

Powerlines

Parke County REMC
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

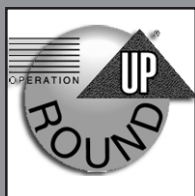
June 2008

119 West High Street, Rockville, IN 47872 PH: (765) 569-3133 or (800) 537-3913 Hours: M-F 7:30-4:30



Wind Power, Not as Easy as it Seems

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Faced with higher energy costs, many homeowners are wondering whether the solution is blowing in the wind. After all, the wind blows past everyone's homes, so wouldn't it make sense to capture it and turn it into electricity?

Unfortunately, turning wind into electricity for your home is not quite as easy as it seems – or as economical as some sellers of wind turbines may suggest. While small wind power generators can create electricity for your personal use, they're not as practical as you think, and it may take you decades to recover your investment.

There are many kinds of wind generators, from small windmills made for lower wind speed applications, to enormous wind turbines that can capture faster, more sustained breezes. Most generators for residential use are rated somewhere between 500 watts and 10 kilowatts (10,000 watts). While that may appear to be large enough to meet the average home's power needs, it's important to remember that those ratings refer only to maximum output. In actual operation, most wind generators in this part of the world generate only 30 to 35 percent of that full rating. Plus, a wind generator works only when the wind is blowing at a sufficient speed, so most homeowners will continue to need some power from the co-op's lines.

Sellers of wind power point out that federal law says homeowners can sell excess power back to the co-op. While that's generally true, it's not as easy as it may sound. Safely accepting power from homeowners and ensuring that we can supply power instantly when the wind slows down requires extensive engineering and

costly safety equipment.

In addition, the cost of power is only part of your electric rate. The rest goes to support the infrastructure that delivers power, and the crews and equipment that maintain it. So any power you do sell back will not be at the retail rate you pay, but at a much lower wholesale rate.

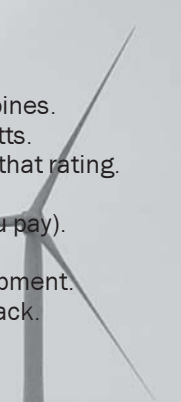
That's why homeowners who expect quick paybacks from wind generation are usually disappointed. For example, if you install a 1.8 kilowatt windmill at a 42-foot height in an area with an average wind speed of 12 mph, you may be able to generate about 300 kilowatt-hours per month, lowering your monthly electric bill by about \$25. If that windmill costs \$14,000 to install, it will take you 45 years to recoup your investment. (This does not include annual operation and maintenance costs.)

Some wind power advocates may claim that co-ops like ours discourage members from using wind power because we make money by selling electricity. However, our co-op is a not-for-profit organization that's owned by its members, so we don't receive any benefits from encouraging greater energy use. In fact, we try to help our members stretch their energy dollars.

If you think that wind power may work for your home, our Energy Advisor will be happy to help you determine the steps you'll need to take. It's another way we provide advice when you want it and help when you need it.

Clearing the Air on Wind Power

- Don't decide to install wind power until you know all the details and costs.
- There are many kinds of wind generators, from small windmills to enormous wind turbines.
- Most wind generators for residential use are rated between 500 watts and 10 kilowatts.
- Ratings are maximum output – in local operation, most generate 30 to 35 percent of that rating.
- Most homeowners continue to need some power from the co-op's lines.
- Excess power is sold back to the co-op at lower wholesale rates (not the retail rate you pay).
- Your retail rate includes the cost of developing and maintaining infrastructure.
- Connecting to our infrastructure requires extensive engineering and costly safety equipment.
- If a windmill costs \$14,000 to install and saves \$25 a month, there's a 45-year payback. (This does not include annual operation and maintenance costs.)
- Our Energy Advisor has free advice when you want it and help when you need it.



REMC awards more than \$11,500 in Operation Round Up grants

Parke County REMC recently awarded \$11,583.89 to local organizations through its Operation Round Up® fund. Operation Round Up is a voluntary participation program that is funded by Parke County REMC members who allow their monthly electric bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar. The added amount is placed in a trust fund and administered by an independent board of directors. The board of directors is made up of community leaders who serve on a voluntary basis.

The following grants were awarded on March 11, 2008 at the Operation Round Up meeting:

Reelsville Community Park received \$4,583.89 to help in funding Phase III of the new park for the community and school.

Mecca-Wabash Township Volunteer Fire Department received \$6,000.00 to purchase equipment to start a Rescue Unit to help protect the community.

Child Abuse Prevention Council of Montgomery County, Inc. received \$1,000.00 to help with the funding of the Personal Safety Classes in the Montgomery Co. Schools.

"We have seen many worthy causes in the local community benefit from the generosity of members who allow their electric bills to be rounded up a few cents each month," said Parke County REMC General Manger, Bob McCullough. "The slogan of Operation Round Up is 'small change changes lives' and we continue to see it make a big difference in our community and in the lives of our neighbors."

Parke County REMC's Operation Round Up program has awarded \$361,556.08 in grants since the program's inception. These funds are awarded to individuals in crisis situations, civic groups and community organizations. Additional information and applications for grants are available at Parke County REMC's web site: www.pcremc.com. The deadline to submit an application for the next round of grants is June 3, 2008. The next Operation Round Up meeting will be June 10 at 7 p.m.

2008 Parke County REMC Rebate Programs

Water Heaters

To qualify for the bill credit of \$70 (replacing existing electric water heater) or \$125 (new construction or replacing gas water heater), you must be a member of Parke County REMC, and meet the following requirements:

- Install an Energy Efficient electric water heater
- Provide proof of purchase of Energy Efficient electric water heater
- Must be willing to allow Parke County REMC install a load management switch on the water heater.
- A full time residency or business
- New home or business construction
- Replacing non electric water heater

Parke County REMC will no longer provide free maintenance of the water heater and will begin charging a trip fee of \$75 which took effect on April 1, 2002. Service will only be on the normal work-day of Monday thru Friday during the hours of 8 AM to 3 PM. "No Holiday or after work hour calls". However, REMC will provide the parts listed below at no cost to the member.

Parts and Service provided:

- Element
- Thermostat
- Install a new Load Control Switch

Not Provided:

- Installation of a water heater
- Replace Anode Rod
- Replace Fill Tube
- Replacement of Drain Valve
- Any type of Plumbing

Air Source Heat Pumps

Includes Dual Fuel/Hybrid Heat Pumps

Parke County REMC offers a rebate for the installation of a new air source heat pump. The \$500 rebate is one per home or business. Rebates will be paid in the form of five \$100 bill credits after certificate of purchase and installation is provided to Parke County REMC. The air source heat pump has to be a minimum of a 13 SEER rated system.

Parke County REMC reserves the right to inspect the system within 90 days of installation.

Geothermal Heat Pumps

Parke County REMC offers a rebate for the installation of a Geothermal HVAC system. The \$500 rebate is one per home or business. Rebates will be paid in the form of five \$100 bill credits after certificate of purchase and installation is provided to Parke County REMC. The HVAC system return air ducts must be insulated to a minimum of R-19 if they are located within an unheated portion of the home.

The Rebate

The homeowner is considered the person(s) whose name is on the Parke County REMC electric bill. In cases of a home being constructed by a building contractor who is building a spec home, the rebate can go to the builder. The home must be completed and ready for occupancy. If the home is being built for someone on contract, the rebate will go to the person who is having the home built. Parke County REMC shall give the rebate after paperwork is completed. In a rental home or apartments, the rebates shall go to the landlord/owner.

We're visiting your neighborhood!

Parke County REMC is implementing a Geographical Information System (GIS) to better serve our members. GIS is a digital mapping system that will give us detailed information about our electrical network. Among other benefits, GIS will help us restore your power more efficiently during outages.

To create our GIS system we must do a field inventory. This calls for physically visiting and recording information about every pole and meter on our network.

We have contracted Southeastern

Reprographics (SRI) of Alpharetta, GA, to do this work. The SRI professionals will be easily recognized by their uniform shirts, which identify them as GPS contractors.

They will be on foot or riding a four-wheeler, sporting bright yellow backpacks with an antenna, and carrying a hand-held GPS computer.

For more information, call Parke County REMC at 765-569-3133 or 800-537-3913. We are happy to answer questions you may have about this project.

Envirowatts®: Using Earth-Friendly Electricity

As Americans become more aware of issues related to climate change and the nation's energy consumption, many members wonder what they can do to help in their own homes and businesses. One option we offer gives members the opportunity to purchase electricity generated through environmentally-friendly sources.

The EnviroWatts® earth-friendly energy alternatives program allows members to support electricity that is generated from sources such as wind and biomass. By paying a slight premium on their monthly electric bill, we arrange for them to purchase what are known as Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from those sources.

Our power supplier is a leader in the Midwest in terms of Earth-friendly generation, and is currently using several types of renewable energy technology—from turbines that turn wind into electricity, to capturing naturally-occurring methane gas at landfills and converting it to electricity.

We're proud to be involved in the use and development of these sources—and the EnviroWatts program gives members like you the opportunity to support these environmentally-friendly alternatives. To learn more, contact our Energy Advisor. It's one more way your local electric cooperative provides free advice when you want it and help when you need it.

Facts about Envirowatts®

- The EnviroWatts® earth-friendly energy alternatives program allows members to specify that they want to purchase electricity generated from sources such as wind and biomass.
- Participating members pay a slight premium on their monthly electric bills.
- We purchase Renewable Energy Credits from Earth-friendly sources on their behalf.
- Our co-op buys its electricity through a non-profit power supplier.
- That power supplier currently uses several types of Earth-friendly power generation.
- It uses large windmill-like turbines to turn the wind into electricity.
- Our supplier has several plants that capture landfill gases and burn them to create electricity.
- They also use anaerobic digester systems to capture and burn gases from farm animal wastes.
- Our Energy Advisor can explain the EnviroWatts® program in greater detail.

Weather is unpredictable!
Get an early warning.



- Weather/All Hazards alert radio
- S.A.M.E. localized reception
- 7 N.O.A.A. channels
- Digital front panel display
- 25 programmable counties
- User selectable warning system
- Choice of voice, siren, or tone alert.
- Time display and alarm clock
- Emergency power back-up, uses 3 AA Batteries (not included)
- AC wall adapter Included
- Public Alert Certified

Available at Parke County REMC
Call 569-3133
for more information.

Energy Efficient Ventilation - Circulating Fans

Circulating fans include ceiling fans, table fans, floor fans, and fans mounted to poles or walls create a wind chill effect that will make you more comfortable in your home, even if it's cooled by natural ventilation or air conditioning. Ceiling fans are considered the most effective of these fans.

If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°Fahrenheit with no reduction in comfort. In temperate climates, or during moderately hot weather, ceiling fans may allow you to avoid using your air conditioner altogether. Install a fan in each room that needs to be cooled during hot weather.

Ceiling fans are only appropriate in rooms with ceilings at least eight feet

high. Fans work best when the blades are seven to nine feet above the floor and 10 to 12 inches below the ceiling. Fans should be installed so the blades are no closer than eight inches from the ceiling and 18 inches from the walls.

Larger ceiling fans can move more air than smaller fans. A 36- or 44-inch diameter fan will cool rooms up to 225 square feet, while fans that are 52 inches or more should be used in larger rooms. Multiple fans work best in rooms longer than 18 feet. Small- and medium-sized fans will provide efficient cooling in a four- to six-foot diameter area, while larger fans are effective up to 10 feet.

A larger blade will also provide comparable cooling at a lower velocity than a smaller blade. This may be important in

areas where loose papers or other objects will be disturbed by a strong breeze. The fan should also be fitted to the aesthetics of the room—a large fan may appear overpowering in a small room.

A more expensive fan that operates quietly and smoothly will probably offer more trouble-free service than cheaper units. Check the noise ratings, and, if possible, listen to the fan in operation before you buy it.

When buying window fans, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. Fans that earn the label move air 20 percent more efficiently, on average, than standard models.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Attention Parke County REMC Members:

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

Stephen W. Jones
Ralph Killingbeck
Jon W. Lancaster
Steve Newnam
Celesta R. Upleger
William Whallon

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.

Official Notice of Annual Meeting of REMC Members

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of the Parke County Rural Electric Membership Corporation (hereinafter called the "Cooperative") will be held at the Parke County Fairgrounds approximately one half mile North of the Town of Rockville on Hwy. 41, Parke County Indiana at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on Thursday, the 11th day of September 2008; to consider and act on the following:

1.) The reports of the Officers, Directors and Committees and acts and doings of said Officers, Directors and Committees of said Cooperative.

2.) The election of three (3) Directors of the Cooperative in the following districts: District No. 3 All of Greene, all of

Washington and all of Howard, Part of Liberty, all of Sugar Creek Townships in Parke County, Indiana; and Part of Mill Creek and Part of Jackson Townships in Fountain County, Indiana.

District No. 7 Part of Franklin, Part of Monroe and Part of Greencastle Townships in Putnam County, Indiana.

District 8 Part of Florida and Part of Raccoon Townships in Parke County, Indiana; part of Dick Johnson Township in Clay County, Indiana; part of Otter Creek and part of Nevins Townships in Vigo County, Indiana.

3.) For the transaction of any and all other business that may come before said meeting and any and all adjournments thereof.

Proper CFL Disposal

We've all purchased compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) to be more efficient and eco-friendly. If every American household replaced just one incandescent bulb with a CFL, the energy saved could light more than 3 million homes, or eliminate greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 800,000 cars off the road. But CFLs contain small amounts of mercury.

One CFL contains about five mg of mercury per bulb. The mercury emitted from a CFL in waste (including its lifetime power plant emission) is still less than the amount an incandescent bulb would produce according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Overall, you're not producing more hazardous waste by throwing your used CFLs away, you're producing less. You should also know that one CFL bulb contains one percent of the mercury contained in an old style glass thermometer.

It is suggested by the EPA that you seal the used CFL bulb in two plastic bags and then put it in the outside trash.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov.

Save
this
date!

Parke County REMC
**Annual
Meeting**
Sept. 11

Registration
begins at 4 p.m.
Parke County
4-H Fairgrounds

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				