



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
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

Building a better world

2012 marks the International Year of Cooperatives

In today's uncertain economic times, that headline quickly comes to mind. We want our children and neighbors to succeed. We need a strong and sustainable community. But how do you build a better world?

History tells us when we band together, we can do anything. Together, we can build a better world. That's where cooperatives come into play.

This month, we kick off a year-long celebration marking the International Year of Cooperatives 2012. Our theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," resonates loud and clear in our turbulent national – and global – economy. The year offers a chance for us to showcase our legacy of innovation and achievement, and remind us of what's important in business – putting people first.

You're a member of BCREMC, so you know we're focused on providing safe, reliable, and affordable power. But this community-driven business model doesn't stop at your light switch. There are 29,200 co-ops across America taking many forms, from farmers banding together to get a fair price on supplies to credit unions delivering low fees and reasonable interest rates on loans. Our business model works for dairy farmers and small business owners, financial institutions, grocery stores, insurance, housing, and child care.

One out of every four Americans is a co-op member and there are more than one billion members around the world. Co-ops fill a community need, giving a voice to folks that profit-driven businesses often overlook. Co-ops share a common set of principles and values, including self-help and – one of my favorites – democracy.

Electric cooperatives may only serve 12 percent of Americans, but our lines cover 75 percent of this great nation. By banding together, we deliver power to 42 million rural Americans in 47 states – and we're not finished.

During the International Year of Cooperatives 2012, it's important to remember co-ops put people first. We brought electricity to this



Jim Turner
General Manager/CEO

community to improve our quality of life and to keep young people from leaving to seek opportunities in electrified-cities.

Nearly 75 years later, we still want our children to succeed. That's why we support the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Last summer, we sent three high school seniors-to-be to our nation's capital to learn about leadership, teamwork, and our nation's ideals. We also provided two \$1,000 scholarships to send local students to college last year. These budding leaders will help us

build a better world.

We also want to celebrate our legacy of innovation. Co-ops adapt quickly to change, and we work together – cooperatively – to find solutions to improve service for our members. Can you imagine profit-driven utilities working together to keep bills affordable?

At Bartholomew County REMC innovation takes many forms, from our energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts to transforming the electric grid. Each innovative step forward builds a better community for all of us.

Whenever a community faces a need – a challenge to make life better – the cooperative business model comes into play. By putting people first and innovating to meet member needs, cooperative enterprises build a better world. To learn more, visit www.go.coop.

CELEBRATE the INTERNATIONAL
YEAR of COOPERATIVES!



"Cooperative Enterprises Build
a Better World"

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Farmers urged to take precautions at harvest season

Harvest brings long grueling hours in the field, which can make workers weary and prone to forget the safety precautions that can prevent serious or fatal electrical injuries. Every year, an average 62 farm workers are electrocuted in the United States and many more are injured, according to Labor Department statistics.

BCREMC and Safe Electricity urge farm operators, family members, and employees to beware of overhead power lines, to keep farm equipment safely away, and to know what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines.

The increasing size of farm equipment, particularly grain tanks on combines that have become higher with extensions, allow operators to come perilously close to overhead power lines over entrances to fields. It is vital to keep equipment safely away from them — a minimum 10-foot safety radius around the electric line.

“The No. 1 cause of electrocution on the farm is an auger that hits a power line when being moved,” said Bob Aherin, extension agricultural safety specialist, University of Illinois. Portable augers being maneuvered by hand around bin sites have caused the death of many farm workers who became the path-to-ground for electricity when the top of the auger touched overhead power lines. Always retract or lower augers when moving or transporting.

The most common equipment involved in power line accidents are portable grain augers, oversized wagons, large combines, and other tall equipment that come into contact with the overhead lines.

Farm operators, family members, and farm employees are urged to take these measures:

- Use a spotter when moving tall loads near lines.
- Inspect farm equipment for transport height, and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must pass.
- Make sure everyone knows what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. These accidents are survivable if the right actions are taken.

“It’s almost always best to stay in the cab, call for help, and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result,” Aherin said.

In the case of fire, the proper action is to jump — not step — with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time, and continue to shuffle or hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

“Like the ripples in a pond or lake, the voltage diminishes the farther out it is from the source,” Aherin said. “Stepping from one voltage level to another allows the body to become a path for that electricity. A large difference in voltage between both feet could kill you. Be sure that at no time you or anyone touches the equipment and the ground at the same time. Never should the operator simply step out of the vehicle — the person must jump clear.”

Incentives available for 2011

Each year, Bartholomew County REMC offers member rebates designed to assist you in purchasing higher-efficiency heating, cooling or water heating equipment. The program is re-evaluated every year.

The deadline for the current rebate program is Dec. 31. If you have installed any new HVAC equipment or a new water heater in 2011, please notify us before this deadline. **Equipment installed in 2011 will not be eligible for rebates in 2012.** Proof-of-purchase, along with the brand name, model number and serial number must

be provided. REMC personnel retain the option to verify installation.

For those who have installed HVAC systems in 2011 or made home improvements that increased the efficiency of your home, tax credits are available. IRS Tax Form 5695 will need to be filed along with your 2011 tax return to receive the tax credit.

Visit www.energystar.gov and use “tax credits” in the search bar or inform your tax consultant of any changes you may have made to your home.

2011 Bartholomew County REMC Incentive Program				
	Specs	New Homes	Existing Homes	Conditions
Electric Water Heater	0.90 Energy Factor 40, 50 or 66 gal.	\$150	\$50	To replace an old electric water heater, a gas/propane water heater or when installing in a new home.
	0.90 Energy Factor 80 gal. or greater	\$250	\$150	
Heat Pump Water Heater	Add on heat pump	\$300	\$300	Install an existing water heater with a heat pump water heater or install an add on heat pump to your existing water heater.
	All in one heat pump water heater	\$400	\$400	
All Electric Heat Pump	14 to 15.9 SEER	\$300	\$300	To replace an old heat pump, to install in a new home or to replace a gas/propane, oil or wood furnace.
	16 to 16.9 SEER	\$350	\$350	
	17 SEER or higher	\$400	\$400	
Heat Pump (Dual Fuel Application)	14 to 15.9 SEER	\$300	\$300	To install as a dual fuel system either replacing an existing air conditioner or an existing heat pump or as a dual fuel system in a new home.
	16 to 16.9 SEER	\$350	\$350	
	17 SEER or higher	\$400	\$400	
Heat Pump (Replace electric resistance heat)	14 to 15.9 SEER	\$800	\$800	To replace an electric furnace, electric ceiling cable heat, baseboard electric heat or any type of wall electric heaters where the total heating needs of the home are being met by electric resistance heating units.
	16 to 16.9 SEER	\$900	\$900	
	17 SEER or higher	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Central Air Conditioner	14 to 15.9 SEER	\$200	\$200	To replace an old air conditioner or to install new.
	16 to 16.9 SEER	\$250	\$250	
	17 SEER or higher	\$300	\$300	
Geothermal Heat Pump System	Regardless of size	\$1,000	\$1,000	To replace electric resistance heat or air to air heat pump, to install in a new home or to replace a gas/propane, oil or wood furnace.
Energy Management Program	Switch installed at the home on the water heater &/or AC to shed load on peak days		Up to \$4 per month bill credit (\$2 for water heater, \$2 for AC)	Must have an electric water heater 50 gallons or more &/or have a central air unit or heat pump unit to provide AC in the home.

Don't forget to file your incentive with BCREMC before Dec. 31. Tax incentives are also available. Visit www.energystar.gov for more information on tax incentives.

Next CFL Bulb Exchange Day scheduled

The last CFL bulb exchange for 2011 will be at **BCREMC's 1697 W. Deaver Road location from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 19.**

Any member bringing in an old incandescent bulb will receive a new CFL FREE as a replacement. The limit is 15. Bring in 15 incandescent bulbs and we will give you 15 CFLs free of charge. Keep in mind we will have 60-, 75- and 100-watt equivalents and some floodlights. When you come, you should know where the bulbs are going to go in your home so you can pick the correct wattage and style that you need.

The idea of the program is for the bulbs that you receive to be put in use. For those who have

already received CFLs, you are welcome to come and get more if you need them to replace the incandescent lighting you are currently using. We just don't want them sitting on a shelf. Because this type of bulb lasts longer, there isn't as much of a need to have spares. This program is only for Bartholomew County REMC members.





Member Appreciation Day Oct. 13!



**BCREMC Office
1697 W. Deaver Road
4-7 p.m.**

**Bartholomew County REMC
would like to thank our
members by providing a fun
fall evening!**



- **FREE dinner – Pulled pork, hot dogs, baked beans, mac and cheese, pasta salad and dessert**
- **Pumpkin painting**
- **Pony rides for the kids**
- **Bounce houses**



**Please RSVP
by calling
BCREMC
at 372-2546
before Oct. 6!**

Keep the lights on for trick-or-treaters!

On Halloween night, pedestrian fatalities among trick-or-treaters are about 4.5 times higher than on other nights.

— *University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute*

**Have a safe and happy Halloween
from all of us at Bartholomew County REMC!**



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..... \$-0.003422 per kWh
 Total per kWh..... \$0.096808 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..... \$-0.003422 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..... \$-0.003422 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
- 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.

Minimal rate increase set for October

Rising fuel and material costs, new environmental regulations and investments in power plants and transmission facilities are all impacting the cost of electricity across the country.

Hoosier Energy, the wholesale power supplier for Bartholomew County REMC and 17 other Indiana and Illinois electric cooperatives, has planned a general rate increase that takes effect Oct. 1.

The increase is being driven by major capital investments in power plants to comply with environmental requirements. The change will be reflected on your electric bill in mid-October.

For residential customers, the rate increase will be small when factoring in the negative tracker adjustment for the fourth quarter. The increase is less than 1 percent. An average customer, using 1,500 kWh per month, will see a bill increase of \$1.07. The tracker is projected to adjust quarterly, and remain negative, until the third quarter (July) of 2012.

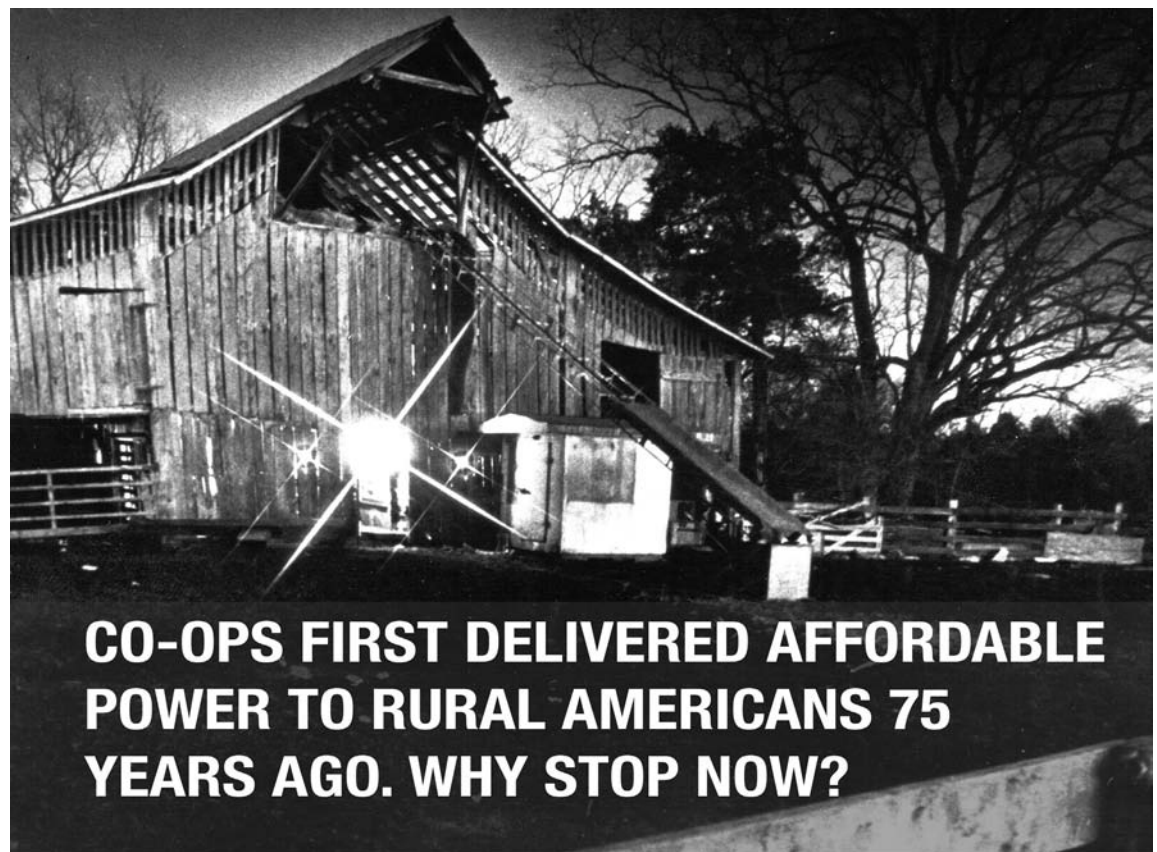
Information on how your electric cooperative is holding down the cost of electricity can be found at **Facebook.com/TeamUpToPowerDown**. There you'll also find easy-to-follow energy tips and videos that will help you better manage your electric bills,

For Residential Customers	Current	Effective Oct. 1
Electric Grid Connection Fee	\$30.34 per month	\$30.34 per month
All kWh Usage	\$0.09278 per kWh	\$0.10023 per kWh
Tracker (adjusted quarterly)	\$0.003316 per kWh	\$-.003422 per kWh
Total per kWh	\$0.096096 per kWh	\$0.096808 per kWh

Optional Seasonal Rate	Current	Effective Oct. 1
Electric Grid Connection Fee	\$30.34 per month	\$30.34 per month
December, January, February	\$0.10032 per kWh	\$0.10814 per kWh
Mar., Apr., May, Sept., Oct., Nov.	\$0.07079 per kWh	\$0.07770 per kWh
June, July, August	\$0.12410 per kWh	\$0.13214 per kWh
Tracker (adjusted quarterly)	\$0.003316 per kWh	\$-.003422 per kWh

Type of Service	What is it?
Electric Grid Connection Fee	Your share of cost for poles, wires, transformers, service drop and meters that give you access to the electric grid
Energy Charge	Cost of buying electricity you use and delivering it to your residence over the transmission system and distribution network
Tracker	A billing adjustment to cover the fluctuating cost of power we purchase on your behalf

as well as more information about why power costs are on the rise.



CO-OPS FIRST DELIVERED AFFORDABLE POWER TO RURAL AMERICANS 75 YEARS AGO. WHY STOP NOW?

October is Cooperative Month. And even though electric co-ops have been around for awhile, we're still finding new ways for you to save money. Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM