



**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.

## Ethanol plant under construction

Resembling the furious activity of a beehive, dirt moving and foundation laying is underway for the new POET Biorefining ethanol plant being built three miles north of Urbana. When completed in late 2008, the plant will become our largest customer. The power consumed at this new facility will double the power needs of our next largest customer.

To power the construction equipment, POET asked us to install a 500 kva pad-mount transformer at the site of the construction trailers. From that point, their electrical contractors will install temporary wiring to the actual plant site.

With the transformer installation now complete, work will soon begin on the construction of a substation to be located on the north side of the plant site. When completed, POET will install their own high-voltage cable and transformers at various points in and around the plant. Initially, the anticipated peak power requirements will be around eight megawatts of

electrical energy.

It is projected the state-of-the art ethanol production facility will consume over 22 million bushels of locally-grown corn to produce 65 million gallons of ethanol annually. Those 65 million gallons of ethanol will replace foreign oil that will not be imported. To make the ethanol production even more efficient, POET is researching the next generation of ethanol production involving the use of the corn stalk and even the corn cob to produce cellulose ethanol.

POET Biorefining began in 1983 when the Broin family began experimenting with the production of ethanol. By 1986, they were ready to take their operation commercial. Now called POET Biorefining, their operation has expanded to a network of 21 plants in six states, producing over one billion gallons of ethanol annually.

We look forward to a long and prosperous relationship with POET and its employees.



Land north of Urbana is prepared for the new ethanol plant.



REMC crews use a crane to help set an extra tall pole for a railroad crossing the plant will utilize.



This earth mover prepares ground for construction of the new plant.

## REMC helps collect Coats for Kids

The Youth Service Bureau of Wabash County's Operation Elf program will be collecting coats again this year. Coats for Kids is in need of all sizes of coats. We would also appreciate hats and gloves. The goal of this year's program is to ensure that all children in Wabash County have warm winter apparel.

Coats For Kids will have two drop off sites, Wabash County REMC and the Works. Coats can be dropped off now until Dec. 7. Coats will be distributed in conjunction with Operation Elf. To find out times, dates, and place of distribution, call the Youth Service Bureau of Wabash County at (260) 563-7727.



## Time to inspect your heating system

Cold weather is here and it's time to inspect your heating system. Here are a few things you can do to be comfortable and safe this winter.

- Have a professional check your furnace to ensure its safety, especially if you use gas, propane or other fuels that produce combustion gases. These gases must be safely vented from your home.

- A professional can also do a thorough check of your heat pump to ensure it's working properly. Cleaning the inside and outside coil is an important preventative measure to ensure the system will operate efficiently.

- Check the filter and change it frequently. Whether you have a heat pump or a forced air system, the filter's cleanliness directly affects your system's efficiency.

- Vacuum registers and air returns. Make sure none are blocked by drapes or furniture. Continue vacuuming monthly during the heating season.

- Dust or vacuum electric baseboard heaters to keep them clean.

- Radiators may have to be "bled" to release trapped air in the system.

- Set your thermostat to a temperature required to keep your home comfortable – and leave it there! Try adjusting it by a degree at a time if your home seems cool.

- If you have a programmable thermostat, set it for the heating needs of your home and family, considering times when your home is unoccupied or when you are sleeping.

## FROM YOUR ENERGY ADVISOR

# Propane, oil heating costs rising

by Ray Weiss

Reports this fall from the U.S. Energy Information Administration clearly point to higher oil and propane heating cost this winter. Dramatically higher! For instance, the published reports predict the average heating costs for an oil-heated home will increase from \$1,432 last winter to a record high of \$1,834 this winter. That is a 28 percent increase in heating cost.

Further evidence of the higher oil heating cost can be shown in the cost of wholesale fuel oil. Last September, the wholesale cost of heating oil was \$1.70 per gallon. This September, the wholesale cost of heating oil is \$2.25 per gallon, which is a 32 percent increase in cost.

There have been similar increases in the wholesale cost of propane. During the past year, the wholesale cost of propane has risen from \$1.04 to \$1.29 per gallon. That, again, is a cost increase of 24 percent.

All this translates into higher heating cost this winter. So, whether your home is heated with oil or propane, the cost of heating that home this winter will rise more than 25 to 30 percent. Not in recent years have we seen the cost of heating increase this dramatically.

How much longer do you wish to be at the mercy of that barrel of crude oil? How much longer do you wish to put off switching your heating system to the higher efficiency and lower heating cost of an all-electric heat pump or geothermal heating system?

Surely this is the year to remove that high-cost propane or oil heating system. If so, we encourage you to call the REMC office. I, as your

energy advisor, will be able to offer advice on how best to upgrade your home. In some cases, that advice may be to upgrade the insulation in your home. In other cases, the best advice will be to replace the propane or oil heating system with a heat pump or geothermal heating system.

On the plus side, the cost of electricity has not changed during the past year. That is not to say the cost of electricity will remain the same, any increase will be small in comparison to the cost of other fuels.

In years past, the cost difference was small enough that it was only practical to take out a gas or oil heating system when it failed. Today the savings are great enough that even a perfectly good gas or oil furnace can be replaced with a heat pump. The heating and cooling savings will soon pay for the installation cost.

For those who want details, the break even point between a high-efficiency propane furnace and a heat pump is when propane costs 70 cents per gallon. If you have an oil furnace, the break even point is when oil cost \$1 per gallon. In other words, anytime you pay more than 70 cents or \$1 per gallon, the home can be heated cheaper with a heat pump.

On an annual basis, the typical home can save over \$1,000 per year in lower heating and cooling cost. Guess what? With such a savings, you can take out a gas or oil furnace before it fails, and save enough to pay for its installation.

There is no better time to talk to me, your energy advisor. My advice is free and will be based on facts. Call us today.

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



## Timers help deter holiday criminals

During the winter holidays, the number of home break-ins skyrockets.

Vacations, homes full of visitors and holiday distractions leave homes susceptible to crime. Prevent devastating theft with the help of lighting systems and controls.

Paired with basic security measures like locking windows and dead-bolting doors, a well-lighted home – inside and out – can deter would-be robbers.

Outdoor motion-sensing lights are an economical alternative to outdoor floodlights that you must leave on all night. Motion sensors

illuminate an area only when they sense movement and will shut off automatically when the movement stops.

Indoors, use timers on radios, room lights and TV sets so they turn on and off at random times all day. Timers also work on landscape and patio lights.

Place timers on lights near the front and back windows of a home. And keep them active all year long – not just when you're out of town. A crook who has been watching the home to plan a burglary will notice if there's a change in the lighting routine and suspect your home is empty.

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**Wabash County REMC will be closed Thursday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Nov. 23, for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

# 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.



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## 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**

