



**Wabash
County REMC**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**350 WEDCOR AVE.
WABASH, IN 46992**

PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS

Local (260) 563-2146
Toll Free (800) 563-2146
Fax (260) 563-1523
E-mail mail@wabashremc.com
Call Before You Dig (800) 382-5544
**Office hours: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday**

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

- Check circuit breakers or fuses first.
- If possible, check to see if neighbors are also out.
- To report a power outage during business hours, call our office at 563-2146 or (800) 563-2146. After-hours, call our toll-free number at (866) 336-2492. Give the name under which the service is listed. If possible, give map location and account number from bill.
- Give us your phone number in case we need to call you back. State the problem, such as loss of power, partial power, dimming or flickering lights.
- Please be patient. Our crews will restore service as quickly as possible.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 — Claude Markstahler, president
1123 E 700 N,
North Manchester (260) 774-8155

District 2 — Robert Hippensteel
2829 W. State Road 114, No. 2
North Manchester (260) 982-4707

District 3 — James Keffaber
2402 S 530 W, Wabash (260) 563-5436

District 4 — Max R. Highley, vice president
2047 E. Baumbauer Road
Wabash (260) 782-2341

District 5 — D'Ann Stouffer
4152 W 700 S, Wabash (260) 563-8500

District 6 — Steven Byerly, assistant secretary
2205 E 700 S, Wabash (765) 981-4549

District 7 — Gene Bowman, secretary
11930 S 700 W, Amboy (765) 395-7546

CREDIT CARD BILL PAYMENT



Wabash County REMC offers our customers the option of paying their electric bills with Visa or MasterCard.

co-opNews

Information from your electric cooperative

FROM YOUR ENERGY ADVISOR

Just how tight is too tight?

by Ray Weiss

As the cost of energy increases, home owners and builders are doing more to reduce the air entering our homes. Such air sealing and insulating is important and very much needed to better control or lessen the cost of heating the home. Compared to the drafty homes that were so common a generation or two ago, today's homes are better sealed and insulated.

On occasion, the question is, can a home become too tight? Well, the answer may be yes and no. We worry more about a home that uses gas or oil to heat that home. The fossil fuel furnace relies upon air for combustion. The air that is used for combustion inside the furnace must then be exhausted out the flue. However, for air to be exhausted, an equal amount of air must enter the home to replace the air going out the flue. Therefore, a gas or oil heated home must have free-flowing air entering the home and exiting through the flue to carry away the carbon monoxide and other contaminants that occur when the fuel is burned.

Since an all-electric heating system is flameless, there is never such a concern. Thus, an all-electric home rarely becomes too tight. For that reason, we always encourage an all-electric home to be insulated to a higher standard. We simply do not want you to waste energy.

The tightness of a home is measured in air changes which reflect the volume of air entering and leaving the home. For example, if the air entering a home is equal to the total volume of air inside the home, the house undergoes one air change per hour. When a home was built more than 30 years ago, the builder paid less attention to efforts to reduce the air entering the home. A home of this age, with insufficient insulation, may experience three to four air

changes per hour. As you might expect, such high levels of air exchanges will cause higher heating costs.

With careful attention to sealing all the holes and cracks in the home, and adding a significant amount of insulation, you can dramatically reduce the air exchange and lower heating costs. In an older home, it will take a lot of work and a lot of insulation, but it is possible to achieve

one air change per hour. Seldom can you get such a home too tight.

On the other hand, a well-sealed and super insulated new home can achieve .6 air changes per hour or less. In most cases such homes are still not a problem, however, if a home is tight enough to have fewer than .35 air changes per hour, you need to take steps to bring more outside air indoors. However, simply allowing outdoor air to enter the home is not the energy-efficient way to do so.

A better method is to install a heat recovery ventilator. These devices allow the air entering and exiting the home to pass through. The heat recovery ventilator transfers heat from the air exiting the home to the air entering the home. By capturing or recovering the heat that normally is lost from the exiting air, the heat lost from the home is dramatically reduced. Again, it is more important to install a heat recovery ventilator in a home that uses gas or oil heat.

Wonder what steps you can take to reduce the air exchange in your home? The energy advisor at Wabash County REMC is always ready to meet with you and look over your home. He can offer suggestions on ways to tighten up your home and reduce your energy use and heating cost. It's another way that we provide free advice when you want it and help when you need it.

Ray Weiss is the member services manager and energy advisor at Wabash County REMC.



Copper theft is deadly

It's a problem that has become an epidemic in the utility industry. Across the country, increasing incidences of copper theft are met with rising fatalities and outages to thousands of people.

Since last fall, more than 15 states have reported more than one fatality during the process of stealing copper wire. The number of injuries has also been climbing, with Nevada being particularly hard hit, when a record 43 break-ins resulting in injuries at substations occurred across the state in a recent month. Authorities in Detroit are still trying to determine the identity of a man found electrocuted beneath a power line last November. The man was burned beyond recognition.

"Stealing wire from an electric substation or utility pole can cause serious injuries and death to the person involved. Such thefts also can cause extensive outages, fires and explosions – consequences that impact innocent people," said Molly Hall, Safe Electricity executive director. "The minimum damage that can occur is an outage, which may affect thousands of individuals."

"These deaths and damages are completely unnecessary and could happen anywhere," added Ray Weiss, energy advisor at Wabash County REMC. "People must be aware of this kind of theft and that tampering with electric power facilities can result in extremely dangerous situations. Always alert Wabash County REMC or local law enforcement officials when you see or suspect suspicious activity."

Safe Electricity offers these tips to help safeguard against electrical dangers and prevent copper theft:

- Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, hanging wire, etc. contact your electric utility immediately.
- If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities, other than utility personnel or contractors, call the police.
- Install motion-sensor lights on the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.
- Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location. Never leave them out while away.
- If you work in construction, do not leave any wires unattended or leave loose wire at the job site, especially overnight. Consider hiring a night security guard.
- Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper.

Copper theft is not harmless. Dealing with any metal and electricity is a dangerous combination, especially when it is done without permission or training, and places the thief and others in danger.

"If you think that stealing electric wire is a quick way to earn some easy money, think again," said Weiss. "The value of metal is not worth losing a life."

For more information, visit Safe Electricity at www.SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is an electrical safety, public awareness program supported by a coalition many electric utilities in the Midwest, promoting electrical safety.

Co-op employees on a mission

Two employees of Wabash County REMC recently completed mission trips to assist those in need.

Jeremy Sweet, one of Wabash County REMC's apprentice linemen, and his wife, Lorissa, joined a group from College Corner Church on a mission trip this past January to Gulfport, Miss. The goal was to help victims of Hurricane Katrina rebuild their destroyed homes. The group worked in small crews, alongside a group from "God's Katrina Kitchen," which still feeds 700 to 800 people a day.

Sweet used his talents to install and finish drywall, install trim and repair a home owner's bathroom.

Sweet smiled and said "I'm not a great carpenter, but I made due with the material we were provided. While it may not have been square, the work was appreciated by the people."

A sign hanging in the room they used for sleeping quarters (a tool shed with three sets of bunk beds) read, "Forgive us our mistakes as we forgive our predecessors."

This is not the first time Sweet witnessed the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Just after the storm, he and fellow lineman Dick Brickley joined with a group of Indiana electric cooperative linemen who volunteered to help restore power in some of the most devastated areas of the Gulf Coast.



Members of College Corner Church, including REMC employee Jeremy Sweet, participated in a mission trip to Mississippi.

Wabash County REMC is very proud of this young man who volunteers his time and energy to help others in need.

Wabash Friends Church sent a team of 18 on a mission trip to High Gate, Jamaica. Included in that group were Wabash County REMC's Working Foreman Randy Miller and his wife, Patty. The group's mission was to build two houses.

One of the homes built was for a gentleman who was crippled and had been living in a hut that leaked with the only dry spot being his bed.

"The guy was so happy about his new home, he cried his eyes out," said Miller.

The second home built was for a lady and her four children. Christian Service International donated a bed for the mother, plus a couple sets of bunk beds for the children. This is the first time the family had ever slept on their own beds.

Miller said, "I didn't realize the poverty was so bad in Jamaica. The majority of the people don't live in houses, but in huts with tin roofs and nothing on the sides".

This was Miller's first mission trip.

About his mission trip, he said, "This was a real learning experience about a lot of aspects of life."

Wabash County REMC wants to thank Miller and his mission team for their hard work, generosity, and spirit in helping others that are in need.



Wabash Friends Church Jamaican mission team included co-op employee Randy Miller.

Weaver graduates from REAP

On Jan. 27, Wabash County REMC employee Bryan Weaver graduated from the Rural Electric Apprenticeship Program (REAP).

The REAP program, sponsored by the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, provides classroom and hands-on training for linemen entering the rural electric cooperative field. His training consisted of 576 hours of classroom instruction, 8,000 hours of on-the-job training, plus nine hands-on schools on topics such as metering, pole climbing and safety.

Upon completion of his training, he earned the title of journeyman lineman. He also received an applied science degree in apprentice-



Bryan Weaver

ship technology from Ivy Tech as an electric line technician.

Prior to his employment at the REMC, Weaver graduated from Vincennes University. Weaver and his wife, Kathy, have two sons, Tyler and Kyle. They are members of Westview Wesleyan Church. Weaver enjoys coaching baseball, camping, hunting and fishing.

"I am proud of the hard work Bryan has put forth in these last four years. It takes a lot of commitment and work and is quite an accomplishment," said Manager of Operations Richard Carver. "I am also grateful for our other operations personnel whose guidance is invaluable."

FREE ... FREE ...FREE

Water Heaters

- Wabash County REMC will provide a FREE 50-gallon electric water heater for your home when one or more of the following conditions are met:
 1. Installed in new home construction
 2. Replaces a gas water heater
 3. Replaces an existing water heater that is leaking or non-repairable
 4. Replaces an existing water heater that is over 20 years old, regardless of its working condition
- Note: Installation of a load management switch is required.
- For more details, call the office (563-2146 or 800-563-2146).



Automatic bill payment plan available

When requested, Wabash County REMC can automatically draw money from your bank account to pay your monthly electric bill. Once you have signed up for the plan, you will receive a statement each month with "BANK DRAFT

DO NOT PAY" printed across it. The bank will automatically withdraw funds from your bank account approximately three days prior to the due date. To enroll, please contact our office.

Tired of your slow Internet connection?

Your REMC now offers wireless high-speed Internet service to a major portion of Wabash County.

- Now serving in and several miles around Lagro, Wabash, North Manchester, Roann, Richvalley and Lafontaine areas
- High-speed wireless Internet service available to all homes which can receive a signal.
- No phone line needed!

\$29.95/month and onetime \$99-\$159 installation charge.

**Call Omnicity, Inc.
at (877) 477-SURF**



CO-OP NOTES

Security light rental

Monthly rental fee	175-watt	\$ 8.25
	400-watt	\$13.00

Includes all electrical use and maintenance. Extra cost for additional pole or wire required to serve light.

Heating incentives

New or replacement Geothermal heating installation	\$600
New or replacement all-electric heat pump installation	\$600

FREE water heater

For residential applications, a water heater will be furnished at no cost, when certain qualifications are met.

For non-residential applications, water heaters may be purchased @\$250 plus tax.

Water heater rebate

If a water heater is purchased elsewhere or a new home is equipped with a new water heater, a \$100 rebate applies.

Meter base surge arrestor

Monthly rental fee \$4.95
Wabash County REMC offers a complete surge protection program. Contact us to arrange an in-home review of your surge protection needs.

Come out of the shadows

A security light rental brightens your night by adding safety and security to your home and property for only

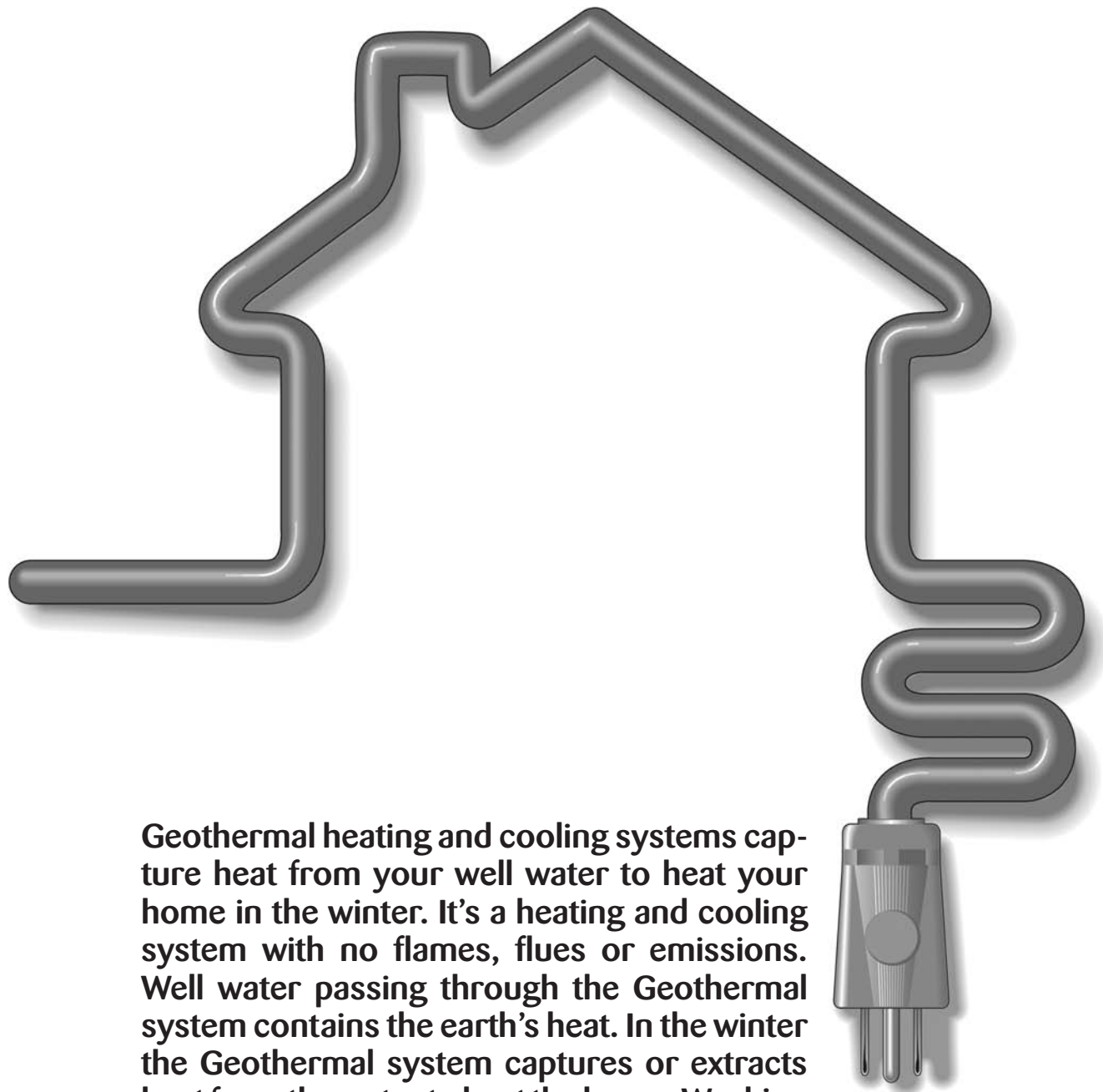
\$8.25 per month

This service includes:

- No-cost maintenance
- Free lamp replacement
- No cost for electricity used



**For other lighting options
Call 563-2146
or (800) 563-2146**



Geothermal heating and cooling systems capture heat from your well water to heat your home in the winter. It's a heating and cooling system with no flames, flues or emissions. Well water passing through the Geothermal system contains the earth's heat. In the winter the Geothermal system captures or extracts heat from the water to heat the home. Working in reverse in the summer, the Geothermal system transfers the house heat to the water.

Using the earth as your heating and cooling source, a Geothermal system will reduce your heating cost over 65 percent, reduce your cooling cost over 50 percent, and reduce your water heating cost over 50 percent.

Want to learn more? Call 563-2146 or (800) 563-2146 for a consultation and information packet about Geothermal heating.



A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

