

FEBRUARY
2011

Energy Tip of the Month

Feel around doors and windows for air flow. Adding weather stripping or caulk around a leaky door or window can lower energy bills by keeping your heating system from working too hard to compensate for air leaving your home.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

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We're Different. We're Looking Out for You

Electric cooperatives are different from other businesses you deal with. We're different because we're Looking Out for You. Now, more than ever, that's important because we need to work together to keep your electric bills affordable.

Congress did not pass a comprehensive climate bill last year. In January, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began regulating greenhouse gases—an action made possible by a 2007 Supreme Court decision, followed by rulings allowing the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions. Policies dealing with coal ash, even more stringent controls on other power plant emissions, and state renewable energy requirements could also lead to higher costs. It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain: government regulations are going to increase the cost of doing business.

New regulations won't be the only culprit. Prices for fuel, materials, and equipment will continue to rise. We're committed to keeping you informed about policy changes that will impact your electric bill through channels like this newsletter and our web site. We're going to do everything we can to keep your electric bills affordable.

To accomplish that, we're controlling costs through innovation. Our energy efficiency programs and our energy services specialist, Jeremy Montgomery, can help you manage your energy use. Our website, **TogetherWeSave.com** shows how little changes like sealing your air ducts, replacing old appliances,

or improving your home's insulation can add up to big savings on your electric bill.

We're always looking for ways to control operating costs and improve service reliability. Nationally, co-ops are meeting members' power needs with a diverse fuel mix, including renewable energy.

Parke County REMC is member controlled and locally operated. As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates. At our annual meeting each year you have the opportunity to elect fellow members to our board of directors to represent your best interests. Member control means we are accountable to those we serve, and are dedicated to assisting our communities—your money stays at work close to home. Costs are rising for all of us, but when it comes to your electric bill our rates are set simply to cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders.

The bottom line? We exist only to serve you and meet your needs for safe, reliable, and affordable power.

As you can see, we're different. We're working together to keep your electric bills affordable. We're controlling costs through innovation. And we're continuing to put you, our members, first. No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain. **We're Looking Out for You.**

Rebates Available for New, Energy Efficient Equipment

Even though tax credits available for new energy efficient equipment have decreased for 2011, Parke County REMC's incentives for members have not decreased.

Substantial rebates are still available for members installing new, energy efficient water heaters, heat pumps, geothermal systems and Energy Star washers. More details and rebate applications are available at www.pcremc.com Click on "Products and Services" then on the "Rebate Program" link in the drop-down menu.

Details about the 2011 tax credit program are available at energystar.gov/taxcredits.

REMC Offers Efficiency Incentives to Commercial and Industrial Members

Commercial and industrial Parke County REMC members now have another good reason to install equipment that improves energy efficiency: they can now earn a wide array of incentives for those improvements.

Between now and December 31, 2011 commercial and industrial members who make specific upgrades to lighting and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) qualify for incentives from Wabash Valley Power Association, the power supplier to Parke County REMC.

The lighting incentive program provides incentives for replacing interior lighting equipment in existing facilities. The amount of the incentive depends upon the type of improvement. The HVAC incentive program is similar.

"Using less power will save members money today and it will help them keep bills lower in years to come," explained Greg Ternet, Parke County REMC general manager. "We've offered incentive programs to homeowners for some



time and we're excited to give our commercial and industrial members an incentive to become more efficient, as well."

"We believe reducing the demand for power makes more sense than building new power plants," Ternet added. "For example, one plant currently under construction in southern Indiana is expected to cost nearly \$3 billion."

All installed equipment must be new and must meet the technical specifications. Pre-approval is required for some improvements. Complete details and applications are currently available at Parke County REMC or will be available online January 28, 2011 at the co-op's website, www.pcremc.com, or at www.wvpa.com/incentiveapplication/.

"We encourage all of our commercial and industrial members to look into this special incentive," added Ternet. "It's a great reason to invest in your energy efficiency and you'll enjoy the benefits of monthly electricity savings for years to come."

Employee and Director Service Awards



Several Parke County REMC employees were honored with service awards. Pictured above are front row: Billy Seay, 10 years and Amy Williams, 10 years. Back row: Dave Stevens, 10 years; Cole Mathas, 5 years; Jon Seip, 30 years; Jason Stewart, 15 years and not pictured Marsha Kiger, 20 years.



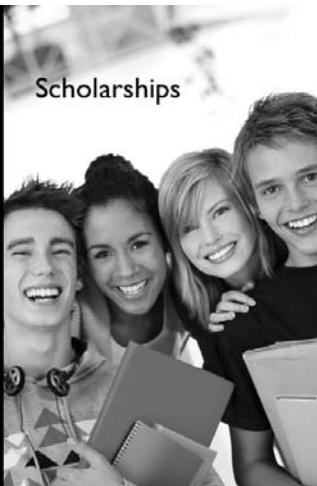
Director Perry Mager was honored for 10 years of service and director Phil Carrington was honored for 45 years .



Youth Tour to D.C.



Touchstone Energy Camp



Scholarships

REMC Offers Opportunities for Youth

Parke County REMC has several opportunities for local students and is now accepting applications for the Youth Tour to Washington D.C., Touchstone Energy Camp and the Parke County REMC scholarship program.

Youth Tour to Washington D.C.

High school juniors have a chance to join other Indiana youth on a trip of a lifetime to the nation's capital. The trip begins on June 9 in Indianapolis and ends on June 16.

According to Greg Ternet, manager of Parke County REMC, the Indiana delegation will include approximately 75 students from throughout the state, each selected by his/her local cooperative. Two students will be selected to represent the Parke County REMC territory.

"Parke County REMC is pleased to be able to provide this opportunity for local students," Ternet said. "It's a great trip and a wonderful chance to see the sights, make new friends and learn how everyone, even young people, can make a difference in the political process."

The Indiana delegation will meet in Indianapolis on Thursday, June 9 to get acquainted and learn about the Indiana legislative process. The students will depart early on Friday and spend their first evening in Gettysburg, PA. On Saturday they will tour the Gettysburg National Battlefield in the morning and arrive in Washington, D.C., that evening. Sunday through Wednesday is a full schedule of sight-seeing, speakers, visits to the National Memorials, a collection of museums, including the Newseum, and a night cruise on the Potomac River.

Students will participate in a Monday morn-

ing "Youth Tour Rally," where they will share their thoughts and opinions on a variety of timely issues. This will prepare them for a busy Tuesday on Capitol Hill, when students visit with representatives of Indiana's Congressional delegation. The week will end on a high note with the "All-States Dinner Dance" at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City. The deadline to submit an application for the Youth Tour to Washington D.C. is Feb. 4.

Touchstone Energy Camp

Parke County REMC will also select 10 sixth-grade students to spend three adventure-packed days at Touchstone Energy Camp, held at Camp Tecumseh in northern Indiana, June 8-11. A variety of programs and activities will be offered including: electric safety, Optimist Challenge, horseback riding, swimming, wall climbing, archery, riflery, canoeing and arts and crafts. The deadline to submit an application for Touchstone Energy Camp is Feb. 1.

Scholarships

Parke County REMC also will be awarding eight \$500 college scholarships in May. Applicants must be a high school senior, live in the Parke County REMC service area and be attending an accredited college as a first-year student in the Fall of 2011. All required application materials must be submitted to Parke County REMC no later than April 4, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. Applications received after this date will be disqualified.

Contact Parke County REMC at 765-569-3133 or 800-537-3913 for more information about these three youth programs or for an application. Applications can also be downloaded from the web site www.pcremc.com

Correction from last newsletter

In the December newsletter we mentioned Parke County REMC employees and members joined together to collect non-perishable food items to benefit the Parke County Food Pantry. A \$200 donation was also made to the Ronald McDonald House as part of the the Baskets for Blue Ribbon Communities fund raiser at the Indiana Statewide Association of REMCs annual meeting.

We neglected to mention the employees of PPS were also involved in both philanthropic events. We greatly appreciate their generosity.

Operation Round Up® celebrates 10 years

The Operation Round Up fund through Parke County REMC has completed its 10th year of helping REMC members give back to the community. A total of 203 grants for more than \$505,000 have been disbursed to date.

The deadline for the next round of Operation Round Up grants is March 1. Applications are available at the Parke County REMC office or the cooperative's web site www.pcremc.com.



Attention REMC Members:

We have refunds pending and checks are being held for the following Parke County REMC members:

*Katherine A. McDougale
Leslie R. Hunt.*

At this time, we are unable to contact these members, due to insufficient forwarding address information.

If you have any information regarding these REMC members, please contact the REMC office at 1-800-537-3913.

Prepaid Metering: Pay-As-You-Go Power

Food. Gasoline. Even cell phone minutes. We pay for those and a score of other goods and services before we actually use them. Now, pay-as-you-go electric service, also called prepaid metering, is growing in popularity for members at Parke County REMC.

While prepaid metering programs vary, they share certain characteristics. Consumers pay a certain amount up-front, and a special website lets them know when they're almost "out" of electricity. If they don't make another payment—over the phone, online, or even in person—electric service automatically gets shut off when the account runs dry.

Prepaying can offer a good solution for members who move around a lot, own rental properties, are in college or the military, or are facing financial difficulties. For starters, it eliminates the need for deposits, late fees.

In addition, members who prepay generally use less energy than folks on traditional billing arrangement because they're more aware of how much power they're consuming. The website

MyUsage.com will even send consumers an e-mail with a graph detailing their electric use to warn of high consumption patterns.

Prepaying can also help consumers plan more accurate monthly budgets and make smaller, incremental payments. For example, if you only have \$10 to put gas in your car, you pay \$10. The same goes for prepaid electricity.

"Members are empowered to manage electric use in a way that best suits their individual situation," Parke County REMC's Carolyn Kilby says. "Even better, when they use less energy it lowers demand on our entire system, which saves everyone money in the long run."

A prepaid metering system can also help streamline operations at your electric cooperative. Employees previously tasked with disconnecting and reconnecting a home's electric service can be assigned elsewhere, as those procedures become automated. If folks are disconnected for non-payment, the remote setup lets hookups occur in a matter of minutes when payment is finally made.

Prepaid Meter Frequently Asked Questions

What is prepaid metering?

Prepaid metering offers the opportunity to pay when you want, in the amounts you want. Instead of receiving a traditional paper bill that is generated once each month, electric use is calculated daily. Prepaid customers never pay a late fee.

The benefits

Our customers who are unable or unwilling to pay the required service deposit to establish or maintain electric service enjoy immediate benefits with the prepaid program.

Is there a deposit for prepaid service?

Prepaid customers are eligible to have their deposit waived or refunded and applied toward your current energy costs. This puts your deposit money working for you NOW instead of being held on your account to secure future service.

How do I know when my balance is low?

Prepaid customers choose how they are notified when their balance is running low. Notifications can be received via email or automated calling service. Each prepaid customer chooses the balance at which they begin to receive notifications.

How do I make payments?

Payments can be made in person, by telephone, or online. You can also view your electric use, balance information and notification settings.

How do I sign up?

Just call our office at (765)-569-3133 or (800) 537-3913 for details. You will be asked to have your account current including any unbilled usage. For many customers, the deposit is enough to cover these charges.