

HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

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News about your community and cooperative

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO



HOW MUCH DOES IT REALLY COST TO RUN ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS?

To see our suite of energy calculators, including a space heater calculator, use your smart phone's camera to scan this QR code.



JOEL JOHNS
Business Development
Coordinator

Have you heard claims that purchasing a “magic” space heater will slash your electric bill by up to 50 percent? Midwest Electric advises members to be cautious of such claims and investigate fully before purchasing a potentially costly space heater.

To achieve the savings these “magic” space heater advertisements claim, you must turn the temperature in your house down to between 50 and 60 degrees and move the heater with you from room to room. Not only

is this a potential safety hazard, but you also sacrifice comfort in the rest of your home.

Electric plug-in space heaters are not more efficient than other electric heating sources, and all electric space heaters are equally efficient. An electric space heater rated at 1,500 watts will put out the same amount of heat regardless of what you pay for it.

You would be better off to take the money and put it toward weatherization improvements to your home, such as adding

insulation, caulking, and weatherstripping.

Before you purchase an electric plug-in space heater, consider the operating costs. This depends on the type of heater and the size of the room you're heating. Use the formula to calculate the operating costs of a space heater or any electric appliance. For example, we've calculated the true cost of running a 1,500-watt space heater 24/7 for 30 days. Here's how to calculate operating costs for your space heater:

Watts x hours of operation ÷ 1,000 x Electric rate (Cost per kWh)					
	Watts	Hours per day	Cost per kWh	Cost per day	Cost for 30 days
Space heater	1,500	24	\$0.11	\$3.96	\$118.80
Here's the math: $1,500 \times 24 = 36,000$ $36,000 \div 1,000 = 36$ $36 \times \$0.11 = \3.96 $\$3.96 \times 30 = \118.80					

HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON HEATING IN THE WINTER

Instead of using an electric space heater, try these suggestions to save:

- Install a ground-source, air-source, or ductless mini-split heat pump to heat your home in the winter and cool in the summer.
- Install a smart thermostat. Equipping your

HVAC system with smart technology can help you stay comfortable and save year-round. (We offer up to a \$100 rebate. Call for details.)

- Have the ductwork in your home inspected by a professional. Ducts may have come loose and could be feeding warm air into your attic or crawl space instead of the living areas.
- Add insulation, caulk or weatherstrip around drafty windows and doors.

- Strategically place fans at low speed to pull warm air from the house into cooler spaces.
- Complete a home energy audit and implement the recommended measures. You can schedule one by calling our office.

For alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, contact us at 800-962-3830 or visit us online at www.midwestrec.com.

CALLING ALL 2023 GRADS:



Need cash for college?
We're giving away
\$11,000
in scholarships!

**Must be a child of a Midwest Electric member and apply by Feb. 17.*

TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION:

- Visit www.midwestrec.com > My Community > Scholarships.
- Email jjohns@midwestrec.com or visit our office in person.
- See your school guidance counselor.



CURIOUS WHY YOUR WINTER ELECTRIC USAGE IS SO HIGH?

Consider one of our home audit methods:

- **Online assessment** – virtual home audits are available, or access our Energy Resource Center to see how much you could save by upgrading windows, insulation, heating systems, etc. Visit midwestrec.com/energy-audits-and-tips-homes.
- **Over-the-phone** – simply call us at 1-800-962-3830 for free, customized advice.
- **In-person audit** – we will do a free walk-through at your home or business and identify potential savings. We provide an extensive follow-up report with specific recommendations to help you prioritize opportunities.

Find details and DIY resources to help you reduce your winter electric bill at midwestrec.com. Click the "My Energy" tab, then "Energy Audits and Tips."



TAX NOTICE ON THIS MONTH'S BILL

Your December electric bill will include information to use in your income tax filing: your total annual contribution to the Midwest Electric Community Connection Fund. This will be on the left side of your bill, about halfway down, and will say "YTD ROUNDUP AMOUNT" next to the dollar amount (typically between \$4-\$12). This is tax deductible and represents the 12-month total of your monthly round-up contributions to benefit our local community. Thank you for your generosity!



GET A NEW PHONE NUMBER, CREDIT CARD, OR EMAIL? PLEASE LET US KNOW!

Keeping your information up-to-date is crucial, especially for news updates and bill payments. Call 800-962-3830 or log into SmartHub to update your contact information so we can notify you for planned outages, patronage cash back, and more.

Electricity is a GREAT value!

This winter, U.S. consumers are forecast to pay an average of around 14.8 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), up 8% from 2021. Midwest Electric's rate is about 11 cents per kWh.

Talk about value for your family. THAT'S the cooperative difference.

— Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration



Community Calendar

- ◆ Dec. 30/Jan. 2 **Office closed at 11:30 am on Dec. 30 and all day Jan. 2 for New Year's**
- ◆ Jan. 6-7 **Dueling Pianos**, Old City Prime, Lima, \$20/ticket, 8-11:30 pm, 419-227-7463 or oldcityprime.com/live-entertainment
- ◆ Jan. 21 **Harp by Candlelight**, 7:30 pm, Trinity United Methodist Church, Lima
- ◆ Jan. 21 **Jumbos Card Show**, Lima Civic Center, 567-289-5272
- ◆ Jan. 21-22 **Annie Jr**, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, 419-222-5701
- ◆ Jan. 22 **Harp by Candlelight**, 4 pm, Grand Opera House, St. Marys
- ◆ Jan. 28 **Adult Carnival**, Wapakoneta YMCA Fundraiser, games, live music, food, prizes, and an auction; 6-10 pm, White Tails Acres (2276 West Breese Rd, Lima), \$35/person, wapakymca.org
- ◆ Jan. 29 **Dragons & Mythical Beasts**, Lima Civic Center, 419-224-1652