



**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

## CEO COMMENTS

### Reminder ... new charge on this bill

Last month, I discussed a billing change, beginning with your January bill. That change is a new line on your bill, to be called the "Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment."

This adjustment to the bill will reflect the recent increases in the cost of wholesale power purchased for delivery to your meter.

During the past year, your board of directors attempted to hold the line on rates by purposely absorbing most of the increases in wholesale power cost, with the hope these increases would soon lessen. Unfortunately the wholesale power cost continues to increase and has reached a point where the REMC cannot continue to absorb the extra cost.

The board could have increased the overall rate. However, there is still the hope these increases will lessen in the future. With the possibility the wholesale power cost could level off or even decrease, a line on the bill which reflects only the recent cost increases



**Rob Pearson**  
Chief Executive Officer

or decreases would seem to be the fairest way to pass on these costs. Keep in mind, the new line on your bill does not represent all of the wholesale power cost, only the most recent increases. If the wholesale power cost decreases in the future, the adjustment will show the decreased cost.

While it was called something different in the past, this adjustment is not new. In fact, just a few years past a similar charge was taken off the bills following a period of stable wholesale power

cost. It is unfortunate the costs of all forms of energy have increased and it's unfortunate a cost increase must be passed on to our members at this time.

As a nonprofit rural electric cooperative, it is the mission of this cooperative to provide electric power and energy at the most reasonable cost. While we hate to discuss cost increases, it is a cycle we are in and must be dealt with to maintain the integrity of the cooperative.

## Easy way to save energy, money

The water heater is the second largest energy-user in most homes. (Heating and air conditioning combined is usually the largest.) Using hot water efficiently enables you to save energy and money every month on utility bills.

There are several ways you can reduce hot water needs and energy requirements:

- **Install a more efficient electric water heater provided free from Wabash County REMC.**



- Change some of the family's personal energy habits. By taking shorter showers or shallower baths, hot water needs are reduced.

- Reduce the water temperature to the lowest possible setting that still provides sufficient hot water.

- Use a hot water wash on only those clothing items that require hot water, and always use a cold water rinse. Rinsing with warm water is wasteful and rarely, if ever, better than rinsing with cold water.

- On electric units, install a water heater timer. Setting a timer to heat water four to five hours a day (or less) can produce energy savings.

- If the tank is warm to the touch, adding an insulating blanket can reduce heat loss and energy cost.

## Need heat for your shop or garage?

If you have a shop or garage, or some other utility area that needs supplemental heat or simply needs a complete heating system, your REMC offers a heavy duty electric heater that is ideally suited. It can be used as a portable heater or mounted on the wall or ceiling.

In a well-insulated room this 5,600 watt Raywall heater will heat 500 to 600 square feet. It requires a separate 30-amp 240-volt circuit.

The retail price is \$338, however, it's on sale for just \$220.

Come look at one in our lobby and if it fits your needs you can take one home. Let us show you a quiet, economical and safe way to heat your shop or garage.



# Prepare your home for winter

by Ray Weiss

As the temperature falls, Safe Electricity encourages people to take steps now to improve both home energy efficiency and safety during the home heating season. Energy dollars can pour out of homes through drafty doors, windows, uninsulated attics, walls, floors, and basements while safety risks go unnoticed. A small investment of time now can pay big dividends in keeping your home safe and warm this winter. "Most winterizing steps can pay for themselves relatively quickly with heating bill savings," said Molly Hall of Safe Electricity. "Weather stripping and caulking are inexpensive and among the simplest, most effective ways to boost efficiency and cut energy costs year round."

"As you take steps to winterize your home, you can also inspect for electrical hazards and eliminate electrical fire and shock risks," added Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension engineering educator. "For example, as you check around outlets and other places where air can leak, also check for overloaded outlets and cover plates that are warm to the touch."

Approximately one-third of all house fires nationwide occur during the cold, home-heating season. Many of these winter fires can be attributed to faulty and improper use and maintenance of heating equipment.

Before firing up your heating system, make sure the furnace or heaters are in good working order, and check ducts, flues and chimneys. Have a professional inspect and service your furnace each fall for safety and efficiency. Regularly clean or replace furnace filters during high winter use. An efficient heating system means greater comfort at lower cost. Keeping heating equipment clean and in good repair will ensure peak efficiency and safety.

If an electric space heater is used, make sure the wiring is adequate, and check for cord fraying, splitting wires, or overheating. Don't place a portable heater in high-traffic areas and keep it clear of flammables such as curtains, bedding, clothes and furniture. Never use extension cords with electric heaters.

Use these tips to help cut costs and improve home safety:

- Make sure attics and flooring above unheated spaces, such as crawl space and garage, are appropriately insulated.
- Find air leaks in homes by moistening fingertips and running them around doors or window frames to feel a draft, or hold up a tissue and see if it waves. Check around fixtures that penetrate walls, such as exhaust fans and electrical outlets, and look for gaps near dryer vents, chimneys and faucet pipes. Seal them all with caulking or weather-stripping.
- Replace screens with storm windows and doors. Double-paned glass plays an important role in reducing heat loss. Double-pane windows with low-e coating can reduce heating bills

by 34 percent in cold climates compared to uncoated, single-pane windows. If you have older or leaky windows that you cannot replace, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.

- If you are shopping for new windows, glass doors, or skylights, look for the ENERGY STAR label on that window. Today's high-efficiency windows are 40 percent more energy efficient than standard, windows and can cut heating and cooling costs by 15 percent.

- Consider replacing your furnace if it is more than 20 years old. Furnaces that old are usually less than 70 percent energy efficient.

- Install a programmable thermostat, which can automatically raise and lower home temperatures for energy savings day and night.

"Don't overlook simple energy-saving steps such as opening curtains to let sunshine warm your home, and closing them at night to keep warmth in," reminded Hall, "and make sure fireplace dampers are closed when not in use," she said. "These are effective energy-saving tips that cost you nothing."

While you winterize, you should also look for electrical safety hazards:

- Check outlets and make sure they are not overloaded. Have a professional replace worn

and outdated circuitry, and add enough outlets for appliances and electronics. Switch plates and outlets that are warm to the touch; frequent circuit breaker trips or blown fuses; dimming lights and shrinking monitors are electrical danger signs that should be inspected immediately by a licensed professional.

- Examine electrical cords for cracks, frays and damaged plugs, and don't run under rugs, furniture or behind baseboards.

- Check light bulbs for proper wattage size and make sure they are securely screwed into light fixtures. Don't let bulbs overheat the fixture or burn shades, drapes or nearby furniture.

- Make sure outlets in wet locations such as bathrooms, kitchen laundry and outdoors have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), and test and reset them monthly. If these outlets do not have GFCIs, have them professionally installed.

- Test your smoke detector batteries. Replace them if they are more than six months old.

For additional energy saving and safety tips, visit Wabash County REMC's Web site at [www.wabashremc.com](http://www.wabashremc.com).

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

## Ten \$500 scholarships offered

Once again, Wabash County REMC is proud to offer a scholarship program to financially assist students of REMC members. There is no better way to support our community than to support and assist our young people in their pursuit of higher education. Since the start of the scholarship program, the number of students entering the scholarship drawing has increased. Last year more than 120 students entered their names in the drawing, and we are hoping even more will enter this year.

The selection of winning scholarship winners is from a random drawing at the annual meeting March 26. All of the names of students entering the drawing will be placed in a box, and during the meeting 10 names will be drawn. Each winning student will get a \$500 scholarship for next fall's classes at a college of their choice.

Qualifications for the applicant include:

- The student must attend college during the 2007 fall semester.
- The student may attend any two-year, four-year, or technical school.
- The parents of the qualifying student must be members of the REMC, and their residence must be served by the REMC.
- Students must submit their applications for the scholarship prior to March 1.
- Winners of prior years' scholarships are not eligible.

Since the qualifying student may be attending college, he/she need not be present for the drawing. However, the parents of the student applicants must be present at the annual meeting to accept the winning scholarship prize in the student's behalf.

Yes, I would like to apply for the REMC scholarship drawing at the annual meeting on March 26. I hereby confirm I will be attending college during the 2007 fall semester.

Student applicant \_\_\_\_\_ College name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Account number \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Wabash County REMC, 350 Wedcor Ave., Wabash, IN 46992.**

# 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**

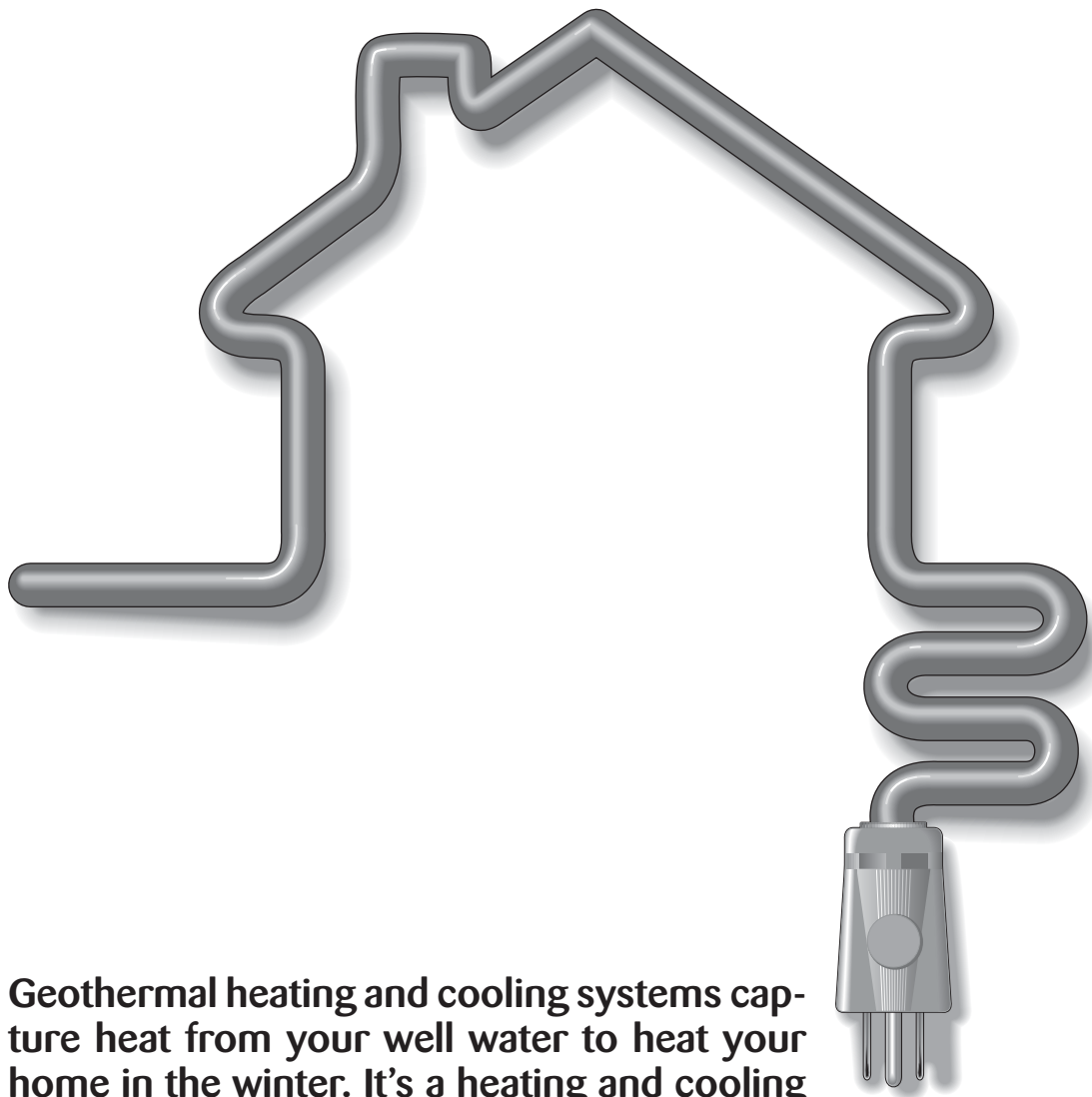
**\$8.25 per month**

*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<sup>®</sup> Cooperative

