

# HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

November 2020

News about your community and cooperative

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www.midwestrec.com

## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

### Helping members be efficient in their *electric use*

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we are different than your average utility. We don't have shareholders; rather, we are run by a democratically elected board that represents our members (the people who buy electricity from us — AKA, you!) from each district. We operate at cost, with any leftover revenues at the end of the year typically being paid back to members as capital credits.

So when we say we as a cooperative are here to help, support, and empower our members and community, we mean it. Here are a few of the ways we are helping members be more efficient in their electric use:

#### Home or business energy audits

Midwest Electric offers three kinds of FREE energy audits:

- Over-the-phone: Simply call us at 1-800-962-3830 and our customer service representatives or energy advisors can analyze your energy use and help you determine where your energy dollars are going and how you can save.
- Tele-Audits: We are offering full-scale energy audits virtually by video chat. Our energy audit representative will do a virtual walk-through at your home with you and identify areas of potential savings, as well as project recommendations. Call us to learn more.

*Note: Normally we offer in-person home or business energy audits, but they are temporarily unavailable due to COVID-19. We are tentatively planning for in-person audits to be available again later in 2021.*

- Do-it-yourself home walk-through: We have printable checklists for members to conduct an assessment of their home on their own. Call our office or email [info@midwestrec.com](mailto:info@midwestrec.com) to request one. You can also visit [www.togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com) for more DIY energy efficiency projects and instructions.

#### Energy calculators

It's hard to know how to save money on electric bills if you don't first know exactly how much you're spending in each area of your home. We have various energy calculators available on our website at [www.midwestrec.com/energy-calculators](http://www.midwestrec.com/energy-calculators), including lighting calculators, appliance calculators, and heating and cooling calculators.



#### Rebates and incentives

Whether you're adding insulation to your attic or buying a new air-conditioning unit with a radio-controlled switch, your electric cooperative offers incentives to help you save money. Restrictions apply; call first for details. Here are a few examples of our rebates:

- Geothermal and air-source heat pumps (\$500)
- Electric water heaters and heat pump water heaters (\$200)
- ENERGY STAR-rated central air-conditioning unit (\$100)
- Electric vehicle charging station (\$200)
- Insulation and air sealing (\$200)
- Energy efficient new home construction (\$900)
- ENERGY STAR-rated refrigerator/freezer (\$50)
- Off-peak electric rate (up to 10% discount)



#### Watch our communications tools

Keep your eye out for our monthly *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine, which contains helpful energy-saving tips and resources. Be sure to follow and like our Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube pages online as well, where we share videos and other user-friendly content straight from your co-op friends and neighbors. You'll get the inside scoop!



Facebook: @MidwestElectric



Twitter: @MidwestREC



YouTube: [YouTube.com/MidwestElectric](https://www.youtube.com/MidwestElectric)

## Before you buy that space heater, CHECK OUR CALCULATOR!



Do you know how much your space heater costs to run each month? You might be surprised how expensive they can be. Be prepared so you know what to expect on winter bills.

Go to [midwestrec.com](http://midwestrec.com) > My Home > Energy Calculators > Space Heater Calculator. Use the kWh rate of 11 cents (\$0.11). After exploring the calculators, you can conduct an online home energy audit with downloadable projects by clicking the "Energy Audits and Tips" drop-down menu. You can also print a home walk-through checklist.



**Did you know?** Running two space heaters for 12 hours per day will add about \$118.80 to your monthly electric bill!



**POLE TESTING IN CHICKASAW AREA**

As part of Midwest Electric's work plan, utility poles are inspected on a regular basis. This fall, the cooperative contracted EPIC Utilities Services to examine roughly 1,250 poles and padmount transformers in the Chickasaw area. To check their condition, poles are exposed just below the surface and examined for decay or damage, as seen in the photo above. Those that show signs of weakening are repaired or replaced. Regular inspections help prolong the lifespan of utility poles, which can last 20 to 30 years, and allows your co-op to continue providing the reliable, affordable power our members depend on.



### UTILITY POLES ARE NOT BULLETIN BOARDS

Please keep the safety of our linemen in mind. Don't attach anything to our electric poles, as staples, nails, and other fixtures could puncture our crews' protective gear and interfere with work that may need done. This also makes the poles deteriorate faster (see story at left).

We've been seeing an increase in attaching flags to utility poles. Though we love and appreciate the patriotism, we ask that you please hang them elsewhere. Thank you for your understanding.



**GOING BLACK FRIDAY OR CYBER MONDAY**

## SHOPPING?

Check our rebates first!

- **\$500** — Geothermal or air-source heat pump
- **\$200** — Air sealing
- **\$200** — Insulation
- **\$200** — Electric water heater
- **\$500** — Replace propane with electric water heater
- **\$50** — ENERGY STAR refrigerator/freezer or AC unit/mini-split (**\$100**)

We also offer **FREE energy audits** and recommendations. Please call our office at 1-800-962-3830 for details or visit [www.midwestrec.com](http://www.midwestrec.com) > My Home > Rebates. Specifications apply and rebates must be pre-approved.

## Community Calendar

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

- ◆ Nov. 3 **ELECTION DAY**, Visit [voteohio.gov](http://voteohio.gov) or [vote.coop](http://vote.coop) for resources
- ◆ Nov. 6-7 **Holiday Vendor Market**, Friday (5-9 pm) & Sat (10-4 pm), Auglaize Co. Fairgrounds
- ◆ Nov. 7-8 **Tri-State Gun Show**, Sat (8:30-4 pm), Sun (8:30-3 pm), Allen Co. Fairgrounds
- ◆ Nov. 8-10 **Holiday Open House**, Village of St. Henry
- ◆ Nov. 14 **Strength of Spirit Concert**, Lima Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 pm, Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center
- ◆ Nov. 14 **Shop Till You Drop Event**, 9-3 pm, Moon City Music & Event Center
- ◆ Nov. 20-21 **Winter Market at UNOH Event Center**, Fri (5-9 pm), Sat (9-4 pm)