

FEBRUARY
2012



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Announcing 2012 Efficiency Programs

Saving energy (and cutting costs) continues to be a hot topic for homeowners, business operators and utilities. By wisely using — and not wasting — energy we can all be winners. Wabash Valley Power Association, (WVPA) the wholesale power supplier to 26 electric cooperatives in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Ohio, is pleased to offer many energy efficiency rebates and programs in 2012.

But why would WVPA and Parke County REMC encourage you to use less of the product we sell? It's simple — building a power plant is very expensive and buying generation is becoming more expensive as well. If we can slow the rate at which we need new power resources, it can help us keep your costs as low as possible — and being a member-owned business, just like your local electric co-op, that's good for all of us. For more information on participation and application forms, please contact your energy services specialist, Jeremy Montgomery at 765-569-3282.

Refrigerator/freezer recycling

- \$35 incentive to recycle an old, inefficient, operating fridge and/or freezer between 10 – 30 cubic feet (inside area).
- Call 1-877-395-5535 to schedule a pickup.

CFL discounts

- Discounts on specific compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) will be offered through an on-line store. Watch for more information coming early in 2012.

Heat pump water heaters

- Up to a \$400 rebate.
- To qualify, units must have an energy factor of greater than 2.0.
- Must replace an existing electric tank water heater.

Air-source heat pumps

- Replace an existing electric-resistance heating system (electric furnace, ceiling cable, or electric baseboard) with an all-electric air-source heat pump that meets our minimum efficiency standards and receive a rebate of up to \$1,500.
- Replace an existing all-electric air-source heat pump with a new all-electric air-source heat pump that meets our minimum efficiency standards and receive a rebate of up to \$250.
- Both require a copy of a heat loss/heat gain calculation and AHRI certificate from your HVAC contractor.

Geothermal heat pumps

- Replace an existing electric-resistance heating system (electric furnace, ceiling cable, or electric baseboard) with an all-

[Continued on back page.]

Physical Address:
119 West High Street
Rockville, IN 47872

Bill Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 269
Covington, IN 47932

Email:
info@pcremc.com

Telephone:
765-569-3133
800-537-3913
765-569-3360 (Fax)

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Want a Chance to Win a \$10 Bill Credit?

Like us on Facebook for a chance to win a \$10 bill credit. Must be Parke County REMC member to qualify for drawing. Deadline to like is March 15, 2012.



IBEC Internet Service Comes to an End

The company that had been providing Internet service over some of Parke County REMC's electric lines ended its service in late January.

The Alabama-based company, known as IBEC, had informed our management that it was experiencing financial problems. However, IBEC's decision to shut down came suddenly and was completely out of our control. We immediately notified all affected members and attempted to direct them to other Internet service providers.

Parke County REMC has a long tradition of working hard to provide reliable service to our members and keep them well-informed. Even though we had no control over IBEC's shutdown, we apologize to the members who were inconvenienced by that company's decision. We continue to be committed to finding ways to bring high-speed Internet service to our members.



Nominate a Veteran to go on the April 22 Honor Flight to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.

REMC Partners with Greater Lafayette Honor Flight

Parke County REMC will sponsor the cost for one WWII veteran on REMC lines to join the April 22 Honor Flight to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. The trip will include a seat on the Honor Flight charter, meals and bus transportation throughout the day-long trip.

For over a decade, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have been working together to support the members of electric cooperatives and the communities where they live. Parke County REMC has served their communities for 75 years, and joining the Honor Flight Network is simply one more way to support their members who have served in the military.

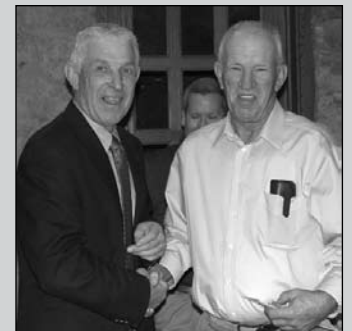
"The parallel between the service of these veterans, known as The Greatest Generation for good reason, and the people who came together to form our cooperative in that same time frame, doesn't go unnoticed," shared Parke County REMC's Carolyn Kilby. "Participating in the Honor Flight Network makes so much sense, and we are privileged to bring this opportunity to one of our cooperative members."

To nominate a WWII veteran on Parke County REMC lines for the April 22nd Honor Flight, fill out the short nomination form at www.pcremc.com or call Parke County REMC at 765-569-4226 to have the form mailed to you.

Employees and Directors Honored for Years of Service



Parke County REMC employees celebrating service anniversaries are pictured above. Front row: Sharon Bodine, 5 years and Tracy Insley, 20 years. Back Row: Rylan Carr, 5 years; Phil Hill, 35 years; Derek Smith, 10 years and Keith Fischer, 40 years.

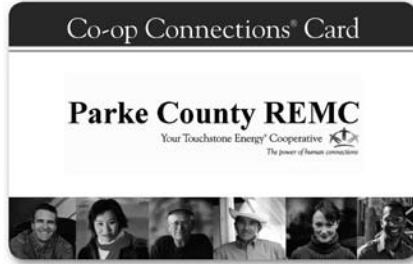


President of the Board of Directors Keith Blaydes congratulates fellow director Gordon Hutcheson for 20 years of service.

Pictured at left, Parke Professional Service employees celebrate service anniversaries. From left to right, Dwayne Marlar, 5 years; Chris Blackburn, 5 years; Tony Newman, 5 years; Ron Crosley 5 years and Rob Reid, 5 years.

New Member-Benefit Program Features Savings and Even Cash Back Rewards

"We've got some very, very exciting new developments," Touchstone Energy® COO Jim Bausell told a Dec. 12 webinar.



One of the major changes is the new My VIP Savings program, which gives co-op members the chance to earn cash back on many online purchases.

To participate, members must go to the Co-op Connections homepage and click on one of the My VIP Savings links. First-time users will be prompted to establish an account, and then it's on to shop at more than 1,000 merchants, including Apple, Best Buy and Wal-Mart.

Members must enter a company's website through the My VIP Savings link to earn rebates, the amounts of which vary by merchant. A member can request a check once he or she earns a minimum of \$25 in cash back rewards.

Another new development is the Healthy Savings Discount program, offering discounts for chiropractic, dental and vision care, as well as lab work and hearing aids.

"We felt the dental benefit was the perfect program to add to the Co-op Connections Card," said Kenda Hoffman, vice president, client benefits, at New Benefits, Touchstone Energy's strategic partner. She cited a recent report that nearly one in three Americans lacks dental insurance.

Humana Dental Access offers discounts of up to 40 percent on most services at some 100,000 providers nationwide.

Coast to Coast Vision will enable co-op members to save on eyewear at national chains including LensCrafters and Target. There are also discounts for contact lenses and laser eye surgery.

"If they have vision insurance they can use their vision insurance until it's exhausted," and then use the discount, Hoffman told the webinar. Members can print a Healthy Savings discount card online to show to providers.

All Parke County REMC members should have received their Co-op Connections card late January in the mail. (The card was not included in the monthly bill it was mailed separately.)

We hope local businesses participating in the Co-op

Connections program benefit from increased traffic from Parke County REMC members. Businesses can sign up for the program at no cost. For a complete list of all participating businesses in our area, simply log on to our website www.pcremc.com and follow the Co-op Connections Card link.

The card also provides access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers like Barnes&Noble.com, Hertz Rental Cars, Best Western hotels and ProFlowers.com. Check out these great national discounts at www.connections.coop.

One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of 10 to 60 percent on prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional, and local pharmacies.

The pharmacy discount has been widely used by members of Touchstone Energy co-ops across the country, resulting in combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions.

Want to find out more? Log on to www.locateproviders.com to search for pharmacies in our area honoring the card. Use code 2203IN24 as the group number under the "Groups" login section. Next, enter your zip code.

We're eager to answer any questions you have about the card and how to take advantage of the discounts it provides. Call us at 765-569-3133 or 800-537-3913 to find out more, or log onto www.pcremc.com.

A wide variety of merchants throughout our community accept the card. Be sure to present the card at the register to receive your discount!

REMC to Host Energy Expo. Mar. 31

Parke County REMC, in conjunction with Tipmont REMC, Carroll White REMC and Wabash Valley Power is sponsoring an Energy Expo on Saturday March 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tippecanoe County 4-H Fairgrounds, West Pavilion, 1010 Teal Road, Lafayette IN.

This expo will feature the latest information on energy efficiency, renewable energy and agricultural programs and grants. This expo will benefit anyone who wants to learn to lower their monthly energy bills. More information is available by contacting the Parke County REMC office at 765-569-3133 or 1-800-537-3913.

Deadlines Approach for Youth Programs

Local students who wish to participate in the Youth Tour to Washington D.C. or Touchstone Energy Camp have until Feb. 28 to submit applications. Touchstone Energy Camp will be held June 6-9 and is for sixth grade students. The Youth Tour will take place June 13-21 and is for high school juniors. Applications for both events are available at the Parke County REMC website, www.pcremc.com.

New Calculations for Power Cost Adjustment

The Board of Directors at Parke County REMC has recently approved a change in how the power cost adjustment (PCA) factor is calculated on your monthly power bill. Beginning with your January 2012 power bill, the power cost factor is calculated using a monthly reconciliation method. This means the PCA will be calculated on a monthly basis and will fluctuate monthly as the cost of wholesale power fluctuates. This is a more timely method in collecting and crediting these costs to the members. The PCA is calculated by multiplying the total kWh usage on your bill by the corresponding month's power cost factor. The current power cost factor for the month of February is \$ 0.005051 or \$5.05 for every 1000 kWhs used.

Efficiency Programs [continued from pg. 1]

electric geothermal heat pump that meets our minimum efficiency standards and receive a rebate of up to \$1,500.

- Requires a copy of a heat loss/heat gain calculation and AHRI certificate from your HVAC contractor.
- No rebate is available to replace an existing geothermal heat pump at this time.

Dual fuel heat pumps

- Replace an existing electric-resistance heating system (electric furnace, ceiling cable, or electric baseboard) with an air-source heat pump and natural gas (or propane) furnace combination that meets our minimum efficiency standards and receive a rebate of up to \$1,500.

- Requires a copy of a heat loss/heat gain calculation and AHRI certificate from your HVAC contractor.

Touchstone Energy® Home

- Building a new home? Want guaranteed heating and cooling costs for the first year? Talk to your electric cooperative's energy advisor about our recommendations for building a high performance and energy efficient home.

Home energy assessment

- Talk to your electric cooperative's energy advisor about performing an energy assessment on your home. He or she can help you prioritize projects and get the most bang for your buck!

Generators are Handy, but can be Dangerous

When the power goes out, having a generator means that you can continue to have heat, light, and many of the other conveniences we've come to enjoy. But there's a darker side to generators that many people fail to consider.

Parke County REMC wants to make sure that local home and business owners use these generators safely. "The hazards associated with portable generators include electric shock, carbon monoxide gas, and fire," explains Dave Stevens, REMC staff electrician at Parke County REMC. "Most of those problems can be avoided with proper use and maintenance."

Parke County REMC offers these tips for safe generator use:

- Never try to use the generator to power the wiring in your house by plugging it into a wall outlet. This approach, called "backfeeding," can endanger the lives of power company workers and your neighbors by sending unexpected, uncontrolled current through the lines.
- Be sure that your generator is properly grounded. It's a good idea to attach it to a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) that will stop the flow of electricity if someone is being shocked.
- Do not exceed the generator's power rating or you may damage the generator and any equipment that's hooked up to it. Overloading a generator can also cause fires.
- If you have to use an extension cord, choose an outdoor cord that has a power rating that can accommodate the total load from the appliances and devices you'll power.

- Don't use your generator in wet conditions. If it's raining or snowing, place some sort of canopy above the generator to protect it from moisture.
- Disconnect and shut down all equipment that's hooked up to the generator before you shut it down.
- Don't refuel your generator when it's running, because its parts will be hot. Shut the generator down and let it cool.
- Generators tend to become hot when operating, so avoid touching them, and keep children and pets away from them.

In addition to the electrical risks associated with portable generators, owners should also be aware of other dangers. Portable generators burn gasoline, propane, or another fuel to generate electricity, and that combustion creates exhaust that contains carbon monoxide. "Carbon monoxide is deadly, but it is completely colorless and odorless, so you won't know if it's there," says Stevens. "In most deaths and poisonings, someone was overcome after placing a generator indoors or in a partially enclosed area. *Opening a window or a door doesn't provide sufficient ventilation.* If you're going to use a generator, it must be located outside, away from windows or vents that could draw the exhaust indoors. As an added precaution, install a battery-powered carbon monoxide detector in your home, and test it regularly. Also, be sure to read the owner's manual. It can help you avoid a lot of potential disasters."