



Managing Energy Usage in a Changing World

By Mary Jo Thomas

Managing energy usage and costs is a part of our everyday life these days. I'm sure you look at managing your energy usage in your own family budget from the gas you burn in your car to the kWh going through your electric meter. Here at the cooperative office we do the same from the fuel in the trucks to the wholesale power costs going through each substation throughout our territory. (The hidden act. no. is 1143900.)

The time has come again to begin to look at the costs in greater detail. Several issues have caused us to consider doing another cost of service study this year and begin to look at rate changes for 2010. Hoosier Energy, our power supplier, has announced a rate change for early 2010. Operating

and maintenance costs are increasing, legislative bills on the horizon threaten increased costs, and the focus on energy efficiency is changing usage patterns and the fulfillment of revenue requirements.

At the June 2009 board meeting, the board approved the selection of a consultant and in July the staff began to gather data again to do a cost of service study. We will look at the results of that study this fall to ensure that we are covering costs in all rate classes. We plan to look at the rates and possibly offer some different options to help members manage their energy costs. We encourage customers to look at efficiency options because it is cheaper for everyone if we save a kWh rather than have to build a new power plant to serve an increased demand. However, as this shift happens

we need to examine the rate design to ensure that fixed costs are covered and that variable usage rates are encouraging the member to make the effort to conserve.

Keep watching your *Powerlines* for more information. Be assured your cooperative board of directors and management staff will work diligently to minimize the impact of any changes on your monthly budget.



Find the Hidden Account Number!

No one found the hidden account number from July. Keep reading your *Powerlines* each month or browsing our website—the next hidden account number could be yours!

September Due Dates

During September the due dates for payment of your electric bills are September 3, 10, 19 and 26.

Remember, we recommend that you allow five business days for the mail to reach the payment processing center. That way, you'll never run the risk of being late.

Payment Options

US Mail: Send your payment to:
Whitewater Valley REMC
P.O. Box 3199
Martinsville, IN 46151-3168

Internet: Log-on at www.wvremc.com

Liberty Office: In person or in the drop box

Automatic Withdrawal: Simply request a form and submit it to our office

FCN or Franklin County National Bank:

In person or in the drop box (Please bring your payment stub with you)

First Merchants Bank both Richmond Locations: In person or in the drop box (Please bring your payment stub with you)

If you would like more information about payment options, call 765-458-5171 or 1-800-529-5557.

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as low as
4.5¢*
per minute

Dial-Up Internet
as low as
\$12.95*
per month

With long distance and Internet from Whitewater Valley REMC, receive reliable service and affordable rates! Sign up today and start enjoying the freedom to save on your long distance and Internet.

Enjoy these benefits:

- **Great Rates** - long distance as low as 4.5*¢ per minute with a one-year term, ebill and dial-up Internet!
- **Reliability** - no dropped calls!
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- **FREE PowerUp Accelerator** with dial-up Internet service!
- **Tell your friends and family** - you don't have to be a Whitewater Valley REMC member to sign up!



*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Certain restrictions and early termination fees may apply. Rates stated are for Indiana. Please call for details. In partnership with TransWorld Network.

call Today!
1-877-808-5000

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

Comments from your CEO

Reality Check: Climate Change Must Be Fair, Affordable, and Achievable



Boyd Huff, CEO

We need your help. As Congress debates climate change this fall, our voices must drown out special interests and businesses interested in turning a profit. We've got to send Congress a reality check.

Since early this year, Congress has considered a cap-and-trade system to address climate change concerns. This system focuses on reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, vehicles, and factories—essentially, impacting all sectors of the economy. As Congress acts on climate change they will be directly responsible for raising our electric bills. But by how much?

Electric co-ops like Whitewater Valley REMC feel it's important for Congress to keep three things in mind regarding climate change. We know rates will go up as a result of any action Congress takes, but any bill should be fair, taking into account regional differences in how electricity is produced. Some states have more low-carbon resources (such as wind or hydro) available than others, but we're all in this boat together. One part of the country should not benefit at another's expense.

Next, we've got to keep electricity affordable for all Americans. We already have members in Indiana who barely manage to pay their monthly electric

bills, or must choose between paying for medications and keeping the lights on. Even a small increase will be a hardship beyond measure for these folks.

Finally, the goals Congress set must be achievable. Climate change policy must be realistic and in sync with technology to ensure long-term success. Otherwise we're doomed to fail.

Whitewater Valley REMC and others across the nation have been working hard to make sure these concerns are raised—and we need your help.

More than 377,000 co-op members like you across the nation have joined the Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots campaign, demanding that elected officials keep consumer interests in mind. Their voices had a major impact this summer, as the U.S. House passed a climate change bill that included more than \$3 billion in rate relief for co-op consumers from initial proposals. Still, that bill fell far short of being fair to consumers. The climate change debate, now moves to the U.S. Senate. We have an opportunity there to make more improvements—and you can impact the outcome.

Your senators as well as members of the U.S. House need a reality check from you, their constituents. Visit www.ourenergy.coop today to send a message about the need for fair, affordable, and achievable climate change legislation. •

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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For up-to-date information, visit us on the web at www.wvwremc.com

Liberty Office Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
 Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

To Report an Outage or Emergency:

Call 1-800-776-0493

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Be ready to provide the following information:

- The name and account number under which your electric service is listed
- Map location number
- Your phone number—needed to call back or confirm power restoration
- The type of problem you are experiencing—flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.

We appreciate your call and will work promptly to assist you.



WHITEWATER VALLEY
 RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

101 Brownsville Avenue
 P.O. Box 349
 Liberty, IN 47353
 Phone: 765.458.5171
 1.800.529.5557
 E-mail: info@wvwremc.com



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Replacing four 75-W incandescent lightbulbs with four 23-W compact fluorescent equivalents will save almost \$200 over the life of the bulbs.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

President & CEO - Boyd Huff
 Powerlines Editor - Sandy Cason

Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Jay County REMC to Hold Benefit Concert for Heartlite

Bearcreek Farms and fellow electric cooperative Jay County REMC will be holding a benefit concert for Heartlite on October 30 at 7:30 pm. Heartlite is a supplemental energy assistance program for Jay County REMC members, administered through Community and Family Services.

Jay White will be performing as Neil Diamond. Forget all the glowing reviews from critics and fans, Neil Diamond impersonator Jay White has received the two best endorsements of all. Both Neil Diamond and his mother, Rose, have called White their "favorite tribute performer".



Jay White as Neil Diamond

White has received such accolades for his performance because he's got Diamond's moves, vocals and mannerisms down perfectly. He was the longest-running act in "Legends in Concert" at the Imperial Palace before going out on his own in 1997. He has appeared on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno and on "The Leeza Gibbons Show," on which Gibbons praised White as "uncanny and truly amazing."

Call Bearcreek at 260-997-6823 to reserve your tickets. Mention REMC when you reserve your tickets and Bearcreek Farms will donate \$5.00 to Heartlite.

Turn on your Heartlite.

About Bearcreek Farms

Bearcreek Farms is a family-owned and operated country resort in rural Indiana. Bearcreek Farms offers group pricing for meals, shows and lodging for individuals with 10 or more in a group paying with one invoice. We also offer special pricing to motorcoach operators and tour directors on day trips and overnight trips.

General Information

info@bearcreekfarms.com
Bearcreek Farms Country Resort,
8339 North 400 East
Bryant, Indiana 47326

General Amenities

Accommodations on Site,
Banquet Facilities, Activities,
Motor Coach Parking, Parking
(Free), Picnic Area, Playground,
Public Restroom, Public Phone,
Restaurant On Site, Swimming
Pool (outdoor)

Have Lunch with MISS AMERICA



Contest sponsored by

electricConsumer

Attention 5th-8th Graders!

Do you believe in helping others in your community? We want to hear what you're doing to make your world a better place!

Enter our first-ever "Youth Power and Hope Awards" Contest, and you could be a guest of honor at a private lunch with Indiana's own Miss America 2009 Katie Stam on Thursday, Dec. 17, in Indianapolis!



Electric Consumer is proud to sponsor this award to recognize the community involvement of Indiana youth and to support Miss America's personal platform of community service. Just tell us what you're doing in a short essay.

Five winners will be chosen from among all entrants for the opportunity to meet Miss America, win a crystal award, have their essays published in **Electric Consumer**, and attend the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives' Annual Meeting in Indianapolis.

To enter, and for contest details, go to the **Electric Consumer** Web site at www.electricconsumer.org.

Entry deadline is Friday, Oct. 2.



Whitewater Valley REMC Collecting Canned Food for Area Food Pantries

The Cooperative will be collecting canned food items September 1 through December 10, 2009. There will be a large collection container in our lobby. Members will be entered into a drawing for a \$10 bill credit for each five canned food items donated. A total of five bill credits will be given away at the end of the food drive.

The food will be delivered to local area food pantries.

Interested in Serving the Cooperative?

The governing body of Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is a nine-member board of directors, which meets monthly to decide on policies, review cooperative business, and make decisions affecting the entire cooperative.

The cooperative's service territory is divided into three districts. Each district is represented by three board members.

The Nominating Committee members meet each year to consider all members who are interested in running for the board. This year, the Nominating Committee meeting will be held in December at the cooperative office, 101 Brownsville Avenue, Liberty.

For additional information on becoming a board member for Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, complete the Board Interest Form below and return to Dave Williamson, Nominating Committee Chair, at 9442 WE Oler Road, Williamsburg, IN 47393.

August CFL Winners

Congratulations to the following members! They each won a complete home CFL package from the cooperative.



August winners are:

- Lowell Cooper, Brookville
- Harold Ozburn, Liberty
- Ronald and Patricia Hughes, Liberty
- Virgil Love, Richmond
- Clara Whitman-Parrett, Centerville

Each month, we will randomly select five members to receive a complete home CFL package.

*while supplies last.

Co-op Connections Basket Give-Away

Whitewater Valley REMC is giving away a prize basket valued at over \$200 to one lucky member. The basket is filled with coupons, gift certificates, and novelty items from local businesses participating in the Co-op Connections Card program. To enter for a chance to win, members must bring in (or mail) a receipt from a business participating in the Co-op Connections Card program to the Liberty office. Enter as often as you wish, just keep bringing in your receipts! The contest will begin August 1, and the winner will be drawn October 30, 2009. The basket will be on display in the Liberty office. Receipts must be original - no photocopies will be accepted.

If mailing, please send to:

Whitewater Valley REMC
Co-op Connections Basket Give-Away
P.O. Box 349
Liberty, IN 47353

Board of Directors Interest Card

(Please answer all items below. Return by November 6, 2009)

Name: _____ Account #: _____

Telephone #: (____) _____ (____) _____
Home Work

Address of Residence: _____

Township of Residence: _____ County of Residence: _____

I am interested in the opportunity of being nominated as a member of the Board of Directors for Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Corporation and would appreciate receiving additional information regarding the nominating process.

Signature

Date

Nominating Committee

Name	District	Name	District
Gary Ruf	South	Duane Cates	North
Odell Calihan	South	Robert Nocton	North
Robert Wagner	South	Dave Williamson	North
Sherri Gettinger	Central		
David Stanley	Central		
Robert Westover	Central		