

# HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

August 2020

News about your community and cooperative

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830  
www.midwestrec.com

## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

### HELP US BEAT THE PEAK (& SAVE)

Did you know that during the peak times of 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the hottest days, electricity costs more?

If you can lower your family's electric use during peak hours on the extreme hottest days, you can help do your part to keep our electric rates stable. We've been able to maintain our rates since August 2010, but with rising costs, load management is more important now than ever.

Please try to shift your use of electricity to earlier or later in the day during hot days (and the coldest winter days). Make sure to turn off things that are not in use or not necessary. Whether you can put off laundry, avoid running the dishwasher, wait to shower, or turn up the thermostat just a few degrees, it all helps immensely.

**How much does this help?** The list to the right shows how much it costs the cooperative when you have one of these

items on during a peak hour. This is a cost we continue to pay every month on our wholesale power bill — even long after the month you used the item during the peak hour. This is why we need YOUR help during peak alerts!



Dave Waltermire  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
COORDINATOR

Item	Monthly cost to co-op
100-watt lightbulb.....	.80¢
Television .....	\$1.61
Computer, printer, etc.....	\$2.41
Dishwasher.....	\$8.04
Swimming pool pump.....	\$16.08
Air conditioner.....	\$24.12
Clothes dryer.....	\$28.14
Electric oven.....	\$32.16

## Cost of service study shows need for rate change

Your Midwest Electric Board of Directors and management staff, with the help of a rate consultant, are completing a review of our electric rates. This is called a “cost of service study.”

Rate design is a balancing act between meeting our revenue needs on the one hand and minimizing member impact on the other. Creatively resolving tension between these two important goals is one of our most important challenges in implementing fair and equitable rates.

Since we are not-for-profit, we do not need large profits to satisfy faraway owners (in fact, we don't have shareholders; our members — aka, you — are the owners). Rather, we simply

need to recover our costs of doing business, as well as provide sufficient margins to reinvest back into our electric distribution system and cover patronage equity refunds to members.

Our last rate increase was in August 2010. Since that time, we've invested \$30 million in power reliability projects and maintenance. Our studies show that since we haven't changed rates in 10 years, our revenues are projected to fall short of expenses.

Although it's too early to tell what the new rates will be, we anticipate they will take effect in early 2021. We will continue to keep you informed as we learn more.



## CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7		9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

### Community Connection Fund seeks trustees

**The CCF is looking for a trustee from Allen-Putnam, Auglaize-Shelby, and Van Wert counties to serve on the board.**

You'll be reimbursed for related expenses; no background is necessary. Current trustees say serving gives them "a tremendous satisfaction" and teaches them about local needs. If you are interested, please contact [dwaltermire@midwestrec.com](mailto:dwaltermire@midwestrec.com) or call our office.

### Death in the family?

If an account holder passes away, please contact us at your earliest convenience so the patronage account can be paid out or transferred.


### Nominate a farmer you know to win \$100!

We are looking for farmers and agricultural businesspeople whose hard work, strong ethics, and dedication deserve kudos. The only qualification is that the farmer or ag business being nominated is a Midwest Electric member.

Submit your nominee's name and town of residence, where they work/what they do, a high-resolution photo(s), and a description of why they deserve recognition via email to [skuhn@ppec.coop](mailto:skuhn@ppec.coop).

At the end of the year, we'll hold a vote for the farmer/ag business our members feel most deserves to be "Farm Famous." The grand prize winner will receive a feature story/custom cover on the magazine, and a \$100 bill credit. Nominate your farmer today!

## DISCONNECT NOTICES: how they work & what to do



Midwest Electric bills are due by the 10th of each month. If your bill is still unpaid by the time of the next monthly billing, then that month's printed bill will include text saying **\*\*Disconnect Notice.\*\*** Payments to avoid a disconnection of service must be received in our office or via our website by the date listed on the notice.

In addition to the printed disconnect notice on your bill, we make many attempts to contact

members who are behind on their bills. We place automated calls, send e-mails, and make personal phone calls.

**We are flexible about making payment arrangements with members who respond to our contact attempts.** However, once an employee visits your home to collect, no arrangements will be made. The full amount due, plus fees, must be paid.

If an employee is sent to your home to collect a delinquent bill/disconnect service for non-payment,

a collection fee will be added. All outstanding charges on disconnected accounts must be paid — including past electric use, collection and reconnection fees, and security deposit — before we'll reconnect the electric service.

Accounts that have been disconnected for non-payment will be sent to a collections agency. Collections, legal, and other fees may also be added to these accounts. Please read all notifications carefully and call us with questions.



## New \$200 rebate available for electric vehicle charging stations

Ever considered purchasing an electric vehicle (EV)? If so, you aren't alone. Your community co-op is here to help with a \$200 rebate for home EV charging stations! Plus, your charging station can integrate with our SmartHub software, giving you key, up-to-date electric use information at your fingertips.

Member Craig Hart of Fort Recovery (pictured at left) was the first to take advantage of our new rebate program with his Tesla X. (Read more about his experience "going electric" on our website.)

We offer rebates on everything from ENERGY STAR refrigerators and AC units to air-sealing, insulation, and even geothermal or air-source heat pumps. Call our office at 800-962-3830 or visit [midwestrec.com/](http://midwestrec.com/) rebates to learn more.