

HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

February 2024

News about your community and cooperative

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www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO



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THE GOOD KIND OF AUDIT

Cold weather results in higher energy bills and, with winter in full swing, we'd like to remind you about a free co-op service that can help you boost efficiency and save money.

As your trusted energy partner, we believe savings and efficiency are within reach for everyone, and we want to help you get there.

That's why Midwest Electric offers free home energy audits.

An energy audit provides a holistic view of your home's efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to adjust energy consumption, improve problem areas, and ultimately keep more money in your wallet.

What to expect during the audit

First, our energy advisor conducts a walk-through of your home, examining energy use and identifying problem areas such as doors, windows, and insulation levels. The advisor will also examine major appliances, including your heating and cooling system. During the assessment, the advisor will ask questions about your energy use habits and review past energy bills.

In the testing phase, the advisor will conduct thermal imaging of the home to detect heat loss that is invisible to the naked eye. Thermal imaging can reveal inadequate insulation, HVAC airflow, radiant heat malfunction, and additional factors.

The power to save is in your hands


Finally, the advisor will provide you with a detailed evaluation. This is a written report with a description of your home, an analysis of your energy use, recommendations regarding energy consumption, and steps you can take to save money.


One of the greatest values of an energy audit is helping you understand how you use electricity and, more importantly, identifying ways to use it more efficiently.


Free energy audits are just one of the many perks of your co-op membership, so we hope you'll take advantage of this valuable service. Set up an audit by calling us at 800-962-3830, or visit our website at www.midwestrec.com/energy-audits-and-tips-homes.


Four ways an energy audit can benefit you

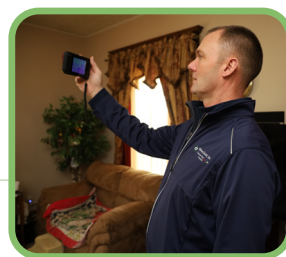
A home energy audit can determine the overall efficiency of your home or business and ways to improve it. Here are the main benefits of conducting an energy audit:

 An audit will identify where most of your energy use is going and ways you can use energy more efficiently to save money.

 An audit can identify potential safety issues with home wiring and ventilation.

 It can determine whether appliances and heating/cooling equipment are properly sized for your home or business.

 Making changes based on the audit recommendations could raise your property value.



Looking to lower your monthly bill and electric use?

Call us at 800-962-3830 or email jjohns@midwestrec.com to set up your free home energy audit.



Petition forms available to run for Midwest Electric's board of directors

Do you want to give back to your community? This may be your chance to be a part of the decision-making body that governs the policies of Midwest Electric and sets the cooperative's direction. Three of the eight seats on the board of directors are up for election.

Any member residing in a district up for election may become a candidate by obtaining a petition form from the co-op's office and obtaining at least 15 valid signatures of members who reside within that district. For this year's elections, petitions may be filed by members who reside in:

District 2 (3-year term): Allen and Putnam counties

District 3 (3-year term): Van Wert County

District 4 (3-year term): Mercer and Darke counties

How to apply

Candidates must complete the official petition packet and turn it in to the co-op's office after March 18 and no later than 8 a.m. on May 3. Call us at 800-962-3830 for a petition packet or to learn more.



Scan this QR with your phone camera!

Someone you know could have unclaimed patronage cash waiting for them!

Check at midwestrec.com. Click the "My Co-op" tab, then "Patronage Cash Back." The list of names is also run in our *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine.

Director Gold Status

Your board is one of only 10 in the country earning top status

Midwest Electric is proud to announce that our entire board of directors has met the requirements of Director Gold certification through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). To maintain Director Gold status, board members must earn three credits every two years from a list of approved courses by the NRECA. They must also have previously completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) through NRECA.

Thank you to our board for your continued education and excellence to the co-op!



Community Calendar

- ◆ Feb. 1 **Come From Away Broadway**, Lima Civic Center, 419-224-1552
- ◆ Feb. 4 **Superheros and Supervillains**, Lima Civic Center
- ◆ Feb. 6 **Tri-Moraine, The Big Eclipse at OSU Lima**, 6:30pm
- ◆ Feb. 10 **Dine & Style Symphony at the City Club**, 419-516-1655
- ◆ Feb. 15 **ARRIVAL from Sweden Music of ABBA**, Lima Civic Center
- ◆ Feb. 18 **Johnny Cash**, Niswonger Performing Arts, 419-238-6722
- ◆ Feb. 25 **The Barricade Boys**, Niswonger Performing Arts

WAYS TO PAY

We offer multiple convenient ways to pay your electric bill.



Automatic bill pay (\$1 monthly Credit)

To sign up, call us at 1-800-962-3830, or you can enroll yourself in SmartHub (our self-serve billing site).



E-Bill (\$1 monthly Credit)

Help the environment by reducing paper and help us by reducing postage costs. Don't mess with a paper bill again! Call to enroll in electronic bills: 1-800-962-3830.



SmartHub (Mobile App or Online)

SmartHub can be accessed 24 hours a day from the link on our website (www.midwestrec.com) or by downloading the free mobile app.



Pay by phone

Payments may be made with a credit card or your checking account by calling 1-800-962-3830.



Payments by mail

Include your payment, along with the bottom portion of your bill, in the return envelope you receive in the mail.



In our lobby

The lobby is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. After office hours, payments may be left in our 24-hour drop box, located by the front door.



Satellite pay stations - MoneyGram

Payments are accepted at all MoneyGram locations at no charge (Receive Code: 15105).

Learn more about ways to pay by visiting midwestrec.com/ways-pay.



Sign up today for a \$2 monthly bill credit

Enroll in e-billing and AutoPay today

