




**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 811

**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

The Touchstone Energy Home

More comfortable, more efficient

For more than 40 years, Wabash County REMC has offered information and advice to help our members. Our Member Service and Energy Advisor programs have always encouraged members to use energy wisely and efficiently. At different times, we have promoted higher efficiency electric heating systems, adding insulation and even using energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs, all in an effort to help our members achieve lower utility bills.

Today we introduce the Touchstone Energy Home program to encourage the construction of homes and major room additions that are built to a higher standard of energy efficiency and comfort. Through this program, Touchstone Energy cooperatives, like ours, have worked with experts

from the energy and homebuilding industries to identify specific construction features that will make homes more comfortable, while reducing the energy costs.

Using the information obtained, the improved construction standards listed are being called the Touchstone Energy Home standards. These standards provide the information needed by a builder to construct homes with a higher level of energy efficiency and comfort. Some of the more important features of a Touchstone Energy Home include:

- Controlling air infiltration throughout the house to reduce drafts and air leaks.
- Attic insulation that provides a minimum of R-42 value.
- Wall insulation must have at least R-19 insulation.
- Externally vented exhaust systems in bathrooms and kitchen.
- Attic ventilation with ridge vents and aerated soffits.

- A conditioned crawlspace with R-10 perimeter insulation and moisture control.

- Double pane, low-e glass in windows and insulated exterior doors.

- An energy efficient electric water heater with at least a .94 energy factor.

- An energy efficient heat pump or geothermal unit.

When built to the Touchstone Energy Home standards, a home will use at least 20 percent less energy than the typical home. Of course, less energy use means lower heating and cooling cost. In addition, the increased insulation and air tightness will dramatically reduce the drafts and cold spots around the home, resulting in a more comfortable home.

Even if you are not building a new home, many of these standards can be incorporated into your existing home to improve the comfort and lower your heating and cooling costs. For example, an important step you can take is to identify and block sources of air infiltration that create annoying drafts and drive up your heating and cooling cost. You can seal any opening into your attic and increase the insulation in your attic to at least the R-42 level. Another important step is to insulate the basement and crawlspace walls. And, of course, you can upgrade your heating system to the higher efficiency of a heat pump or geothermal heating system.

If you would like to learn more about building a home that meets the Touchstone Energy Home standards or you want to discuss upgrading your existing home, please call our office at 563-2146 or (800) 563-2146 and ask for the energy advisor. Making sure your home is comfortable and helping you lower your energy costs is one more way we offer free advice when you want it and help when you need it.



Touchstone Energy®
HOME™ PROGRAM

*Happy Holidays
from
the board and employees
of
Wabash County REMC*

Protect your valuable equipment

Homes today have more electronic devices and appliances than ever before. This equipment is also more sensitive increasing the need for surge protection.

Surge suppressors

Wabash County REMC can help you protect your equipment with reliable, effective surge suppressors. We offer high quality surge protection devices designed to reduce surges to a level that generally protects the most sensitive electronic equipment. They're effective enough that the manufacturer of the devices provide a warranty that covers repair or replacement of equipment protected by the surge suppressor.

To provide the greatest surge protection, we recommend three levels of protection equipment. Step one is to install a meter base-mounted surge suppressor at the meter. This device traps or reduces the lightning surge to a level tolerated by most large appliances. The device is installed by the REMC and rented for \$4.95 per month.

Lightning surges can enter a home from a TV cable, phone line or electric wire. For that reason, the second layer of protection must be a plug strip at each of the devices you wish to protect. For instance, at the TV, the plug strip must include protection for the TV cable as well as the electric circuit. At the computer, the plug strip must also include protection for the phone line if you are connected to the Internet. Be sure to select a high quality plug strip that includes cable TV and phone line protection. The REMC offers a good surge suppressor for \$69.

The third layer of protection is the electric well pump. Well pumps are a perfect target for a lightning surge. To protect it, we suggest a wired-in surge suppressor at the well pump pressure switch. The REMC sells such a device at a cost of \$120 which must be installed by an electrician.

There is no equipment that will stop every lightning surge. However, if all of these devices are installed, you have provided the most protection possible to reduce the damage. If you would like an on-site visit or just have a question about surge protection, call the energy advisor at (260) 563-2146 or (800) 563-2146.

UPS battery backup

A surge suppressor may prevent damage to the computer, but it will not keep you from losing an unsaved document if the power to your computer is briefly interrupted.

To protect yourself from the unexpected loss of data, it is necessary to install an uninterruptible power supply device (UPS). This battery-powered device stores energy for use during a brief power interruption. Some UPS devices also include surge suppression to give you the greatest protection possible.

Since laptop computers are operated from a battery, a UPS is not needed. To learn more, contact your computer retail store.

Blinking lights and flashing clocks

Have you ever come home from work and found your clocks flashing 12:00? Or have you noticed your lights blinking during a storm? These are often a sign that Wabash County REMC's electrical equipment is working properly.

In times of high winds, tree branches and other debris can often contact the lines. When this occurs, safety equipment on the electric lines called reclosers sense the problem and will momentarily open the circuit, disrupting power to your home. After a few seconds, the recloser will attempt to restore the flow of electricity. If the obstruction has fallen away from the lines, the recloser will close the circuit and electricity will be restored. However, if the obstruction remains, the recloser will open the circuit again. The equipment will usually open and close the circuit three times in an effort to test the lines for a clear path. If the problem persists after three tries, the recloser "locks open" to prevent property damage or personal injury until the problem can be investigated. This usually means a Wabash County REMC crew must be dispatched to find the problem, repair it and physically reclose the circuit. Reclosers and the switches that route power are essential to the safe delivery of electricity. During such brief power interruptions, some clocks lose their memory.

The most aggravating blink is one that reoccurs. Sometimes the reason behind the blink is difficult to diagnose. There are many situations that cause lights to blink, including tree limbs, animals rubbing on guy wires, or birds roosting



on lines and simultaneously flying off when scared causing the top and bottom electric line to smack together. Cracks in insulators on the electric poles can also cause blinks.

The most common question asked by customers is, "What can I do to avoid problems when my lights blink?" Clocks and small electronics can be purchased with a battery backup to avoid resetting after a blink. If a computer is critical to you, an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) will allow the computer to operate during the brief power interruption. A UPS is, in effect, a battery that is continuously charged. During a power interruption, the battery is able to supply the power needs of the computer for a fixed amount of time. The larger the UPS, the longer it will provide uninterrupted power.

To learn more about UPS protection, consult a computer retail store.

It should be noted that the above described "blink" is not the same as a constant flickering or dimming of lights you may experience in your home. If you experience a brief dimming of lights when a large appliance like a refrigerator, furnace or deep freeze starts up, the problem is most likely within your house wiring or the wiring just outside the home. The REMC is willing to inspect the wiring outside the home. If that does not cure the dimming of lights, it will be necessary for you to contact an electrician to inspect the house wiring or appliances. While the problem may be nothing more than a loose connection, in some cases even this minor fault can cause a wire to overheat and can even be a potential fire hazard.

Be safe when using space heaters

Falling temperatures and rising heating costs have many looking to lower home heating bills. Safe Electricity urges extreme caution using electric space heaters to help warm homes this winter.

Approximately one-third of all house fires nationwide occur during the cold home heating season of December, January and February. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the major cause of these winter fires can be attributed to faulty and improper use and maintenance of supplemental heating equipment, such as space heaters.

Safe Electricity offers the following precautions when using electric space heaters:

- Purchase space heaters that have been safety tested and UL approved. Be sure the unit is equipped with an emergency tip-over shut-off feature and heating element guards. Read and follow all of the manufacturer's instructions.

- Before use, check to make sure the heater

is in good condition. Have all problems professionally repaired.

- Place heater out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, nonflammable floor surface — NOT on carpets, furniture or countertops.

- Keep space heaters at least three feet from combustible liquids like fuel, spray cans and paint, as well as flammable items such as draperies, blankets and sofas.

- Never allow pets or children near an electric heater.

- Do not overload circuits. Never use extension cords or multiple plugs with a space heater and make sure the unit is not plugged into the same circuit as other electric appliances.

- Never leave space heaters unattended. Turn off your space heater and unplug it before leaving the room or going to bed.

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



www.wabashremc.com

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!

\$32.95/month and onetime \$149 installation charge.

**Call Omnicity, Inc.
at (877) 477-7873**



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



Shop/Utility Heater

A heavy duty shop heater is displayed and sold in our lobby. Great for primary or supplemental heating, this 5,600 watt electric heater will heat a well-insulated two-car garage. This portable heater comes with a six foot power cord or, for permanent mounting, it can be placed on the wall or ceiling with a swivel bracket. Its installation requires a 240-volt 30-amp electrical circuit. The temperature control thermostat has a 35-85 F range.

Retail Price: \$338

Sale Price: \$220



Electric Patio Heater

Enjoy your backyard, deck, or patio later into the fall, earlier in the spring, and on cool summer evenings with an electric patio heater. With no costly propane tank to refill, our patio heater is an inexpensive way to enjoy the outdoors. The patio heater plugs into a standard outlet to provide warmth outdoors. Using reflective infrared heat technology, the patio heater quickly warms people and objects without being affected by the weather or wind.

Sale Price: \$250

