



POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC





www.vremc.com



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

What is Beneficial Electrification?



MARY JO THOMAS,
CEO

If you're like most Americans, you're interested in saving money on energy costs and in doing your part to help the environment. But wouldn't it be great if you could do both? Well, you can! It's through a concept called "beneficial electrification." This utility industry term means the

innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels, such as propane, natural gas and fuel oil, in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs.

In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As WWVREMC and other utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.

So, here's how this concept impacts you. It means that electric appliances such as your water heater, clothes dryer, oven and even your lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener. When WWVREMC takes advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point (how the electricity is produced), it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the consumer-member.

Electricity is getting cleaner. Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of about 10 years, it means that you can benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the particular appliance. In other words, the high efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources in the near future. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you are essentially locked into the technology of that gas appliance for the 10-year lifespan.

As WWVREMC is able to tap into more renewable options in the future, your electric appliance has the potential to become greener and more energy efficient. The only way you would be able to benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

Small steps to help the environment For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally friendly options, choosing electric appliances, tools and cars over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers and string trimmers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric water heaters and other appliances, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping our environment. It can also translate into a better quality of life. For example, when you can trade the loud rumble of a gas-powered mower or blower for the quiet efficiency of electric versions, you eliminate the exhaust emissions and the unpleasant noise.

How we're doing our part to help the environment

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, WWVREMC is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. This means WWVREMC can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable and affordable power to our community.

We also promote energy efficiency through programs like Rural Energy Audits and Energy Star-certified LEDs when purchased through our online lighting store. In addition, through our SmartHub app, we offer our members the convenience and ability to manage and monitor their energy use. To save you money, we also offer rebates for new HVAC installations, HVAC tune-ups, heat pump water heaters, and electric lawn equipment. For program details and to apply for rebates, visit our website www.vremc.com.



PAGE 2 We're ready for storm season, are you?



PAGE 3 Road Trip to the Past



PAGE 4 Portable Generator Safety Tips, Bill Credit Winners

June Due Dates

The due dates for payment of electric bills are **June 19** and **26**.



WE'RE READY FOR STORM SEASON. ARE YOU?

Now that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that WWVREMC crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of

non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).

- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages, and other medical essentials and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener, and portable battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check WWVREMC's website for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and

walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. The hidden account number is 124501. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

At WWVREMC, we encourage our members who use generators to make sure they are installed correctly. This is not only for the protection of our employees, but for your safety as well. A potential danger with the use of generators is backfeed. This is when power travels back through the utility lines and re-energizes them. Backfeed creates a dangerous, and potentially deadly, situation for our lineworkers. If your generator isn't installed properly, the resulting backfeed of electric current could kill or severely injure a lineman working to restore your power.

Planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and download SmartHub to stay abreast of power restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At WWVREMC, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.

BY ADAM CARMEN,
OPERATIONS
SUPERINTENDENT



Receive a rebate of 50% off a qualifying HVAC tune-up cost.
Total rebate not to exceed \$50.

Better for the environment.

- no oil to change
- no pesky sparkplugs or fuel filters
- quieter than fossil fuel engines
- no need to purchase excess gasoline or fuel additives
- no carbon monoxide emissions



Electric Lawn Equipment
rebate program

Talk to us about available rebates

ROAD TRIP TO *the past*

Visit Indiana's Antique Alley

BY RICHARD G. BIEVER

If winter's usual hibernation — now coupled with COVID-19 isolation — has given you a double whammy of cabin fever, the antidote right up your alley might be antiques ... and a road trip to Indiana's Antique Alley.

"There's never a bad time to antique," said Beth Leisure, who, with her husband, owns and operates the National Road Antique Mall in Cambridge City, one of the stops on the Antique Alley trails. "People just want to get out and do something they enjoy," she said. "We have a big store, so people can come in here and feel safe; they can stay away from each other."

The mall houses some 85 dealers on two floors of an old five and dime store right on U.S. 40, which doubles as Cambridge City's Main Street. Leisure said they've seen some of their best business in a long time after reopening following the initial pandemic closure last May.

"During COVID, a lot of people were cleaning their house, re-doing a room and are looking for that one piece of furniture — a chest or dresser or table," said Nancy Sartain, leisure marketing manager at the Wayne County Convention and Tourism Bureau which markets Antique Alley.

Antique Alley is a hotbed of vintage finds and is one of Indiana's most diverse antique destinations offering

some 1,200 dealers along two interlocking loop trails. The trails leisurely ramble through six historic and scenic eastern Indiana and western Ohio counties. A variety of both small and large antique shops and malls offer a plethora of affordable treasures from the past.

Antique Alley Trail 1 begins in Richmond and continues west on the historic Old National Road (now U.S. 40) through six towns to Knightstown. Then, it heads north to New Castle, east to Hagerstown and concludes in New Paris, Ohio, just northeast of Richmond.

Antique Alley Trail 2 starts in Richmond and continues north to Winchester, Union City, Farmland, and Redkey, before heading southeast into Ohio and running through Greenville, Arcanum, Lewisburg, and Verona, concluding back on the Old National Road at New Paris.

"Antiquing has always been a great summertime getaway because it gets you out," said Sartain. "It gets you



going to different little communities and seeing what's out there. You're doing something that keeps your mind occupied, yet you're able to keep your [social] distancing."

Sartain said the best days to plan a visit are Wednesdays through Sundays. Plan on two days if you want to really explore the shops on either trail, and two to three days if you plan to venture along both trails. For more information, downloadable PDFs of trail maps and listings of shops, go to visitrichmond.org.

Story written by Richard G. Biever and provided by Indiana Connection Magazine.



Each month we hide an account number in the Powerlines. Did you find it?

NO MAY WINNER

Keep reading your Powerlines each month because the next hidden account number could be yours!

Payment Options

US Mail

Whitewater Valley REMC, P.O. Box 3199, Martinsville, IN 46151-3168

SmartHub

Log-on at wwwvremc.com.

Pay-by-Phone

Call 844-827-4759. Set up your PIN. Follow prompts.

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. (Bring payment stub.)

VanillaDirect

Visit vanilladirect.com for payment locations and details.



For more information about payment options, please call us:

765-458-5171 or 1-800-529-5557

Helpful Information

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. Login to your SmartHub account or sign up for outage texting at wwwvremc.com.

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.



Generate Safely.

Never use a portable generator indoors.

Do not plug generators into standard electrical outlets.

Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances into the generator.

Start the generator before connecting appliances.

Bill Credit Winners

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members of the 2021 annual meeting continues. Here are the winners.

JUNE

John Hartley, Liberty

Edward Hundley, Metamora

Kevin C. Kemplen, Lynn

Sally A. Noble, Liberty

Merlen W. Rude, Liberty

Ready
for
more
info?

Visit wwwvremc.com



101 Brownsville Avenue, P.O. Box 349, Liberty, IN 47353

765-458-5171 • 1-800-529-5557

wwwvremc.com • info@wwwvremc.com

President & CEO - Mary Jo Thomas • Powerlines Editor - Sandy Cason