

WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC Powerlines

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC



Boyd Huff, CEO

Comments from your CEO

Welcome to Your Hometown Co-op

Our community has changed over the years. You may remember as a kid buying groceries and hardware at mom-and-pop stores—most are now long gone, driven out by national retailers.

It seems everything today has become a bit generic, focused more on profits than people. Yet it's nice to know we still have locally-owned and controlled businesses we can count on—such as Whitewater Valley REMC.

By receiving electricity from the co-op, you're a member—an owner, really—of the business. You have a say in how the co-op's run. Your voice rings loud and clear every year at the Whitewater Valley REMC Annual Meeting. That's where you join hundreds of other members to elect folks, like us, to represent your concerns on a daily basis.

The board's role is a simple one—we look out for your interests because, quite frankly, we share them.

We're members, just like you, and elected by you to form your board of Directors. Your co-op is managed by farmers, bankers, business owners, fathers, mothers, etc—who live near you. We want what you want—affordable energy bills and the

comfort of knowing lights will turn on when you flip a switch.

With those goals in mind we work throughout the year to invest in our electric system and keep power reliable. We focus on educating members how to use energy efficiently. We talk to you in the grocery store and on the street, listening to your concerns and ideas.

The board's role is a simple one—we look out for your interests because, quite frankly, we share them. We are elected to represent you at the co-op. And the best part about our co-op is simple: anyone can be a member. We're founded on a set of seven principles, including voluntary and open membership. Anyone who needs electricity within our service territory, regardless of race, religion, sex, or economic circumstances, can become an owner of this hometown co-op. If you want to serve the community at a higher level, you can run for the Board of Directors, too.

We're looking forward to seeing you the next time our community joins voices to guide the co-op. Don't miss Whitewater Valley REMC's Annual Meeting in the Spring. Call the co-op at 800-529-5557 if you have any questions. We'll see you there!

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

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Liberty, IN 47353
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1.800.529.5557
E-mail: info@wvwremc.com

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

President & CEO - Boyd Huff
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Climate Key for Planting Savings

By Megan McKoy-Noe

You've upgraded your appliances, insulation, and lighting to help lower your monthly electric bill. What else can you do? Plenty, if you have a yard with landscaping options. The right combination of plants and trees can unearth hidden energy savings. Climate determines the direction your landscaping planning should take. The United States is divided into four different types of regions: temperate, hot-arid, hot-humid, and cool.

Folks living in the temperate band across the Northwest, Midwest, and Northeast parts of the nation should maximize the warmth of winter sun. Likewise, summer shade should be prized. Winter winds should be deflected from buildings, while summer breezes need to be brought toward a home.

In hot-arid regions of the Southwest, shade over roofs, walls, and windows is a must. Homeowners without air conditioning should encourage

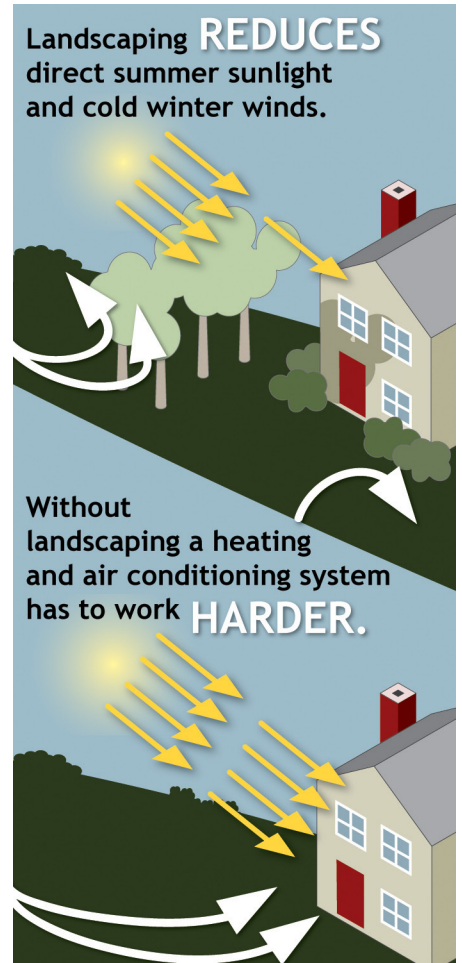
summer breezes to swing by. Those with conditioned air should try to block or deflect winds.

The Southeast and Hawaii offer a hot and humid climate, so summer breezes are welcome. Residents in these areas should make the most of summer shade, but use trees that will eventually lose leaves (deciduous) to let winter sun shine through.

Finally, folks in northern cool zones need to use dense windbreaks to protect homes from harsh winter winds. Winter sun should be able to reach south-facing windows. But take care to shade south and west windows and walls from direct summer sun if overheating is a problem.

Ready, Set, GROW!

Find out more about your climate, microclimates, shading dos and don'ts, and windbreaks at www.energysavers.gov. To learn more ways to save energy around your home, visit www.TogetherweSave.com.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

For Your Information OUTAGES BY CAUSE



August 2010

Cause	Outages	
	#	%
Trees	75	39.27
Lightning/Weather	44	23.04
Animals	26	13.61
Decay	17	8.90
Material/Equipment Failure	10	5.24
Vehicles/Public Activity	8	4.19
Construction/Maint	6	3.14
Member	5	2.62
Total	191	100

2010 Incentive Program

Members can earn rebates when they install certain high efficiency electric water heaters, heating and cooling equipment in their home. Installation and efficiency ratings must be verified by REMC personnel before rebate can be paid. Rebates are available for equipment installed between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010. Rebate requests must be received within 30 days of equipment installation. Please call our office for complete details on how to apply for a rebate.

Electric Water Heaters

80 gallon high efficiency
(.90 or above): \$150
40 or 50 gallon high efficiency
(.90 or above): \$50

Central Air

14/15 SEER unit: \$200
16 SEER unit: \$250
17 SEER unit: \$300

Heat Pumps

14/15 SEER heat pump: \$300
16 SEER heat pump: \$350
17 SEER heat pump: \$400

Heat Pumps as Air Conditioners

14/15 SEER heat pump: \$300
16 SEER heat pump: \$350
17 SEER heat pump: \$400

Air Source Heat Pumps to Replace Electric Heat

14/15 SEER heat pump: \$800
16 SEER heat pump: \$900
17 SEER heat pump: \$1,000

GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP

\$1,000

Time Is Running Out For Claiming Energy Efficiency Tax Credits

By Magen Howard

Only two months remain to tackle home improvement projects if you want to take advantage of energy efficiency tax credits authorized under the federal stimulus bill. Measures that qualify include replacing windows, doors, or roofs with materials that reduce your home's heat loss or gain; adding insulation; replacing certain air conditioners; and installing air-source heat pumps, hot-water boilers, and biomass stoves.

"We want to make sure our members know about these tax credits and can take advantage of them before they expire on December 31, 2010," stresses Boyd Huff, Whitewater Valley REMC President and CEO. "This is an incredible opportunity for folks to invest in residential energy efficiency and see energy bill savings right away."

You can recover 30 percent up to \$1,500—of costs associated with buying and installing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and biomass stoves. Installation costs are not covered for windows, doors, roofing, and insulation.

ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency, provides guidelines on what qualifies for the tax credit at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits. Tax credits are especially beneficial as they directly reduce, dollar for dollar, any taxes you owe.

"These are tough times, and we know it's important for our members to keep their monthly electric bills as low as possible," explains Huff. "Making home energy efficiency upgrades offers a great way to save energy and money, and these tax credits can help make that a reality."

If you're interested in renewable energy, the government also offers a renewable energy tax credit that expires Dec. 31, 2016. That credit covers 30 percent of the cost of materials and installation for solar panels, solar water heaters, and geothermal heat pumps, for both new and existing homes.

Be sure to keep your receipts and your Manufacturer's Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Then claim the credit on your 2010 taxes using IRS Form 5695.

Some electric cooperatives and state government offices offer additional subsidies or rebates to consumers who want to make their homes more energy efficient. Whitewater Valley REMC offers rebates to members for installing qualified energy efficient water heaters, heat pumps and air conditioning. Rebate amounts range from \$50 to \$1,000 and depend on the type of equipment installed and the energy efficiency rating. For a list of state and local energy efficiency assistance available, visit the Database for State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency, a project funded by DOE, at www.dsireusa.org.

Source: ENERGY STAR, Database for State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

It may be time to replace your refrigerator. A fridge made before 1993 could cost more than \$100 each year to operate. A new ENERGY STAR qualified model could cut your related energy costs in half. In addition, newer models keep food fresher longer.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

October CFL Winners

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

October winners are:

Curtis Maddox, West Harrison
Carson Robinson, Connersville
Tim Race, Brookville
Emma Shepherd, Brookville
Kirk Thompson, Losantville

Each month we randomly select five members to receive a complete home CFL package (while supplies last).

In addition to the drawings each month, the cooperative is giving away free CFL bulbs at the cooperative office in Liberty. There is a limit of six free bulbs per member.

For more information on CFLs and other energy saving ideas go to www.wvremc.com and click on the Touchstone Energy Home Energy Audit link.



Whitewater Valley REMC Collecting Canned Food for Area Food Pantries

The Cooperative will be collecting canned food items September 1 through December 10, 2010. (Hidden account number: 372302.)

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.

LED Holiday Lights Program

Our LED Holiday Lights program was a big hit last holiday season so we are offering it again this year. In addition to the multi-colored 70-light string for \$5, we've added the option of the all-white 35-light string for \$4 each with a trade-in of an incandescent string of lights, while quantities last. The lights last up to 200,000 hours and come with a full 3-year limited warranty. If you have shopped for LED Holiday Lights you know this is a fantastic price! So hurry in with your trade-in because at these prices supplies won't last long.



STRETCH Your Further!

What does a dollar buy these days? Not much! But, with long distance service and dial-up Internet from Whitewater Valley REMC, your dollar goes a long way.

Enjoy these benefits:

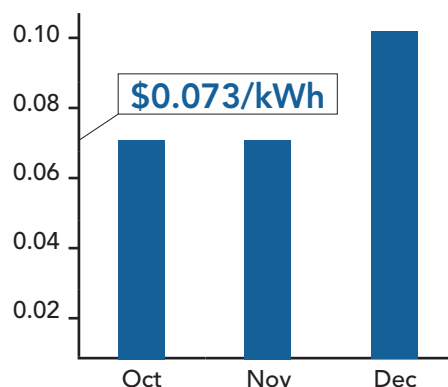
- Great Rates - long distance as low as 6.0*¢ per minute with a one-year term and dial-up Internet!
- Trustworthy - backed by a name you know!
- Tell your friends and family - you don't have to be a Whitewater Valley REMC member to sign up!



1-877-808-5000

*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.

Residential Off-Season Rate in Effect



Find the Hidden Account Number!

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

October Due Dates

During October the due dates for payment of your electric bills are October 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.