




**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

## CEO COMMENTS

# Adjustments in electric rates

It's a topic all managers of electric utilities hate to address: rate increases. Unfortunately, there will be a rate increase for your electric use during 2008.

Consumers will notice the different rate on their February bill (it will take effect for January use). The rate increase for residential consumers will average about 2.9 percent depending on their amount of use. This average is based on our average consumer who uses just over 1,500 kwh. If you use less, you will see a slightly higher increase. The rate for the average commercial customer will increase approximately 11 percent. Again, this will adjust depending on use. The reason for the difference is the way our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association, passes on the cost of buying power. Recently, it has seen a much larger increase in the cost of demand vs. the cost of energy.

There is some good news you will notice on your bill. The line item marked "wholesale power cost adjustment" will be lower. Our power supplier was able to do a good job at making deals for purchasing power and was able to hold down the adjustment needed for next year. This was good timing considering the actual cost of power increased about 5.1 percent, but with the lower "wholesale power cost adjustment," we will only see the 2.9 percent increase.

The reason for this increase is partially obvious, but it's also the beginning of what will come about if mandates by the federal government on climate change are passed. The obvious part is what we are seeing with all energy. As oil goes up, the cost of generating power follows. Even though 94 percent of Indiana power is generated by coal, the cost to produce and the fact we are forced to purchase power through the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO), keeps us more in line with the rest of the energy market.

The part starting to be a big concern to us in the electric energy industry is the hysteresis that have escalated over climate change. Granted, controlling greenhouse gasses and the need to clean up our environment are two things important to us and to generations to come. However, they were issues recognized



**Rob Pearson**  
Chief Executive Officer

several years ago. During the last 25 years, our country has done an excellent job of putting into place new laws and new guidelines to make sure our rivers are not polluted and our air is cleaned up. We have worked on automobile emissions and also regulated the amount of contaminants emitted by factories. These regulations were put into place with the idea of a long-term strategy that didn't make a sudden impact on the consumers buying products. And this strategy was working. It was,

of course, a long-term strategy and was far from reaching the ultimate goal.

Rural electric cooperatives have been part of this initiative for years. We have been involved extensively in load management controls, and using landfills and methane generators to offset the need for new power plants. Now we are also participating in new wind generation and clean coal technology. But it will take time. If our elected officials approve mandates and unrealistic goals on renewable power generation, we will see rates increase at a rapid pace.

I recently read an article that sums it up the best: "It is noble to set a goal and then challenge your best and brightest to meet it. After all, that is how we got to the moon. It is quite another matter to set a mandate and then demand compliance. That is how Boston got its Tea Party."



**Our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association, provides our wholesale power from a mix of fuel. One unique source of power comes from this landfill gas fired generator.**

# CFLs offer greater efficiency

by Ray Weiss

Wabash County REMC is pleased Wabash True Value has joined with us to promote Energy Star's "Change A Light — Change The World" program. The program encourages you to replace traditional incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

While the energy used by a single light bulb is not great, by switching one light bulb to a CFL, the lamp will use 75 percent less energy. The impact of replacing one light bulb may not be earth shattering. However, if every home in America switched just one light bulb to a CFL, it would cut more than \$600 million off the nation's energy costs.

A common concern for widespread use of CFLs is the mercury contained within the bulb. We know mercury is a toxic chemical and bringing it into the home is a concern. While there is a very small amount of mercury in a CFL, it does not pose a danger to the home or the family when used and disposed of properly. The amount of mercury inside a

CFL is roughly four milligrams — barely enough to cover the point of a ballpoint pen.

By comparison, the typical home fever thermometer contains 500 milligrams of mercury and older home thermostats contain as much as 3,000 milligrams or 750 times more mercury than one CFL. CFL manufacturers are researching ways to design efficient CFLs that don't contain mercury, but current technology makes it an essential component of each lamp.

As long as the bulb is not broken, it poses no problem. The key to safe use of CFLs is their disposal. With that in mind, Wabash County REMC offers free disposal of old CFL bulbs. Simply bring in your old CFL bulbs and place them in the special container located in our lobby. When filled, the container is sent to a site designed for disposal of CFLs.

When you need a replacement light bulb, check out the display of CFLs at our office and at Wabash True Value. It's one more way you can reduce your energy use and utility costs. And when they wear out, bring them to the REMC office for disposal.



**Brian Hownstine and Wabash True Value have partnered with Wabash County REMC to promote Energy Star's "Change A Light — Change The World" program. Hownstine's store has a complete line of CFL bulbs. To encourage the use of CFLs, Wabash County REMC also sells a limited line of the bulbs.**

If you have a question about CFLs or other energy-related issues, contact me, your energy advisor.

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

## Manby graduates from RELITE program

Gayle Manby, human resources coordinator at Wabash County REMC, was one of 17 graduates of the Rural Electric Leaders-in-Training Exchange (RELITE) program in 2007.



**Gayle Manby**

The two-year program provides participants with leadership training, communications skills and business networking that encourages them to develop into knowledgeable, committed and effective leaders at work and in the community.

Manby, and her fellow participants, attended nine professional development days during 2007. The program's initial year focuses on leadership skills, team-building, facilitation skills, public speaking, interpersonal communications, a personal mission statement and accountability.

Rob Pearson, Wabash County REMC CEO, stated "We are proud and pleased Gayle has joined other REMC employees who have completed this effective leadership training program. Our sponsorship of RELITE will help our staff develop their personal skills in order to be even more effective employees."

RELITE is a nationally-recognized leadership development program coordinated by the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives and includes participants from electric cooperatives throughout Indiana.

## 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 24. 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 2008 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 24. I hereby confirm I will be attending college during the 2008 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!

**\$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 .....	\$ 9.20
	400-watt .....	\$13.70

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**

# Win a trip to Washington, D.C.!

Students can take part in the 2008 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

Wabash County REMC will again be a sponsor of the 2008 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. One high school junior will be chosen to attend the week-long, all-expense paid trip June 12-19.

## The Trip

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is a great way to learn more about our government and electric cooperatives, as well as develop leadership skills. Not only do delegates tour the museums and monuments in the nation's capital, they have an opportunity to meet with several U.S. congressional representatives and enjoy an inside look of Capitol Hill. Historic Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Battlefield are also memorable stops on the tour.

After spending a day in Indianapolis, the Indiana Youth Tour delegation leaves on the trip on June 13 from Indianapolis and returns June 19. All travel expenses from Indianapolis to Washington, D.C., (including meals, lodging and scheduled events) will be paid. Travel from home to Indianapolis and any incidental expenses incurred by the participant will be his/her responsibility.

## Rules and Regulations

To be eligible for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, the following provisions will govern the acceptance of applications by Wabash County REMC:

1. This summer, the applicants must have completed their junior year in high school, and be enrolled for their senior year.
2. The applicants must be the son, daughter or legal ward of a Wabash County REMC member.
3. An application form may be obtained from the REMC office.
4. The applicant must submit a 300-word essay on "What does my electric cooperative mean to me."
5. The completed application form and essay must be submitted to Wabash County REMC prior to Feb. 28.

## Judging

Judging and selection of applicants is the responsibility of Wabash County REMC.

## Questions

Please contact Ray Weiss at 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

