



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

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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

Many factors impact your bill

Whether it's at the gas pumps or at power plants, prices for fuel are climbing rapidly. Material costs are going up as well. Utility poles, trucks, distribution materials and equipment costs rose 98 percent in the last decade.

It also costs more to deliver electricity to rural areas because there are simply fewer people to share the costs of installation, materials, and maintenance of power lines, substations, and transmission equipment associated with power delivery.

The cost to deliver power through the regional grid is also increasing. This is due to regional transmission network improvements and changes in the wholesale power markets. While most of us want clean, reliable energy, there are costs associated with environmental compliance and maintaining reliability.

During the past five years, our power supplier, Hoosier Energy, has invested more than \$600 million in capital projects for environmental facilities and new generation resources to meet increasing power requirements. Its latest business plan calls for investing an additional \$900 million through 2015, primar-



Jim Turner
General Manager/CEO

ily to comply with environmental regulations.

These are just some of the economic pressures driving up the price of electricity. But there are things you can do help keep electricity affordable. We're asking you to "Team Up To Power Down" in a joint effort to save energy and money. We're asking you to become informed on why costs are increasing and to consider changes in how and when you use electricity. Ideas for what you can do to change the way you use energy may be found at

Facebook.com/TeamUpToPowerDown. You'll also find easy-to-use tips and how-to videos.

While there are pressures on the cost of generating and delivering electricity to your home or business, there are steps you can take to reduce the impact on your electric bill. By working together, all of us win in the effort to keep the cost of electricity as affordable as possible.



Minimal rate increase set for next month

As we've communicated to you through our "CEO's Comments" column above, 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 find information to help you better manage your electric bills, as well as more information about why power costs are on the rise.

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

Community Dinner

September 15th
Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

The annual Community Dinner, formerly known as the Bartholomew County Rural-Urban Dinner, has been scheduled for Sept. 15. The steak dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds Community Building.

The Community Dinner is a program of Bartholomew County Farm Bureau and Bartholomew County REMC, with volunteers from other area organizations.

This year's dinner will feature local comedian Jeff Bodart with Matt Holt. Bodart has been making a name for himself performing in comedy clubs across the country. He has worked with top comedians such as Greg Behrendt, Ron White, Bobcat Goldthwait, Harland Williams, Tommy Chong and Caroline Rhea. Be prepared to love and become a fan of Bodart's once you have experienced the fun!

Tickets are \$12 and are available at Bartholomew County REMC, Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Services, the County Extension office, Frank Anderson Tire, and Strawberry Fields Mercantile in Hope. Tickets at the door will be \$15, so get your tickets early!

Currently, applications are being sought for the 2011 Rural Service Award and the Energy Conservation Award that will be presented that night. The Rural Service Award has been presented since 1954. The purpose of the award is to recognize the efforts of individuals, adults or youth, from Bartholomew County who have donated their time and effort for the betterment of the rural community. These contributions may have been made through church, 4-H, farm organizations or any other organized group.

The Energy Conservation Award recognizes individuals, groups, adults or youth who have worked to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by conserving energy, promoting energy efficiency or by using renewable energy.

Applications for both awards can be downloaded at www.bcremc.com or picked up at the Bartholomew County REMC office.

Streets and days for the 2012 Bartholomew County 4-H Fair will also be auctioned that evening as well as the Q.G. Noblitt Award presented.

More information will be available in next month's *Electric Consumer*.



Touchstone Energy®

Spraying to begin Sept. 12

Beginning Sept. 12, BCREMC will be spraying under electric lines on our Ogilville substation. Areas affected will include the townships of Wayne, Ohio, Jackson and Sandcreek west of State Road 11.

BCREMC will not spray yards, we are primarily focusing on fields, ditches, fence rows, brush and abandoned areas that are not mowed under power lines. Any property under power lines that should not be sprayed, needs to be marked with stakes or signs encompassing the area you do not want sprayed along county rights-of-way. If you have any questions, please call the REMC at 372-2546.

By performing this routine maintenance, we increase the reliability on our system and keep the power on for you, our members.



Keeping rights-of-way clear of vegetation and brush helps to keep BCREMC's power system reliable and reduces the risk of power outages.

Member Appreciation Day set for Oct. 13

A fall festival Member Appreciation Day will be Thursday, Oct. 13, at the REMC building, 1697 W. Deaver Road, from 4-7 p.m.

Mark your calendar! A meal will be provided with fun things for the kids to do — pony rides, pumpkin painting, basketball shoot-out. Please RSVP by calling the REMC office at 372-2546.

Beware of local cruise scam

The world, it seems, never lacks for folks who want to separate you from your hard-earned money. And as means of information have gotten more sophisticated, so have thieves. Many popular ploys today involve some form of identity theft, which can cause untold damage to your finances and credit.

Most recently, BCREMC has received information from members stating they have received phone calls informing them that they have won a cruise through the REMC. This is a phone scam not affiliated with BCREMC.

If you do receive this phone call, please **do not** give them any personal information. Scammers know that REMCs are local, trusted companies and, unfortunately, abuse the trust of its members.

"Phishing" is a tactic by which thieves fraudulently try to get sensitive personal or financial information — such as passwords, bank account numbers, or your Social Security number — by pretending to be a source you trust, much like this current phone scam. Now that our world

has turned electronic, more and more scams are done online or through e-mail. Here are a few common examples of online phishing:

- An e-mail purporting to be from your bank claims your account has been compromised and asks you to verify your account information.
- The "IRS" e-mails you, asking to confirm your personal information.
- A pop-up window appears, announcing you've won a prize and need to click — or better yet, send "processing fees" — to claim it.

Even if you're not e-mailing sensitive information back to a scammer, clicking on pop-ups or links in e-mails can make you vulnerable to a security breach, allowing thieves to access your personal data in other ways.

Keep in mind that scam artists read the news, too. Exploiting timely events can give fraudulent appeals an air of credibility.

Visit www.onguardonline.com or www.ftc.gov/idtheft for more tips on protecting your identity and what to do if it's stolen.

If you're not baking, you're wasting energy

Growing up, many of us had an Easy-Bake Oven. It was a miraculous device, baking brownies, sugar cookies, and any number of other treats — all with the aid of a 100-watt incandescent light bulb.

It's nice to know the extra heat given off by inefficient lighting can be put to good (and delicious) use. But you're not cooking with the other light bulbs in your home, and traditional incandescent bulbs waste 90 percent of their energy by releasing heat. That's not surprising, since the bulb's design hasn't been updated since it was created 130 years ago.

Just as cars and refrigerators have become more efficient over time, light bulbs are getting an overhaul. In 2007, Congress passed the Energy Independence and Security Act, calling for incandescent bulbs to be at least 28 percent more efficient starting nationally in January 2012. Each household could save \$50 every year with this change, and those savings add up — Americans could save over \$6 billion annually.

You have several efficient light bulb options. If you don't want to stray too far from the bulbs you're used to, consider halogen incandescent lightbulbs. They cut energy use by about 25 percent and last three times as long as traditional incandescent bulbs.

How are they different? A small capsule holds halogen gas around the filament. This

minor addition boosts the bulb's lifespan and efficiency. However, everything else — the shape, color range, and ability to dim — stays the same as the bulbs you grew up with.

Another distinctive style of bulb should already be familiar — we've been promoting compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for several years.

CFLs are the most common and cost-effective efficient bulb on the market. The trademark swirly style is linked to the concept of efficient lighting, but some manufacturers also encase CFLs to diffuse the light and provide the same look and feel as traditional bulbs. CFLs offer 75 percent energy savings over traditional incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer.

The last lighting option holds the most promise for our lighting future. Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are commonly used in electronics. The bulbs are small — about half the size of a pencil eraser — but by banding several bulbs together, a bright and dependable light emerges.

LEDs use 75-80 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last 25 times longer — by far the longest lifespan yet for lightbulbs. They're expensive, but prices will fall as more folks use the technology.

Ready to start saving? New labels, appearing in January, will help you compare the lumens (light output) from your old bulbs and buy a comparable efficient bulb. You can learn more

at energysavers.gov/lighting. But what about the Easy-Bake Oven? Have no fear — future bakers will still be able to perfect sugary treats. Hasbro plans to introduce a new Easy-Bake Ultimate Oven in late 2011, featuring an alternative heating element. Rest assured, future chefs can still find inspiration — and you can funnel some of your lighting savings toward culinary school! — *LUMEN Coalition, U.S. Department of Energy, Hasbro, Inc.*



- This program is also open to non-REMC customers
- You are guaranteed the low price of \$2.349 per gallon for the entire heating season, through May 31, 2012
- Discounted price of \$2.299 per gallon is available to customers who own their tank

Monthly Metered Propane Service — at a guaranteed price!

Pay only for the gas you use each month

What makes Hometown Energy different?

- You pay only for the gallons you use during the month, not a bulk fill charge
- Your propane meter is read each month by BCREMC meter readers
- You receive one bill for BCREMC electric and Hometown Energy propane
- A monthly facilities charge of \$4/per meter is applicable
- 500-gallon minimum

Switching is easy! Visit the BCREMC office or call 812-372-2546

As low as **\$2.299/**
per gallon

What Are My Lighting Options?

Starting in 2012, lightbulbs must be more energy efficient.

The three most common bulb options consumers will find on store shelves are:

- Halogen incandescents**
Energy Savings:* 25 percent
Lifespan:* Three times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$3.50
- Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)**
Energy Savings:* 75 percent
Lifespan:* 10 times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$1.20
- Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)**
Energy Savings:* 75-80 percent
Lifespan:* 25 times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$1

*As compared to traditional incandescent bulbs

Learn more at energysavers.gov/lighting

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..... \$0.003316 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..... \$0.003316 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..... \$0.003316 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.



Pick up some cold cash.

When we pick up your old fridge.

Get \$30 back when you recycle your old fridge. Plus, save up to \$150 a year in energy costs.

It doesn't make financial sense to keep an old fridge or freezer in your garage or basement – not when it uses up to four times the energy of newer models. And throwing it away isn't a good long-term plan for the environment. Why not let us recycle it? We'll haul it away free of charge, you'll get a \$30 rebate, and you can save up to \$150 a year in energy costs. Talk about a good return on investment.

Call 877-395-5535 or visit www.bcremc.com for pickup.

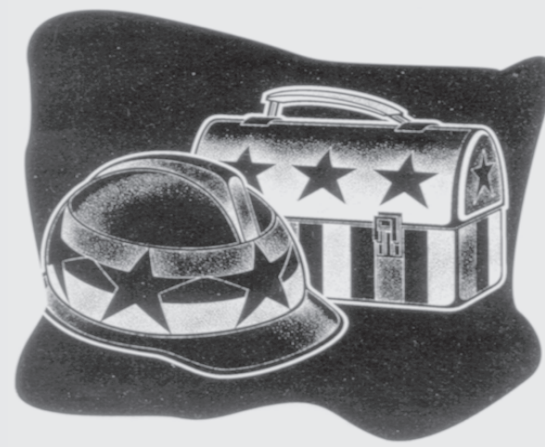
\$30
REBATE

SAVE UP TO
\$150 /YR
IN ENERGY COSTS

Bartholomew
County REMC

The Endless Energy™ Power
By your side.

Refrigerators and freezers must be in working condition, and must be between 10 and 30 cubic feet in size, using inside measurements. Hoosier Energy REC, Inc. contracts with JACO Environmental, an appliance recycler, to pick up and recycle refrigerators and freezers that are in working condition. This program is funded by Hoosier Energy REC, Inc. on behalf of Bartholomew County REMC and is available to its residential electric customers in Indiana on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is expended. Customers must own the unit(s) being recycled. Limit two units per residential address. A check will be mailed to the Bartholomew County REMC customer within 4-6 weeks after the appliance collection. Some restrictions apply. © 2011 Bartholomew County REMC



The directors and employees of Bartholomew County REMC wish you a happy Labor Day!

In honor of the holiday, our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5