



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
The power of human connections

1697 W. Deaver Road
Columbus, IN 47201

812-372-2546
www.bcremc.com

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays and Sundays

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Curt Burbrink, Acting President
Janet Anthony, Secretary
Larry Hoeltke, Treasurer
Ron Arnholt, Dan Fleming, John Harker,
and Charles Meier

STAFF

Jim Turner
General Manager/CEO
Matthew Hackman
Corporate Services Manager
Andrew Yordy
Consumer Services Manager
Marty Lasure
Manager of Public Relations
and Member Services
Jim Kamman
Line Superintendent
Dave Olmstead
Key Account Executive

SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

To report an outage or emergency
Call **372-2546**
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,
Monday-Friday.
After-Hours
Call **372-5333** or **800-927-5672**

MISSION STATEMENT

"Bartholomew County REMC exists to provide reliable energy and quality services at competitive prices to members and customers that add value to the communities we serve."

CO-opNews

Information from your electric cooperative

CEO'S COMMENTS

Members – you get the credit

Operating at cost is part of the cooperative difference. Electric cooperatives aren't like other utilities. You, as a consumer and a member, own a portion of the business.

One benefit of that membership involves the allocation of excess revenue, called margins, in the form of capital credits. Capital credits are the most significant source of equity for most electric cooperatives. This equity is used to help meet the expenses of the co-op, such as paying for new equipment to serve members and repaying debt. Capital credits are your investment to help keep rates at a competitive level by reducing the amount of funds that must be borrowed.

In 2011, the Bartholomew County REMC board of directors committed to co-op members the payback of capital credits on a regular basis, beginning with checks that many of you received in December. With that check run, BCREMC paid a total of \$3.25 million to members who were on our lines from years 1970-1985.

In the future, BCREMC will continue to pay capital credits annually on a 25-year rotation, when the co-op's financial position permits.



Jim Turner
General Manager/CEO

For example, we paid the 1985 capital credits with the catch up check in 2011 and expect to pay the 1986 capital credits in 2012.

Allocating and retiring excess revenue to members helps distinguish cooperatives from other forms of business. We're proud to support our communities by putting money back into the local economy – and into the pockets of those we serve. It makes our business model unique.

You may also be accustomed to receiving checks from capital credits received from Hoosier Energy, our power supplier. The Hoosier Energy board of directors will continue to authorize the retirement of its capital credits as it sees fit.

Most recently, Hoosier Energy patronage has been returned to you in a couple different ways. First, its regular retirement checks from the year 1985 were sent in December. Also, it is paying back a portion of the 2010 margins. If you were a member in 2010, you will see a bill credit for that patronage in January. A check will not be sent.

Hopefully, these funds have helped you with some of the financial burden of the holidays. Happy New Year from BCREMC!

Ketner retires from REMC board

After 25 years of service on the Bartholomew County REMC board of directors, Paul Ketner announced his retirement effective Nov. 22.

He was elected to the board in 1986 and held the president position since 1999. To fill the board position for District 2, the nominating committee took action and submitted names of possible candidates to the board. The board then appointed Dr. John Harker to represent District 2, which is the Hope area. Harker will fulfill the rest of Ketner's term, which will end in the spring of 2013.

"The BCREMC directors and employees would like to thank Paul for his many years of service and dedication to the cooperative," said Jim Turner, general manager and CEO. "He played a vital part in how this co-op looks and operates today, and he will be missed on the board. We wish Paul and his wife, Judy, all the best."

Harker will attend his first REMC board meeting in January. He has been Hope's dentist since 1973 and served on the Flat Rock-Hawcreek School Corporation board for 20 years. He has been married to his wife, Barbara, for 45 years. They have two sons, Ben and Daniel, and two grandsons, Luke and Chase.

His sons operate the family farm and purebred cattle operation. Harker recently completed a six-year term on the American Simmental Association board of trustees, having served two years as its treasurer. He has also lent his time to Volunteers in Medicine, the local 4-H and C-4 programs, and Hope Moravian Church, where he has been a lifelong member.

Welcome, Dr. Harker, to the BCREMC board of directors.



Paul Ketner, left, congratulates Dr. John Harker, right, on his BCREMC board appointment. Ketner retired from the board on Nov. 22.

Mark your calendar!



Bartholomew County Annual Meeting

April 19 —
Holiday Inn, Columbus.

Scholarship opportunity available

Applications are being accepted for the Bartholomew County REMC scholarship. This scholarship is administered by the Heritage Fund—the Community Foundation of Bartholomew County. This fund was established in recognition of educational values Bartholomew County REMC upholds. The REMC hopes to enhance the lives of its recipients by assisting them in their educational achievements.

The scholarship fund will award a total of \$2,000 for the 2012-13 academic year. Applicants must be residents of Bartholomew County or members of any Bartholomew County REMC household from Decatur, Jackson and Jennings counties. They



must plan to attend an accredited post-secondary institution in pursuit of a technical certificate, associate's degree or bachelor's degree.

Students must have a high school or college GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale or a 5.0 GPA on a 12.0 scale. Academics, community involvement and school activities will be considered.

Applications for the 2012 Heritage Fund General Scholarship are available at high school guidance offices, IUPUC Student Services Center, the Heritage Fund office, or may be downloaded at www.heritagefundbc.com. The Heritage Fund must receive applications by 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 16, at 538 Franklin St., Columbus.



Sixth graders, *energize your summer!*

Four FREE days of fun camp activities are available at Touchstone Energy Camp for two sixth graders!

- Horseback riding
- Canoeing
- Arts and crafts
- Rock wall climb
- Swimming
- Archery and riflery

Make new friends. Learn about leadership and the cooperative spirit.

Best of all, have lots of fun!

Touchstone Energy Camp
June 6-9
at Camp Tecumseh, Brookston

Applications available at
Bartholomew County REMC
and at www.bcremc.com.

Applications are due Feb. 17.
812-372-2546



Win a trip to Washington, D.C.

Two lucky high school juniors will win an all-expense paid week of fun at our nation's capital! Join hundreds of other young adults from across the country on an adventure of a lifetime. See our government in action ... tour landmarks you've only seen on TV ... learn about leadership and the cooperative way of business ... make friends from around the U.S. ... have a blast!



Youth Tour 2012

June 13-21

- Must be a junior in high school to apply
- Completed application and essay must be submitted by Feb. 17
- Applications are now available at Bartholomew County REMC and at www.bcremc.com

812-372-2546



Schwartzkopf graduates from training program

After four years of preparation and studying, and thousands of hours of training, Bartholomew County REMC's Jeff Schwartzkopf achieved a major career milestone with his graduation from the Hoosier Energy Apprenticeship Training and Safety (HEATS) program on Nov. 4.

Overall, 15 employees of Hoosier Energy Power Network member cooperatives were honored. Schwartzkopf received an award for compiling the highest grade point average among the 2011 graduates.

Started in 1974, HEATS is a nationally recognized safety and training program that has produced more than 500 qualified line specialists and other operations employees for central and southern Indiana electric cooperatives.

The four-year HEATS program includes 576 hours of classroom instruction and 8,000 hours of on-the-job training. Hoosier Energy, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the U.S. Department of Labor certify HEATS graduates.

Schwartzkopf also received an electric line technician associate's degree from Ivy Tech Community College by completing additional courses to supplement the HEATS program.

Congratulations, Jeff!



Jeff Schwartzkopf, left, is congratulated by Hoosier Energy Senior Instructor Ron Taylor, right, on graduating from the four-year HEATS program.

Next CFL/bulb exchange day is set

The next light bulb trade-in day will be Feb. 17 at the BCREMC office, 1697 W. Deaver Road, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Any member bringing in an old incandescent bulb will receive a new CFL as a replacement.

The exchange limit is 15 – bring



in 15 incandescent bulbs and we will give you 15 CFLs. Keep in mind we will have only 60-, 75- and 100-watt equivalents and floodlights. The idea of the trade-in days is for the bulbs that you receive to be put in use. For those already receiving 15, you are welcome to come and get more if you need them to replace the incandescent lighting you currently use. We don't want them sitting on a shelf.

Remember to always recycle spent CFL bulbs. BCREMC has a recycle program. Drop off your spent CFL bulbs, and they will be recycled properly. If a CFL stops working, it should be properly recycled, not thrown in the trash.

Account numbers to change

In late February, Bartholomew County REMC will be performing required system upgrades that will impact the account numbers of our members. The change taking place is an extension of your account number by one digit. For example, if your current account number is 12345-01 your updated account number would be 12345-001. A zero will be added before the last two digits of your current account number.

Most members will not notice any change made to their account number. However, it will impact those who pay online and through a bank's online bill pay system. To help ease the transition to the new account number, we would like to ask our members who pay their bill through the REMC website to create a username for your login instead of your account number.

By creating a username, it will ensure that you do not need to change the way you login to our online payment system in the future. If you need assistance setting up a username or have any general questions about this process, please contact our office at 812-372-2546.

Downtown payment option available for BCREMC members

For members' added convenience, Salin Bank and Bartholomew County REMC have teamed up to provide you with a payment option available in downtown Columbus.

A BCREMC payment drop box is available at Salin Bank's 655 Third St. location. The drop box is located in the far right lane of the drive through area and can be utilized by all Bartholomew County REMC members for quick bill payment. Envelopes for your payment are provided as well. For those who have dropped their payment off at Salin Bank in the past, please use this drop box for your payment. Salin will no longer accept payments inside the branch.

This option offers greater convenience for our members. There is no need to get out of your car to drop off your payment. Payments are picked up Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. Bartholomew County REMC thanks Salin Bank for its support of our downtown payment option.



The power of your Bartholomew County REMC membership at work

In conjunction with our bulb exchange day, Sam's Club of Columbus would like to offer a benefit to each REMC member.

On Feb. 17, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the REMC office on Deaver Road, Bartholomew County REMC members will have a chance to sign up for an advantage (personal) membership at the rate of \$40 and receive a \$20 gift card to use at any Sam's Club.

If you are already a member, and are up for renewal within three months, you will receive a \$10 gift card for renewing your membership. If you choose not to sign up that day, you can get a certificate to receive the \$20 or \$10 gift card when you sign up in the store.

CASH OR CHECK only will be accepted at the REMC office as payment for the membership. Sign up and enjoy the power of membership at Sam's Club.



Rate schedule

Schedule "A" — residential and farm service

Electric Grid Connection Fee... \$30.34 per month
 All kWh per month..... \$0.10023 per kWh
 Tracking clause..... \$-0.002270 per kWh
 Total per kWh..... \$0.09796 per kWh

Schedule "B" — commercial and small power service

Electric Grid Connection Fee:
 Single-phase service..... \$30.97 per month
 Three-phase service..... \$43.97 per month
 Tracking clause..... \$-0.002270 per kWh

All kWh per month:

June, July, Aug. \$0.13169 per kWh
 Dec., Jan., Feb. \$0.10864 per kWh
 Sept., Oct., Nov., March, April, and May
 \$0.07661 per kWh

Schedule "LP" — large power service

Electric Grid Connection Fee..... \$60 per month

Demand charge:

June, July, Aug. \$19.53 per kw
 Dec., Jan., Feb. \$14.18 per kw
 Sept., Oct., Nov., March, April, and May
 \$10.67 per kw

Energy charges:

All kwh..... \$0.04770 per kWh
 Tracking clause..... \$-0.002270 per kWh

Schedule "SL" — Monthly Security Light Billing

Security Lights:

175-watt mercury vapor \$7.41 per month
 400-watt mercury vapor \$14.14 per month
 100-watt high pressure sodium.. \$7.41 per month
 250-watt high pressure sodium.. \$12.58 per month

Flood Lights:

400-watt mercury vapor \$14.66 per month
 1,000-watt mercury vapor..... \$31.23 per month
 250-watt high pressure sodium... \$12.58 per month
 400-watt high pressure sodium.... \$17.76 per month

The above charges are for security lights installed on existing REMC poles. If a new pole needs to be installed to serve the security light, the above costs will increase by \$4 per month.

Don't dig blind

Call toll free: 1-800-382-5544

Products provided by your local REMC:

- Electricity • EnviroWatts • Local Internet
- Metered LP gas • Surge protection devices
- GenerLink • Water heaters • Long distance service • High speed satellite Internet connection

Services from your REMC:

- Incentives for heat pumps, central air, geothermal systems, and water heaters
- Automatic Monthly Payment Service
- Payment online
- Credit card payments

For details about these products and the services, call our office at 372-2546, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

First quarter tracker set

The power we buy to sell to you constantly fluctuates. Because of this, the tracker will remain on your bill for the first quarter. The energy tracker, which adjusts quarterly, allows us to keep our base rates low at all times, but still collect the money we will owe for the purchased power.

There is no mark-up in the tracker. There is no profit made from the tracker. It is not a flat fee. It is only a fluctuating pass-through cost

from our power supplier to us and then to you.

Reflected on mid-January bills, Bartholomew County REMC members will see a wholesale tracker adjustment, effective Jan. 1. The first quarter tracker will be \$-0.002270 per kWh. That makes the total per kWh \$.09796, an increase of \$.001864 from last quarter's rates. That amounts to an increase of \$1.84 for those using 1,000 kWh per month.

Please contact our office if you have any questions regarding your electric bill.

Old fridges eat energy and money

Does this sound familiar? You bought a new refrigerator and moved your old fridge to a garage or basement to keep a few drinks and some surplus food items cold. Here's a tip from BCREMC that can help you save energy and money.

Old refrigerators, especially those bought before 1993, use more than twice as much electricity as a new ENERGY STAR model. What's more, refrigerants in these older appliances weaken over time and door seals start to leak, causing a decline in the performance.

If you have moved your old refrigerator to an uninsulated location, such as a garage, it will use even more energy during hot weather. A fridge in a 90 F environment, for example, uses nearly 50 percent more power than one in a 70 F environment. And if the temperature



falls below about 40 F in winter, the refrigerator's thermostat may not run its cooling and defrost cycles for the appropriate amount of time.

By pulling the plug on that old refrigerator, you can save \$146 a year. For other tips on how to save energy — and money — visit Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives' energy-saving website, www.TogetherWeSave.com.

In 2012, Bartholomew County REMC will continue to offer a free refrigerator pick up program. For those who wish to get rid of an old refrigerator, we will pick it up for free and give you \$30!

In 2012, Bartholomew County REMC will continue to offer a free refrigerator pick up. For those who wish to get rid of an old refrigerator or freezer (must still run when plugged in), we will pick it up for free, recycle it and give you \$30! Call 1-877-395-5535 to schedule your pick up.

Be safe during winter storm recovery

If a winter storm would happen to come our way this month, BCREMC wants everyone to know how to stay safe and warm during the recovery effort.

"In a winter storm emergency, restoring power and heat to consumers is the highest priority, and electric utility crews work around the clock to restore service," said Pete Storm, operations manager.

If you must venture outside, be cognizant of electrical hazards:

- Stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard.

- Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact BCREMC.

- A power line does not need to be sparking or arcing to be energized, even if it's sagging close to or on the ground.

- Other utility lines can also become energized by being in contact with an electrical line.

- Lines that appear to be "dead" can become energized as crews work to restore power, or sometimes from improper use of emergency generators.

