

HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

June 2024

News about your community and cooperative

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

Standing up for reliable, affordable energy

Know our members look to Midwest Electric to provide electricity that is both reliable and affordable. For decades, we've been doing just that.

For about a year, though, electricity industry leaders have been talking about threats posed by proposed new regulations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In April, those rules were released, and the theoretical danger to energy availability in this country became all too real.

These regulations demand that coal-fired power plants essentially eliminate carbon dioxide emissions by 2032 or be shut down. The problem is that the required reductions aren't actually feasible because the technology needed for carbon capture and storage is still being developed and not yet commercially available.

What this means to our co-op

In the short term, Midwest Electric will continue providing you the affordable, reliable electricity you expect from us. But I think all members should understand these new regulations threaten the ability of all electric utilities to provide the same level of this vital service in the future. This reliability issue affects all electric companies, not just us. Nearly 70% of generation capacity for Ohio's electric cooperatives comes from the Cardinal Power Plant, which delivers baseload power to more than a million people in 77 of Ohio's 88 counties. Member-owned Buckeye Power has spent more than \$1 billion on emissions controls at Cardinal, which has been recognized as one of the cleanest-operating coal-fired plants in the world.

Electricity from Cardinal Plant has helped Ohio's cooperatives avoid much of the recent volatility in energy prices and keep rate increases as low as possible. Without this always-available electricity supply, cooperative members would face significantly higher costs and an ever-growing likelihood of insufficient power availability and increasing risk of rolling blackouts.

What we're doing

CO2 emissions from coal power plants in America are on a steep decline and account for only 2.6% of global CO2 emissions. And it's a similar trend in Ohio: 15 years ago, Ohio had 21 coal power plants. Today, just 4 remain. America has done more than its share. But the availability of electricity is critical to human existence. The social benefits of carbon far outweigh any "social costs" of carbon.

I, along with other co-op leaders, will continue to advocate for



MATT BERRY, CEO
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commonsense policies and realistic timelines for reducing carbon emissions while reinforcing the importance of reliable and affordable electricity. We expect the NRECA, our national trade group, and other reliable energy proponents to challenge the new regulations in court on behalf of all our members.

What you can do

As a member, you can stand up for energy reliability in several ways. Follow us online and on Facebook to stay on top of new developments. Research the energy policies supported by candidates for elected office, and support candidates who value reliable electricity.

Additionally, you can join other cooperative members from around the country to advocate for responsible energy policy through Voices for Cooperative Power, a grassroots effort to promote responsible energy policy. Visit www.voicesforcooperativepower.com to learn more. If you'd like to amplify your voice through political support for reliable energy advocates, join America's Electric Cooperatives PAC, which financially backs candidates who support the interests of electric cooperative members. Call the cooperative at 800-962-3830 or visit our website at midwestrec.com/PAC to join.

Your cooperative, along with our statewide and national organizations, will always advocate for reliable, affordable energy for our members. I hope you will join us in these efforts.

TELL CONGRESS:

**SHUTTING DOWN
RELIABLE POWER
IS A MISTAKE**

SPEAK OUT



 Voices for
Cooperative
Power

Community Calendar

- ◆ Jun 1 **Chickasaw Community Picnic w/1988 band**, Chickasaw, facebook.com/ChickasawParkBoard
- ◆ Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 **Party in the Park Concert**, Heritage Park, Wapakoneta, wapakoneta.com/event/party-in-the-park-12
- ◆ Jun 7-8 **Van Wert Peony Festival**, Fountain Park, Van Wert, vwpeonyfestival.com
- ◆ Jun 8 **St Marys Chamber Golf Outing**, Northmoor Golf Course, St Marys, stmarysohio.org/2024-golf-outing-registration
- ◆ Jun 8 **Mason Dixon Line at Party in the Parking Lot**, Van Wert Moose Lodge 1320, Van Wert, facebook.com/mdcountry
- ◆ Jun 8 **CrossFit Crave Summer Classic 2024**, CrossFit Crave, Celina, facebook.com/CrossFitCrave
- ◆ June 12-16 **Fort Recovery Jubilee**, Fort Recovery, fortrecoveryjubilee.com
- ◆ Jun 14-15 **Rockford Community Days**, Rockford, facebook.com/rockfordchamber
- ◆ Jun 14-15 **Freedom Truck Meet & Derek Jones Concert**, Van Wert Fairgrounds, vanwertcountyfair.com/events-on-the-grounds
- ◆ Jun 15 **June Jubilee Festival w/Shifferly Road**, Memorial Park, Columbus Grove, facebook.com/CGJuneJubilee
- ◆ Jun 15 **Father's Day Fishing Derby**, Faurot Park, Lima, wochristianchamber.com/event/fathers-day-weekend-fishing-derby
- ◆ Jun 15 **Zuma 5k Run/Walk**, Montezuma, letsdothis.com/gb/e/zuma-5k-runwalk-215282
- ◆ Jun 21-23 **Maria Stein Country Fest 2024**, Maria Stein, mscountryfest.com
- ◆ Jun 21-22 **Country Rumble Music Festival 2024: Walker Hayes & Ashley McBryde**, Allen County Fairgrounds, Lima, facebook.com/CountryRumble
- ◆ Jun 21 **MSVW/VWFC Block Party Car/Bike Show**, Fountain Park, Van Wert, facebook.com/mainstreetvanwert
- ◆ Jun 23 **Lima Ninja Warrior 2024**, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Center Park, Lima, eventbrite.com/e/lima-ninja-warrior-2024-tickets-773971719247
- ◆ Jun 24 **Lima Half-Mile Motorcycle Racing**, Allen County Fairgrounds, Lima, limahalf-mile.com
- ◆ Jun 25 **Comedian Bert Kreischer World Tour**, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, Lima, limaciviccenter.com/bertkreischer

Happy Retirement to Cindy Raterman

Celebrating 21 years of dedicated member service



CELEBRATE NATIONAL Family Month



Winners will be selected each week of June on our Facebook page: @MidwestElectric. Visit midwestrec.com for more information.



PEAK ALERT SEASON IS HERE

A peak alert occurs when all of Ohio's electric cooperatives approach a new peak demand for electricity usage each year. This is important because Midwest Electric purchases the electricity we use based on the total kilowatt hours of electricity our members use. When we set a new usage peak it can mean a higher rate for electricity next year.

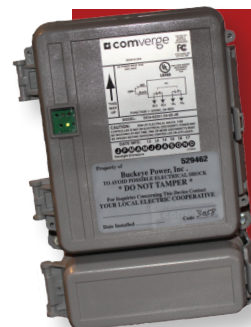
We share peak alerts on our social media channels and website. We ask members to help out by reducing usage during those times. A peak alert is not a shortage of electricity. It is a way to manage the cost of purchasing higher cost electricity. By lowering usage during times, members reap the benefit in the form of a lower cost for power.

How you can help!

- Raise your thermostat if possible to where comfortable. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends 78 degrees.
- Turn off lights and appliances you aren't using. It's a waster of energy and your money.
- Delay doing laundry, running the dishwasher or using other major appliances until later in the evening.

- In the summer, take advantage of using the outdoor grill to keep cooking heat outside.

By working together, we can curb the demand for electric power. This teamwork is a win-win for everyone, as the cooperative consistently works toward the goal of keeping the cost of power as low as possible.



Get a \$50 initial account credit + \$5 account credit per month during peak months (June-September) by having a Radio Controlled Switch device installed on your HVAC system or hot water heater. Visit www.midwestrec.com/cool-returns to learn more and sign up.