates when you upgrade your old electric heating/cooling system.

An air-source and geothermal heat pump rebate program has been expanded to the residential customers of Jasper County REMC through a partnership with Wabash Valley Power Association. This program offers members the opportunity to offset the cost of a new heat pump unit which would replace an existing electric heating/cooling system.

Install a new air source heat pump in your home and WVPA will give you \$125 per ton, up to 10 tons total. If you choose a



geothermal heat pump, the amount will be \$150 per ton, again up to 10 tons total.

In addition to this rebate, you may also be eligible for a rebate from the state and a federal tax credit worth up to 30 percent of your new system's cost. And don't forget you may still qualify for the REMC's existing heat pump rebates.

The WVPA heat pump rebate has the following eligibility requirements. *Please note that these requirements are above the standard Energy Star criteria. Make sure your contractor has all of the correct information regarding this program before your equipment is ordered.*

- You must be a current cooperative member with an electric forced air furnace system, electric baseboard, electric ceiling cable or an older, less-efficient air source or ground source heat pump with an electric back up.

- The new equipment must be installed in a home located on co-op lines.

- You must replace your old system with an all-electric air source heat pump or geothermal heat pump that meets our minimum efficiency criteria of:

| Air Source Heat Pump | SEER | HSPF | EER |
|----------------------|------|------|------|
| Split system | 15 | 8.5 | 12.5 |
| Packaged system | 14 | 8 | 12 |
| Geothermal Heat Pump | EER | COP | |
| Closed-loop | 14.1 | 3.3 | |
| Open-loop | 16.2 | 3.6 | |

- New home construction is not eligible for the WVPA rebate, but is eligible for the REMC's rebate program of a \$200 bill credit for an air-source heat pump and \$500 for a geothermal system.

- Homes switching from gas, propane, wood or some other form of heating fuel that is not electric are not eligible for the WVPA rebate, but they are eligible for the REMC's rebate program of a \$200 bill credit for air-source heat pump and \$500 for a geothermal system.

To claim your WVPA rebate, simply present your completed rebate form to Jasper County REMC with a copy of the proof-of-purchase and installation, heat loss/heat gain calculation and AHRI certificate. Allow six to eight weeks for rebates to be processed. Please note that a heat loss/heat gain calculation and AHRI certificate to verify equipment efficiency can be obtained from your HVAC contractor.

Please visit www.jasperremc.com or call us for all of the paperwork on this program before your unit is ordered to ensure your eligibility for the heat pump rebate. Offer can be combined with other federal, state and local rebates. Offer dates are subject to change without notice.

For federal tax credit information on the programs, visit www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index.

For information about Indiana's Energy Star appliance rebates, go to www.inenergyefficiency.com.

If you have questions regarding these new programs, please contact our office at 219-866-4601.

REMC member benefits

Besides low cost, reliable, electric service you can enjoy these benefits:

REMC/Wabash Valley Power Association Programs Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Program

- ◆ \$35 reward.
- ◆ Call 877-395-5535 for pick up date and time.

Washing Machine Rebate

- ◆ \$50 bill credit.
- ◆ Must have electric water heater.
- ◆ Washer must be Energy Star® qualified.

WVPA Residential Heat Pump Rebates

- ◆ ASHP \$125/ton up to 10 tons.
- ◆ Geothermal \$150/ton up to 10 tons.
- ◆ For replacement of electric heat.
- ◆ Call us for the detailed requirements to qualify for this program **BEFORE** ordering your unit.

REMC Programs

Air-Source Heat Pump Rebate

- ◆ Install an air source heat pump and get a \$200 bill credit from the REMC. Credits are not given for replacement heat pump units.
- ◆ Call us for contractor list and fuel cost comparisons.

Geothermal Rebate

- ◆ Install a new geothermal heating and cooling system and get a \$500 cash rebate from the REMC. Rebates are not given for replacement geothermal units.
- ◆ Call us for contractor list and fuel cost comparisons.

Operation Round Up

- ◆ Thank you to our members who let us “round up” their bills to help the community.
- ◆ Round Up funds are **not granted to pay utility bills.**
- ◆ **Grant periods are March, June, September, and December.**

Free Energy Audit

- ◆ Call us to set up a free energy evaluation of your home.
- ◆ It's never too late, or too early, to have us perform an energy audit. Call us before you build, add on, or remodel.

REMC Payment Options

- ◆ On-line payment through www.jasperremc.com.
- ◆ Drive-up window and lobby open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.
- ◆ Night deposit box open 24 hours, 7 days a week.
- ◆ Drop off to DeMotte State Bank and branches. No late or partial payments accepted at DSB.
- ◆ Credit or debit card accepted.
- ◆ Credit card auto draft available.
- ◆ Invisible Check drafted from your checking or savings account.
- ◆ Budget billing that starts in July after 12 months of electric use.

Long-distance Phone Service As Low As 4.9¢! —

Available to members and nonmembers.

- ◆ Call toll free 866-241-0392 to sign up.

FREE Water Heater Program

- ◆ Free 40- or 50-gallon electric water heater. Discount price on 80-gallon heaters.
- ◆ Free maintenance on member's electric water heater during business hours.
- ◆ Up to \$50 rebate for electrical materials to convert from gas heater to electric.

Dusk-to-Dawn Pole Lights

- ◆ A dusk-to-dawn pole light can be installed, serviced, and maintained by the REMC.
- ◆ Ask us about the monthly cost of a dusk-to-dawn light.

Critical Account Recognition

- ◆ REMC members who depend on electricity for mandatory medical equipment can be placed on our critical account list with a doctor's request.

Presentations—Available to members and nonmembers.

- ◆ Call us to present our safety or energy efficiency demonstration at your next meeting.

Employees complete leadership training

Jasper County REMC employees Jovita Courtney, customer service representative, and Kari Kolp, billing assistant, recently completed a 13-week series of Development Dimensions International (DDI) People Skills and Leadership Skills development courses. This nationally recognized leadership development program includes participants from electric cooperative systems throughout Indiana.

Graduates completed the core skills course and six additional courses focusing on principles that create a productive work climate and help

managers develop professionally along with others. A large part of the training is spent on learning to coach, encourage, and inspire others on the team.

Both employees commented, “We enjoyed the opportunity to meet people from other cooperatives and learn how to improve our communication and leadership skills.”

Courtney and Kolp join six other Jasper County REMC DDI graduates – Patti Lindahl, Kim Bahnerth, Stephanie Johnson, Tim Phegley, Patricia Moore, and Debbie VanMeter.

Green energy opportunities coming to Indiana

Wind energy startup moving to Indiana

Wind Stream Technologies Inc. is locating a new development and production facility in southeast Indiana which will create 260 jobs by 2012. The small-scale wind turbine manufacturer plans to invest several million dollars to establish a new operation at the Purdue Technology Center in New Albany. The startup is looking for assembly and distribution workers and professional staff.

Grants for green jobs come to Indiana

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indianapolis Private Industry Council Inc. (IPIC) received green job grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. The money will be used to support job training and labor market programs to help workers find jobs in expanding green industries. DWD received \$4 million and IPIC was awarded \$100,000.

Meter access required for meter changes

Please make sure we have the required access to your meter. Remove any scrap, vehicles, wood or other debris from in front of your meter. If your meter is in a fenced area,

we will need access and will ask you to remove any dogs from the area while we work. We will be changing the meters throughout 2010 and 2011. Thank you for your cooperation.

Building trades class home for sale

The arts-and-crafts-style bungalow, built by the Kankakee Valley High School Building Trades class, is over 1,600 square feet and boasts many amenities including vaulted ceilings and a conditioned crawlspace that can be used for storage. The insulated garage also has lots of attic storage space. The nice master bedroom suite has a jet tub and double sink vanity. Another highlight of the home is the outdoor living space. There is a nice deck to the large back yard and a front porch large enough for a couple of rocking chairs.

You'll also enjoy the great view of the large lot in the Prairie Ridge neighborhood on State Road 10. The energy-efficient features in this home include a cellulose/foam insulation system, insulated crawlspace, Energy Star® appliances, Anderson high-performance windows, and a geothermal heating and cooling system.

This home is located at 11852 Prairie Ridge Lane in the Prairie Ridge neighborhood on State Road 10, Wheatfield. Call Kevin Mulvihill at 219-869-9078 for more details.



Reminder: The last day to register to vote in the November election is Oct. 4!