

HOT LINES

October 2020

News about your community and cooperative



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

The California wake up call

You may have heard about the rolling blackouts in California in mid-August. The blackouts occurred because there wasn't enough electricity being generated to meet the demand. In other words, there was a shortage of electricity. California spent the past 15 to 20 years reducing coal and natural gas-based generation, becoming increasingly reliant on renewables. Californians also pay 60% more than the national average for electricity.

Let's learn from California's mistakes. Let's continue to develop and explore renewable technology. But we can't deny the scientific fact that renewables cannot supply power 24/7/365 in all weather conditions. Therefore, fossil fuels and nuclear power absolutely must remain a significant part of America's power mix.

Midwest Electric and Buckeye Power (the power supplier for Ohio's electric cooperatives) support an all-of-the-above power generation strategy that includes coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydro, wind, biogas, and solar. All of those, except nuclear, are in our portfolio. We help individual members who install their own renewable power, and we buy their excess production. We also have an EnviroWatts program where you can purchase



renewable power without putting equipment on your property.

As a country, we need to continue to explore and support all forms of power generation, so we maintain a diverse portfolio of energy sources. It isn't wise to put all our eggs in one basket, whether that basket is fossil fuels or renewables.

Our job is to provide affordable and reliable electricity for YOU, our members. In order for it to be reliable, it must be available 24/7/365. Please help us support public policy that encourages an all-of-the-above energy strategy.



Who **POWERS** you?

Inspired by someone making a difference in your community?
Tell their story and they could win a cash prize.

Visit whopowersyou.com between 9/8/20 and 10/9/20 and submit a photo of your nominee. Then tell us why that person inspires you and how they make a difference in your co-op community.



\$5,000
GRAND PRIZE

\$2,000
SECOND PLACE

\$1,500
THIRD PLACE

\$500
HONORABLE
MENTION

Ward off energy waste

Did you know that electric devices can continue to use energy even when they are not in use? When equipment is plugged in and left idle, power is drawn from the outlets. This leads to increasing energy waste and spiked utility bills. This energy waste is also referred to as a “phantom” or “vampire” energy.

Stand-by power is used when an electronic device is consuming energy aside from performing its main function. Common phantom power culprits include computers, battery chargers, and treadmills. Stand-by power accounts for between 3-10% of energy costs.

Use these tips to avoid stand-by power loss:

- When possible, unplug all electronics not in use, especially those not often used.
- Consider powering down devices rather than leaving them on standby mode for extended periods.
- Power strips can aid efficiency as they can turn off all devices that are plugged in with flip of a switch.
- Smart power strips use advanced technology to turn off the power from idle electronics automatically.
- When shopping for new electronics, invest in ENERGY-STAR-certified products, which have a lower standby rate of energy consumption.
- By using an electronic timer, you can reduce the standby load on items used only in select periods of the day, such as coffee pots.

We're here to *help you save*

Given the challenging times we've all experienced, here are a few ways your co-op can help you save energy and money.

HOME ENERGY AUDITS

An energy audit is one of the best ways to determine how energy efficient your home is — an audit can also identify areas for potential energy savings. We are offering free TeleAudits, a virtual home energy audit by phone, where our energy advisor will analyze your home's past energy use, ask questions about your home and family routine, and offer specific suggestions on ways you can reduce your electric use and potentially lower your bill. Just call our office at 800-962-3830 to get an appointment set up.

REBATES & INCENTIVES

We offer rebates on everything from ENERGY-STAR appliances to air-sealing and insulation. We even have a new \$200 rebate for electric vehicle charging stations, and a \$50 rebate for enrolling in Cool Returns, which is as simple as allowing us to install a radio-controlled switch on your air-conditioner to help the co-op conserve energy during Peak Alerts. Learn more at midwestrec.com/rebates or call 800-962-3830.

Community Calendar

PLEASE NOTE: Because of the coronavirus situation, many events may be canceled or postponed. Please seek updated information before traveling.

- ◆ Oct. 3 **Wapakoneta Athletic Booster Purse Bingo**, Auglaize County Fairgrounds
- ◆ Oct. 3 **Neil Diamond Celebration**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, 2 pm & 7:30 pm, 419-238-6722
- ◆ Oct. 24, 31 **Trick or Treat**, 10 am to noon at various businesses on Main Street in Van Wert
- ◆ Oct. 31 **Happy Halloween!** Safety tip: Use battery-powered candles in jack-o-lanterns instead of live candles to reduce fire risk.