

Powerlines

Parke County REMC

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



June 2010

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

Members Can Help Prevent Outages

Although many power outages are caused by wind, storms, auto accidents and other circumstances beyond anyone's control, there are many outages that can be avoided.

Recently there has been an increase in outages caused by neglect and lack of preparation by members and contractors. Members who cut trees close to power lines are the leading cause of these types of outages. Parke County REMC urges members to contact our tree trimming service (PPS) to handle this type of work. Not only can tree trimming cause the inconvenience of power loss for several households, it's also dangerous for members to attempt. If a tree is cut and contacts a power line, it could become a path to ground, creating a deadly situation.

Other ways to prevent outages include paying attention to landscaping, and construction projects. Always call 811 for an underground line locate before digging to plant trees, or beginning a new construction. Problems can occur long after the construction is completed, if a building, deck or pool is placed on top of an underground line that requires repair.

Inconveniences and dangerous situations can be avoided by following two simple rules 1.) Look up to be aware of overhead lines and 2.) Call before you dig, to avoid underground lines.

As a member, you are also an owner of Parke County REMC and we ask that you be cautious and responsible around the poles and lines.

A Warm Welcome to Summer Safety and Fun!

After a chilling winter, summertime is here! The school year is ending, the weather is warm, the grill is hot and the pools are cool. Time to make sure our children and family members remember to have fun and be safe at the same time. As part of the "Teach Learn Care" TLC campaign, Safe Electricity urges parents and other caregivers to make sure children know how to stay safe during outdoor play.

Children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. Take some time to get down and view the surroundings from a child's vantage point to locate possible hazards.

For safety outdoors, Safe Electricity recommends that children and adults follow these rules:

- Stay away from electrical equipment on the ground and overhead. Never climb a utility pole or tower. Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. Electrical power poles and utility equipment should never be used as a playground.
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Fly kites and model airplanes safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets tangled in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact your electric utility for assistance.
- Look up and around you. Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools like ladders and pool skimmers.

- Water and electricity never mix! Keep electronics like radios away from pools and hot tubs, and watch for overhead power lines when cleaning pools, sailing or fishing. Never install pools underneath or near power lines.
- Be careful using electrical appliances outdoors. Whether it is a bug zapper, an electric charcoal lighter, or a radio or CD player, caution must be exercised. Be sure you use outlets that have weatherproof covers and ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) to prevent serious shock injuries. Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them.
- Keep electrical appliances and tools at least ten feet away from pools, ponds and wet surfaces. "Electricity and water are a dangerous combination," warns Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Executive Director. "Caution children and family members about the danger of using electrical appliances in wet areas - even wet grass can create a hazard."
- Supervise the use of extension cords outside, check them carefully for exposed wires; make sure they are in good shape, and not frayed or cracked. Use only extension cords that are rated and marked for outdoor use, and are large enough to handle the current needed for the device you are using. Check that the prongs on the extension cord plugs are clean, not broken or bent. Make sure the ground prong is intact in a three-prong plug, and avoid use of adapters.

Follow these tips and have a fun, safe summer!

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TogetherWeSave.com

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Heat Pump Rebate Program - *Frequently Asked Questions*

New stimulus fund incentives available from the State of Indiana combined with additional incentives from Parke County REMC, and recently released incentives from our power supplier Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA), mean homeowners can save even **more** money by upgrading their heating ventilation and air conditioning system this year. A full explanation of rebates and incentives from Parke County REMC is available on our web site, www.pcremc.com, but published below are the additional new incentives from WVPA, specifically for members replacing certain types of electric heat, with new, high efficiency air or ground source heat pumps.

Who is eligible for the WVPA rebate?

Current co-op residential (non-commercial and/or industrial) members with electric heating systems like:

- Electric forced air furnace systems
- Electric baseboard
- Electric ceiling cable
- Air source heat pump (w/electric back-up)
- Ground source heat pump (Geothermal) with electric back-up

Members who replace any of these systems with an electric back-up air source heat pump or geothermal heat pump that meets our minimum efficiency criteria are eligible for a rebate.

New homes are not eligible. Homes switching from gas, propane, wood, or some other form of heating fuel that is not electricity are also not eligible for this rebate. Dual fuel heat pumps are not eligible.

What kind of equipment is eligible?

Air source and ground source (geothermal) heat pumps with the following minimum efficiencies:

Heat Pump Rebates:					
	14 SEER	14.5 SEER	15-15.5 SEER	16-16.5 SEER	17 SEER and above
Parke	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$350	\$500
WVPA			\$125/ton*	\$125/ton*	\$125/ton*
Indiana		\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Federal Tax Credit			30% of cost (up to \$1500)	30% of cost (up to \$1500)	30% of cost (up to \$1500)

*up to 10 ton

Geothermal - Ground Source Heat Pump Rebates:

Open Loop	No. Min. Efficiency	> 16.2 EER
Parke	\$800	\$800
WVPA		\$150/ton (up to 10 ton)
Indiana		\$1000
Federal		30% of cost
Closed Loop	No. Min. Efficiency	> 14.1 EER
Parke	\$800	\$800
WVPA		\$150/ton (up to 10 ton)
Indiana		\$1000
Federal		30% of cost

WVPA Energy Star Clothes Washer Rebate

Members with electric water heaters who purchase an Energy Star clothes washer will receive a \$50 rebate. Offer is available April 15 to Nov. 15. Contact Parke County REMC for details and for rebate claim form.



Is there a minimum efficiency for the new equipment I buy?

- Heat Pump (Split System) 15 SEER, 8.5 HSPF, 12.5 EER
- Heat Pump (Packaged System) 14 SEER, 8 HSPF, 12 EER
- Geothermal (Closed Loop) 14.1 EER, 3.3 COP
- Geothermal (Open Loop) 16.2, EER, 3.6 COP

Beyond the rebate application is there anything else I need to provide?

- A copy of the heat loss/heat gain calculation showing the proper size unit recommended for your home. Your HVAC contractor should be able to provide this to you.
- A copy of the AHRI certificate showing the rated efficiency of the system installed in your home. Your HVAC contractor should be able to provide this to you.
- A copy of the proof of purchase and installation from your contractor

NOTE: If your contractor is not willing or unable to provide those documents then you will not be able to apply for the rebate

This program starts on March 15, 2010 but I put my equipment in before that- and it meets the requirements- can I still get a rebate?

No, only equipment that is purchased and installed on or after March 15, 2010 is eligible for this rebate.

How long will it take me to get the money?

Please allow 6 to 8 weeks from the time your application is delivered to your co-op for the rebate to be processed. Your co-op will send you a check.

Who is Wabash Valley Power Association and why are they offering me a rebate to purchase a heat pump?

To increase the efficiency of existing electric heating systems, WVPA is offering an incentive to retail residential customers for upgrading to a new, more efficiency electric air source or ground source heat pump heating and cooling system. Not only will this assist in the saving of kWhs for the G&T and co-op, but could essentially lower customers' electric bills. Demand for the co-op and G&T can be lowered as well when electric resistance systems are replaced by air source or ground source heat pumps.

I'm building a new house and putting in a heat pump/geothermal. Can I use this rebate?

No, this particular rebate is for replacement units only. Heat pump/geothermal systems in new homes are not eligible. There are rebates for new homes available directly from Parke County REMC. Contact the co-op for details.

When will this rebate start and/or stop?

March 15, 2010-November 15, 2010 (Offer subject to change without notice.)

Can I use this rebate money with other rebates or tax credits?

Yes! Customers can pair this rebate with any existing state, federal or local rebates or tax credits. Contact Parke County REMC for current rebate information. A list of rebates and tax credits was published in the April 2010 issue of this newsletter. Information is also available at the web site www.pcremc.com.

Appliance Recycling Program

We'll pick up your old fridge. You pick up \$35

Any member on our lines who would like to give up a working 2nd fridge or freezer is eligible. Unit must be plugged in and working and must be between 10 and 30 cubic feet (interior size). No dorm style fridges. Unit must be cleaned out and accessible. Member will receive a \$35 check in 4-6 weeks after the unit is picked up. Call 877-395-5535 to schedule a pick up.



Local Organizations and Individuals Benefit From Operation Round Up Grants

Several local organizations recently received Operation Round Up grants to meet a variety of needs. The recipients are published below.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which members allow Parke County REMC to round their electric bill up to the next dollar. All Operation Round Up donations are placed in a trust fund and administered by an independent Board of Directors. The Trust is made up of community leaders who serve on the Board on a voluntary basis. Typically, the funding is used to address crucial needs such as food, clothing, shelter, medical care and education, but it is not limited to these categories. Operation Round Up funds may not be used for political purposes.

Community organizations and individuals can request grants, funded by the Operation Round Up program, by filling out an application. More information about the program is available at www.pcremc.com.



Don Cobb accepts a \$3,288 Round Up grant for Montezuma Baseball League. The funds will help build a new dugout.



Kevin Carrington accepts a \$2,817 Operation Round Up grant for Russellville Volunteer Fire Dept. Funds will be used to purchase an 800mhz handheld radio for communication.



Wayne Stanley accepts a \$1,020 Operation Round Up grant for Parke-Adult Tutoring Service, Inc. Funds will provide scholarships to adults needing assistance for GED test fees.



Mike Lewman accepts a \$3,700 Round Up grant for Hixon Cemetery Assoc. The funds will finance the restoration of oversized stones.



Nathan Poynter accepts a \$1,740 Operation Round Up grant for Waveland Volunteer Fire Department. Funds will be used to purchase four pagers and chargers.

Energy Efficiency Tips

Clean Debris! – If you have central air conditioning, clean leaves and debris from the unit. To save energy, make sure they're not too close to the compressor because they can block airflow.

Shade Your Air! – Install your air conditioner in the shade. When it's in direct sunlight, it uses more energy.

Use Your Appliances Wisely! – Operate your stove, oven, dishwasher and clothes dryer in the morning or evening when it's cooler outside. They add extra heat to your home and make your air conditioner work harder.

Don't Bathe! – Take a shower instead of a bath. You'll use less hot water.

Go Cold! – Always use cold water when it will do the job as well as hot.

RE-USE! – Use bath towels at least twice before washing them.



WHEN IT COMES TO WATER HEATING, MONEY BURNS AT 121 DEGREES.

I'm saving \$73 a year by turning my water heater down to 120°. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

WWW.TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Official notice of Annual Meeting of Members

Notice is hereby given that the annual Meeting of the members of the Parke County Rural Electric Membership Corporation (hereinafter called "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 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard time, on Thursday, the 2nd day of September 2010; to consider and act on the following:

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

2.) The election of two (2) Directors of the Cooperative in the following districts:

District No. 2 - Part of Scott and part of Union, part of Brown and part of Ripley Townships in Montgomery County, Indiana.

District No. 6 - Part of Russel Township and all of Clinton Township in Putnam County, Indiana.

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

Updating Membership Records of Deceased

If the membership at your address is held in the name of a deceased person, please call our office to find out how to update the account. It is imperative at this time that we have accurate updated records. Here are some of the reasons why:

Bills going to deceased members – As an example: Grandpa and Grandma have passed away. You are living in their house and Grandpa's name is still on the account. You need to get the account put into your name. The FTC requires we only talk to the

person whose name is on the account. We will be glad to guide you through the simple process to update the account information.

Annual Meeting ballots – This updated information on our deceased members also has a lot to do with our annual meeting. We don't want to distribute voting ballots to people who can't use them. Again, we apologize for any inconvenience, but updating our records is an integral part of our cooperative business practices.