

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

- Operation Round Up awards grants
- Take advantage of new REMC programs
- REMC participates in pilot program

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 September to claim the \$25 electric bill credit.

Which substation feeds your meter?

Look for the "Location" box on your bill. If your "Location" starts with:

- A** — Asphaltum Substation
- C** — Carpenter Substation
- D** — Kersey Substation
- F** — Fair Oaks Substation
- M** — Moody Substation
- P** — Parr Substation
- R** — Rensselaer Substation
- S** — Sutton Substation
- W** — Wheatfield Substation

CO-opNews Information from your electric cooperative

FROM THE CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Discussing efficiency and conservation's roles

*I*n this month's column I would like to continue a discussion we started with you, our members, at our annual meeting in June. The topic is energy efficiency and conservation. You've probably seen articles, advertisements and brochures from our co-op suggesting ways you can use less electricity. You may have wondered why we would recommend such a thing. After all, the more electricity we sell, the more money we make, right?

Actually, that's not the case.

There are two reasons why co-ops, like ours, see using less electricity as a good thing.

The first is that using more electricity isn't helpful from a financial standpoint. You see, our cooperative doesn't generate but a small portion of the electricity our members use. We buy the bulk of it from what's known as the wholesale power market, working with other local co-ops to obtain the best prices and most reliable supplies.

We estimate how much power our members will need and enter into agreements to buy that electricity. But if we get into a situation where our members need more electricity than we predicted – such as an unexpected heat wave during the fall – we may have to buy more from the wholesale market. Because other power suppliers also need more electricity during those times, the increased demand drives the cost of that wholesale power up. Unfortunately, we then have to pass those higher costs along to our members.

Americans are also using more electricity with each passing year. For example, many people are replacing smaller televisions with plasmas that deliver much more dramatic pictures by using dramatically higher amounts of power. Just look around your house and you'll



Bryan Washburn
CEO/General Manager

see all sorts of conveniences that didn't exist 20 years ago – nearly all of them powered by electricity. Since the supply of electricity isn't growing as quickly as America's appetite for it, that demand also drives costs higher.

By helping co-op members make wiser, more efficient uses of electricity, we can reduce the amount we need to buy and keep our costs under control. In addition, we know using and generating less electricity is better for the environment, which is also important to our nation and the communities we

serve here at Jasper County REMC.

The second reason we encourage members to reduce their use of electricity is just as important. We're not in business to earn a profit. Our electric co-op is a non-profit membership organization that exists to serve the needs of our members. Unlike investor-owned utilities, we don't have to worry about making profits for shareholders, so there's no reason for us to encourage members to use more electricity. Instead, we work to help our members make the most of their energy dollars while improving the comfort of their homes. Why? It improves the quality of our members' lives and lets them keep more of their hard-earned money.

I encourage you to learn more about ways in which you can make more efficient use of electricity in your home by contacting our energy advisors for recommendations. We currently have three different programs available to assist you in efficiently using your energy dollars. We also have people available for advice in stretching those dollars to their maximum. We stand ready to assist you in many ways and will always be here keeping the lights on for you.

**Jasper County REMC will be closed
on Monday, Sept. 6, in honor of Labor Day.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Operation Round Up funds available for September grants

The Jasper County Community Fund, Inc. invites you to request Operation Round Up® funding for an individual, cause or program during the month of September.



All applications must be submitted by Oct. 1 for review by the Fund's board of trustees. Remember, if your organization has submitted a previous request and did not receive funding, you must re-submit your request for consideration. The next funding request period will be in December.

Operation Round Up funding comes from REMC members who "round up" their power bills and contribute the extra change to the Community Fund. The money is then shared with individuals, causes and organizations that contribute to the well-being of a family or the community.

You can find the applications on our website, www.jasperremc.com, or call 219-866-4601 to have your individual, education, or organization application mailed to you. Funds are NOT used to pay utility bills or support political candidates. Individuals are encouraged to apply.

Survey set to begin in October

From October through December 2010, our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA), will be conducting a survey of residential co-op members. This telephone survey is conducted every two to three years and helps our power supplier determine how much power we'll need in the near future. This information helps the generation and transmission cooperative pursue accurate long-term power contracts.

The survey will be conducted by Preston-Osborne Research out of Lexington, Ky., Co-op members will be randomly selected, and 300 completed surveys will be done for our co-op. The survey is designed to take 10-12 minutes and will focus on appliances and items in your home that consume electricity. There will also be a few questions regarding your level of satisfaction with our co-op. All information provided during the survey is confidential. WVPA and Jasper County REMC do not know the names of people surveyed or your specific answers. We receive a spreadsheet that contains only the final data.

The calls will take place Monday through Friday, beginning mid-afternoon and running until about 9 p.m. If you are called and don't wish to participate, you will not be pressured to do so. We greatly appreciate those who do take the time to help us plan better for the future! If you have any questions about the process, please call us at 219-866-4601.

Operation Round Up awards grants

Once again, your "spare change" has helped many people in our communities. The Jasper County REMC Community Fund trustees have read and considered all of the applications for funding. The money is not used to pay electric bills or support political candidates. This July, the Operation Round Up trustees allocated almost \$10,000 toward the following community endeavors:

- **Tri County Primary** will be purchasing new interactive math stations for the second grade classrooms. These math stations will encourage daily practice with math activities and concepts.
- **Covenant Christian High School** will have almost enough money to purchase wireless microphones that comply with the new FCC frequency requirements.
- **Remington/Carpenter Township Public Library** will continue providing an After School Adventures program for grades K-5. This program has been very well received in the past.
- **Jasper County Youth Center** will provide multicultural learning materials in its library and provide training so its teachers can provide a multicultural learning environment.
- **Sagamore Council of Boy Scouts** received funding to defray the cost of its Boy Scout Camp.

• **JC Cruisers** will be able to offset some of the cost of the new open-air shelter that it donated to Brookside Park in Rensselaer. This shelter is open to the public.

• **Quilts for Wounded Soldiers** is a project that many ladies in the Wheatfield area have adopted. They will be able to use the funds to make many more quilts for the soldiers recovering at Womack Army Hospital, Walter Reed Hospital and in Iraq.

• **Binky Patrol** makes quilts and afghans for local children in need. They will now be able to deliver even more hand-made blankets to the Head Start Programs, Christian Haven, Jasper County Hospital, and many other places.

• **Wheatfield Volunteer Fire Department** will be closer to purchasing the radios and pagers it needs to comply with the new FCC mandated regulations.

• **Sorrowful Mother Food Pantry** will again have help feeding the 133 families who rely on it for ingredients to prepare basic meals. The food pantry helps about 440 people each month.

The applications that were partially funded are still raising funds for their initiatives. Any other help you can provide to them would be greatly appreciated.



Operation Round Up fund recipients include: back row, left to right, Cheryl Scripter, Tracy Zarse, Amie Clark, Jeff Perov, Sue Bakker, Jim Hoover, Scott Hermanson, Dale Murphy, Bud Justice, Jim Putt, and Paul Dunn. Front row, left to right, Kathy Lewis, Leona Holmes, April Kortum, Darlene DeVries, Anita Zumwalt.

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.

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

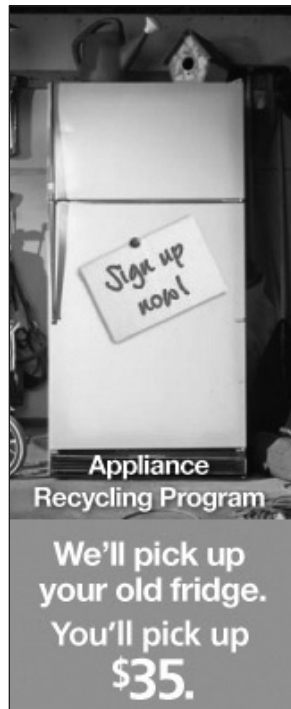
A refrigerator recycling program that pays people \$35 for each unit scheduled for free pickup has been expanded to the customers of Jasper County REMC through partnerships with our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association, and JACO Environmental. This program offers members the opportunity to 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.
- ◆ Allow four to six weeks to receive check.

Washing Machine Rebate

- ◆ \$50 bill credit.
- ◆ Must have electric water heater.
- ◆ Requires Energy Star qualification.

WVPA Residential Heat Pump Rebates

- ◆ ASHP \$125/ton up to 10 tons.
- ◆ Geothermal \$150/ton up to 10 tons.
- ◆ Call us for requirements to qualify **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.

CO-OP NOTES

Motorcycle mystery ride for a cure set for September

It's finally time to ride with the Kilowatt to Kill Cancer Relay for Life team on Sept. 11!

We had nearly 60 bikes last year and look forward to even more this year as word spreads about this fantastic motorcycle cruise to fight cancer. Bring your friends and family on this scenic ride.

Riders start leaving in staggered groups from the Jasper County REMC warehouse, 280 E. Wood Road, Rensselaer, at 10 a.m. CST. Each group will be given directions to follow.

The ride will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. CST with designated stops along the way. Cost is \$25 per bike

All proceeds will support the American Cancer Society.

Rain date for the event is Sept. 18.



Join the Kilowatt to Kill Cancer Relay for Life team on a scenic ride to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. This year's ride is scheduled for Sept. 11.

See your REMC at these local events

Join Jasper County REMC as we participate in these local events.

Sept. 11

Enjoy the bingo tent at the Little Cousin Jasper Festival on the Rensselaer Courthouse Square sponsored by Jasper County REMC.

Sept. 18

The REMC is also a corporate sponsor of the Wheatfield Chamber Sandhill Crane Festival

and Car Show in downtown Wheatfield. We'll have a booth in the park and a line truck at the car show for the kids to see.

Come and sign our petition to legislators to help keep electric rates as low as possible. We need as many signatures as we can gather to help make an impact on our decision-makers in Washington, D.C.

We hope to see you there!

REMC participates in pilot program

Jasper County REMC has partnered with its power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA), in a load management pilot program.

Many of our members have old load management switches on their water heaters and air conditioning units. These switches were installed over 10 years ago and contain outdated one-way technology. These switches still work, but switch technology has changed drastically in recent years due to smart grid initiatives and the need for our industry to control peak loads to maintain costs.

Randy Morris, technical and staff advisor at Jasper County REMC, stated, “This pilot program is available to us because of the advanced technology in the new meters we have been installing over the last two years. The new switches have two-way communications technology that will transmit through the new meters.”

In this day and age, “smart grid technology” is a term used regularly in the media. Rest assured that Jasper County REMC has been using smart grid technology for almost 20 years.

Morris continued, “Our cooperative has always had forward-thinking directors and leadership. We have been in front of many trends in our industry and are about to do it again with the two-way load management switches.”

CEO Bryan Washburn commented, “This effort falls perfectly into one of our cooperative business principles — cooperatives helping cooperatives. Our cooperative, and our members, will be doing our part to help other cooperatives and our industry by participating in this pilot program.” Hidden account 19462-002

The program will start with the installation of 50 switches in our members' homes. Those receiving letters requesting your participation will be on the cutting edge of helping our cooperative, and other cooperatives, decide if they want to invest in these load management devices. The new switches will be installed in late summer or early fall and tested for one year so data can be gathered and the equipment can be evaluated for performance and further development.



www.jasperremc.com