



**Bartholomew
County REMC**

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

Paul Ketner, President
Curt Burbrink, Vice President
Janet Anthony, Secretary
Dan Fleming, Treasurer
**Ron Arnholt, Larry Hoeltke, 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

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

Peak time is here ... again!

Just as you can get a cheaper airfare by catching a red-eye flight, using energy when fewer folks are pulling power out of the electric grid generally costs your co-op, and ultimately you and your neighbors, much less.

There's a certain amount of energy we all use, regardless of whether we're at home or away. Refrigerators, air conditioning and heating systems, and other steady appliances create baseload power requirements – the minimum amount of power your co-op needs to provide a reliable supply to all of its members.

Of course, we all have energy use patterns – TV shows to watch, dishes to wash. Lots of consumers tend to use electricity during the same "peak" periods in the summer – in the morning getting ready for the day, in the afternoon during the hottest part of the day, and after work, when a home lights up with power-draining activities and the air conditioner is running on full blast.

Why timing matters

Why does Bartholomew County REMC carefully monitor member energy use or "load" patterns? Our price for wholesale power rises and falls depending on the type of fuel (coal and natural gas) generating electricity, which largely depends on the time-of-day and peak months (June, July, August, December, January, February) when power is used. For example, generating baseload power with coal costs far less than starting up a natural gas peaking plant to meet peak electricity consumption on hot, humid summer weekday afternoons or extremely frigid winter mornings.

Here's a quick look at the types of power plants and fuels used to supply electricity at various times:



Jim Turner
General Manager/CEO

• **Baseload:** These are large, efficient generating stations providing enough dependable electric power (at a low cost) to meet the minimum level of electricity needed at any given time. They don't start or stop quickly and, instead, are run around the clock.

Power sources – coal and large natural gas-fired power plants; in some regions hydro, nuclear, biomass and geothermal power stations.

• **Intermediate load:** These plants handle sharp increases in demand, filling the gap between baseload plants and peaking plants. Also known as

load-following plants, these facilities are larger and therefore more efficient than peaking plants.

Power sources – natural gas and coal.

• **Peak load:** Though expensive and small, these plants can start generating power quickly during times when consumption reaches its highest point.

Power sources – natural gas, buying on the open market.

Help us keep your electric bill affordable

BCREMC remains committed to providing you with affordable power, but there are some costs we can't control. Purchased power accounted for 75 percent of our expenses last year.

As an owner of BCREMC, you can help by keeping an eye on the clock when you use power – between 4-8 p.m. in June, July and August (peak months). Also available is the Energy Management Program, which is a switch that is installed on your water heater and/or air conditioner to control power use during peak times.

See the next page for details on this program. BCREMC would like to thank those who have already signed up for the program to help us beat the peak and save energy costs.

Third quarter tracker set

On your third quarter bills, you will again see the tracker. The easiest explanation is to say, "It's a billing adjustment to cover the fluctuating cost of power we purchase on your behalf."

Gas stations have an advantage because they can change the cost of a gallon of gas every day when the cost of the product increases. Utility companies don't have the luxury of changing our base kilowatt rates every day to cover the fluctuation in the cost of power. This basic premise is the reason the energy tracker is on your bill.

The power we buy every day to sell to you fluctuates like gas prices. The energy tracker 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 the power supplier to us and then to you.

The good news is you can directly affect the energy tracker cost on your bill. It is directly proportional to your kilowatt use in your home each month. If you conserve energy, your tracker cost will go down.

Reflected on bills in mid-July, BCREMC members will see a slight increase in the wholesale tracker adjustment effective July 1. The third quarter tracker will be \$0.004414 per kWh.

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

Program helps BCREMC to beat the peak

An energy management program is offered by Bartholomew County REMC that puts technology to work to save energy. At the heart of the program is a switch installed at your home that allows us to remotely operate both your electric water heater and/or air conditioner (in the summer) during those times of day when the demand for power is greatest (and when it is most expensive for the REMC).

When a member enrolls, BCREMC will send a certified technician to the home to install a switch. There's no cost to the homeowner for the device or for its installation.

Once the device is installed, Bartholomew County REMC's power supplier, Hoosier Energy, will be able to send a signal that instructs the device to control your water heater and/or air conditioning. The energy management switch normally operates for only a few hours (up to four hours) on a limited number of the hottest and coldest days of the year in June, July, August, December, January and February. Since water heaters act as storage devices, there should be no loss of hot water. For air conditioning, the outdoor compressor unit is cycled for brief periods while the circulation fan continues to operate.

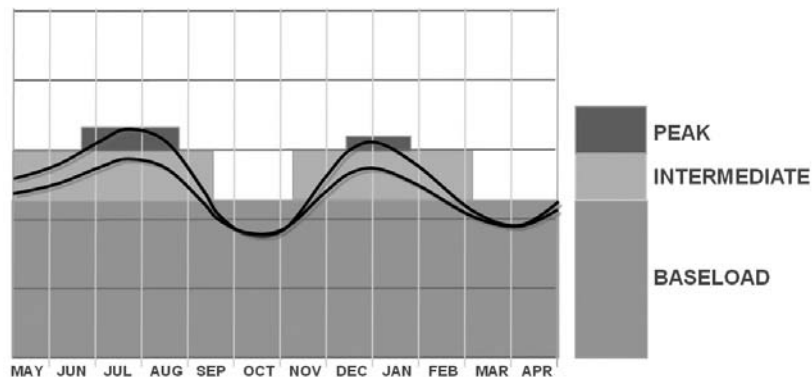
This is not a program from which members will see instant results. The Energy Management Program is designed to help manage peak demand and help the REMC to pay less for electricity during those high priced times. By enabling

better management of the system's peak demand, the Energy Management Program will help us avoid purchasing power during those times when it is most expensive.

In addition to serving our members today, we are constantly planning for the power needs of tomorrow. The Energy Management Program will be an important tool in that process. Members who participate in the program will receive bill credits up to \$48 a year to participate in the program. You will receive a \$4 per month credit on your bill if you control the water heater and AC. If you choose to only control the water heater, there will be a \$2 per month credit.

As a cooperative, Bartholomew County REMC is concerned about more than the bottom line. We have a real concern for the communities we serve, and we are committed to providing service at the most reasonable rates possible. The energy management program will help us continue toward that goal.

We encourage all our members with an electric hot water heater to enroll in the energy management program. It's what being a cooperative is



With the help of members and the Energy Management Program, BCREMC can reduce load during peak times to lower purchased power costs (bottom line).

all about: members working together to keep costs low and value high for everyone involved.

REMC would like to thank the members who have already had the switch installed. June, July and August are peak months, so water heater and air conditioner control is possible during the hours of 4-8 p.m. on days that are extremely hot and a possible peak may occur.

To have the switch installed, call us at 372-2546. For more information and a list of frequently asked questions see www.bcremc.com/emanagement.html. Together we can save!

Give your home's energy use a vacation when you're on vacation

Going on vacation? Even if you plan to be away just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here are some tips from Bartholomew County REMC that can give your utility bill a break when you take a break.

- **Water heater** – Turn down the temperature, so it doesn't keep the water hot while you are away. Or, consider shutting off the breaker if you will be gone longer than a week. Don't forget to turn it back on when you get home so you can have a hot shower. It will take about two hours for the water to heat back up.

- **Thermostat** – During hot weather, turn up the thermostat on your air conditioning system. That way, you'll save energy while ensuring that your home doesn't get too warm.

- **Refrigerator** – Depending on food stored in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as high as 38 F without risking spoilage.



Save energy while on vacation by raising the thermostat a few degrees.

Storing water-filled bottles in your refrigerator can prevent temperature fluctuations, which will save energy. Food in the freezer compartment will stay frozen if the temperature remains at -5 F.

- **Lights** – Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security.

- **Electronics** – Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices – computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave, and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features, or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use.

For other tips on how to save energy – and money – visit the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives energy-saving website, www.TogetherWeSave.com.

ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked
AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.
Visit call811.com for more information.

Pool filter and safety pointers

Everyone loves a pool. And, if you are lucky enough to have one, you notice your electric bill increasing during the summer months.

Pool pumps often run much longer than necessary, costing up to \$5 a day if it runs continuously. It is important to circulate your pool's water to keep the chemicals mixed and remove debris, but as long as the water circulates while chemicals are added, they should remain mixed. It's not necessary to recirculate the water everyday to remove debris, and most debris can be removed using a skimmer or vacuum. Also, longer circulation doesn't necessarily reduce the growth of algae. Instead, using chemicals in the water and scrubbing the walls are the best methods.

The U.S. Department of Energy recommends reducing your filtration time to six hours per day. If the water doesn't appear clean, increase the time in half-hour increments until it does. In a Florida study, most people who reduced pumping to less than 3 hours per day were still happy with the water's quality. On average, this saved them 60 percent of their electricity bill for pumping.

You can install a timer to control the pump's cycling. If debris is a problem, use a timer that can activate the pump for many short periods each day. Running the pump continuously for, say, three hours leaves the other 21 hours a day for the pool to collect debris. Several short cycles keep the pool cleaner all day.

Remember to keep the intake grates clear of debris. Clogged drains require the pump to work harder, which uses more energy. Backwash your filter appropriately. Backwashing too frequently wastes water, while not backwashing wastes energy by requiring the pump to work harder.

For a safe and enjoyable summer follow these pool electrical safety reminders:



- Keep outlets near hot tubs, spas and pools covered and dry between uses. New outlet covers are available that offer weather protection while a plug is inserted into the outlet.

- Keep cords and plugs away from hot tubs, spas and pools as well as puddles caused by those coming out of the water. Never handle electrical items, plugs or outlets when wet.

- If an electrical product falls into water, do not reach into the water for it. Make sure you are dry and not in contact with water or metal surfaces and unplug it immediately or shut off the circuit powering the item.

- Hot tubs, spas and pools, and outlets on or near them should be protected by a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Many older swimming pools that pre-date the introduction of GFCIs in the 1970s should be upgraded to add GFCI protection for branch circuits supplying power to underwater pool lights operating above 15 volts, and outlets within 20 feet of the pool. — *U.S. Dept. of Energy and Electrical Safety Foundation International*



Donna Miller

Miller retires after 37 years

After 37 years of service to Bartholomew County REMC, Donna Miller has retired. Miller has held many positions at BCREMC since February, 1974, most recently the work order clerk in the Operations Department.

She is looking forward to having more time for riding her motorcycle with husband Jim, working in the yard, and volunteering in the community. A special reception was held in her honor with many friends and family attending.

We wish Donna all the happiness retirement can bring. Thank you for your dedication and loyal service to the REMC!

Save the date!

The annual United Way fish fry lunch will be on **Aug. 26 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the BCREMC office, 1697 W. Deaver Road.**

A CFL bulb exchange will also be held that day from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Look for more information in the next issue of ***Electric Consumer***.



Touchstone Energy®



BCREMC takes safety program to area schools

Throughout April and May, Bartholomew County REMC hosted over 500 local elementary third graders as part of its school safety program.

Part of the school safety program is a ride in the bucket truck. In this photo, two Hope Elementary students enjoy the day as they take a ride with Lineman Mike Murphy.

BCREMC has small-sized harnesses just for the kids. Before the ride, the kids see a live wire presentation on how to be safe around power lines.

Our safety program is just one way we uphold one of our core principles of commitment to community.

CO-OP NOTES

Rate schedule

Schedule "A" — residential and farm service
Electric Grid Connection Fee...\$30.34 per month
All kWh per month.....\$0.09278 per kWh
Tracking clause.....\$0.002471 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.....\$0.002471 per kWh

All kWh per month:

June, July, Aug.\$0.12363 per kWh
Dec., Jan., Feb.\$0.10077 per kWh
Sept., Oct., Nov., March, April, and May
.....\$0.06970 per kWh

Schedule "LP" — large power service

Electric Grid Connection Fee \$60 per month

Demand charge:

June, July, Aug.\$19.51 per kw
Dec., Jan., Feb.\$14.16 per kw
Sept., Oct., Nov., March, April, and May
.....\$11.62 per kw

Energy charges:

All kWh.....\$0.03877 per kWh
Tracking clause.....\$0.002471 per kWh

Schedule "SL" — Monthly Security Light Billing
Security Lights:

175-watt mercury vapor\$7.15 per month
400-watt mercury vapor\$13.65 per month
100-watt high pressure sodium.. \$7.15 per month
250-watt high pressure sodium.. \$12.15 per month

Flood Lights:

400-watt mercury vapor\$14.15 per month
1,000-watt mercury vapor.....\$30.15 per month
250-watt high pressure sodium...\$12.15 per month
400-watt high pressure sodium....\$17.15 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
- Levelized billing
- 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.

Think GenerLink

Safely connect a portable generator to your home without rewiring

Homeowners are purchasing portable generators in record numbers to power critical appliances such as furnaces, pumps, refrigerators and home office equipment during a power outage. GenerLink™ is a product that makes connecting a portable generator easy and safe while providing homeowners the flexibility of using a portable generator to operate virtually any appliance in their home.

GenerLink is a five-inch device that is installed behind your electric meter by REMC. When you connect a portable generator to GenerLink and start it up, GenerLink automatically disconnects your house from the electric utility grid preventing the possibility of back feed, which can damage equipment and harm utility personnel. Because GenerLink is designed and rated to connect directly to a standard household electric service of 200 amps or less, all you have to do to operate a critical appliance is flip a breaker on the household breaker panel once the generator is connected and operating. GenerLink eliminates the hassles of running multiple extension cords or hiring an electrician to install an expensive transfer switch and sub-panel that limits the



number of appliances you can operate.

GenerLink is installed by BCREMC in less than 30 minutes. There is no need for you to be home and there is no need to rewire the house. There is no transfer switch or other wiring changes to be made. The cost of the GenerLink switch is \$650 + tax (can be divided into four payments on electric bill) with a \$35 installation charge. The product has a seven-year warranty and comes with a 20-foot cord. Longer cords are available for an additional charge. For more details visit www.bcremc.com/generlink.html.

Safeguard your home with surge protection

When a thunderstorm happens, is your home protected from lightning strikes? A lightning strike surge can damage appliances and sensitive electrical equipment in your home. When it happens, the repair costs can range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand.

Now you can protect your appliances and electronics with surge protection from Bartholomew County REMC. For the best protection, it's recommended that you install multiple layers of surge protection, starting with a surge protector installed at the meter to protect surges that come through the power line. Damaging surges may also enter your home through phone lines, cable or satellite TV hardware. It is important to protect these possible points of entry, particularly if there is expensive equipment connected.

Protect your whole house from power line surges with meter base surge protection. REMC will install a surge protector on your meter or meter base to protect your home from power surges. The price is \$125 plus tax and a \$35 trip charge for installation.

The surge protector that is installed offers a \$5,000 per item, \$50,000 per failure replacement warranty and is protected for 10 years from the date of installation. To see the items covered visit <http://www.bcremc.com/surge.html>.

Protect your whole house from power line surges with meter base surge protection.

Don't leave the fate of your appliances in the hands of Mother Nature

