

Powerlines

Parke County REMC
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



February 2007

119 West High Street, Rockville, IN 47872 PH: (765) 569-3133 or (800) 537-3913 Hours: M-F 7:30-4:30



What Color is Your Power?

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The EnviroWatts program was developed by Wabash Valley member cooperatives to provide their retail customers with an “earth-friendly” energy choice. Through the EnviroWatts program, customers can choose to receive their electricity through a **renewable energy source** or they can choose to **participate in our demand-side management programs**.

Renewable Energy

There are several renewable sources that can be used for the development of electricity. Based on the geography of where you live; solar, wind, water and geothermal springs all provide excellent sources for electric generation. In our region of the country, biomass power provides yet another source of renewable energy.

Wabash Valley’s biomass power is created by capturing gasses produced by landfill decay. These captured gasses are then converted to electricity through the use of small, on-site generators. This renewable, earth-friendly energy is then added to our mix of power sources and made available to customers who place a special emphasis on environmental concerns.

Demand-Side Management

Wabash Valley and its member cooperatives have been pro-active participants in customer-focused conservation programs since 1982. These “demand-side management” programs enable retail customers to actively participate in **NOT USING ELECTRICITY**. That’s right, when electric demand is at its highest, our cooperatives encourage their customers to stop using electricity. As participants in these conservation programs, customers do receive incentives for their commitment to lessening the need to build new power plants.

The Cooperative Commitment

The Wabash Valley Power Association member distribution cooperatives are committed to doing our part to help the earth. Through the continual development of our EnviroWatts programs, we hope to make a difference.

For more information on EnviroWatts, please contact Kathy Joyce, Vice President of Administration at kathyj@wvpa.com or 317.481.2832.

1. What is EnviroWatts?

EnviroWatts is our own name for green power energy which is energy that is generated from such renewable, environmentally preferred sources as biomass, sun, wind, water and geothermal springs.

2. Where does the EnviroWatts “green power” come from?

Green power can come from many different sources; a few examples are biomass, sun, wind, water and geothermal springs. The current green power that is being offered is biomass and has been purchased from Waste Management of Indiana. Biomass power is a renewable energy and is created by using gasses produced by landfill decay.

3. Can I sign up for this program over the phone?

You can sign up over the phone and it only takes a few minutes.

4. How will I know that this “green power” is actually being run into my home?

The renewable energy that you are purchasing is not directly routed to your home, but by signing up you are helping to support the purchase of additional “good energy” and encouraging more investment nationwide in environmentally friendly ways to generate power. For every environmentally friendly kilowatt that is purchased by cooperative members one less kilowatt is being purchased from other “environmentally unfriendly” sources such as coal based energy.


Earth Friendly Energy Alternatives

Attention Students:

Scholarships Available

Parke County REMC has held a long tradition of giving back to the community. The REMC Long Distance Scholarship Program is one more example of the REMC's commitment to community. Applications are now available for the scholarship program. Six scholarships of \$500 will be awarded to students who submit an application before April 2. Applications have already been sent to the guidance counselors at local schools.

The scholarship is funded through the revenues received from the REMC long distance program. This is the fourth year the scholarships have been awarded to area students.



Touchstone Energy Camp

Parke County REMC offers sixth grade students the opportunity to spend three adventure-packed days at Touchstone Energy Camp, held at Camp Tecumseh in northern Indiana, June 6-9. A variety of programs and activities will be offered including: electric safety, Optimist Challenge, horseback riding, swimming, wall climbing, archery, riflery, canoeing and crafts.

Applications are available at the Parke County REMC office. Five students whose parents are members of the REMC will be chosen to participate. Deadline for application is March 12. Contact the REMC for more information.



Touchstone Energy Camp

www.parkecountyremc.com

On-line Bill Pay
Free Classified Ads
Safety Tips
Kid's Corner
Energy Calculator

REMC offers alternative methods to pay electric bills

On-Line Bill Pay

Members who wish to use this part of the Web site to view and pay their Parke County REMC bill will need an initial password. To receive this initial password simply use the "Contact Support" button, located on the first screen of the Online Billing Program, to request the password or simply call our office during normal business hours and request this password. After you have received your initial password and you have successfully logged into the Online Billing Program, you will be prompted to change the initial password to one that is more meaningful to you.

Access 24 - Phone Payment System

Parke County REMC members will soon be able to use our interactive phone payment services to make inquiries about their Electric Bill, or make a payment with Credit Card or Elec-

tronic Check 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This easy and convenient voice response system allows you to speak your responses or simply enter information using your touch tone telephone.

To pay your bill with a credit card by phone, you will need to have your account number and credit card information. To pay your bill with an Electronic Check you must first have a check profile set up with Parke County REMC. You may create this profile by contacting one of our Customer Service Associates during normal business hours. Once the profile has been created you will only need to enter your Parke County REMC account number and the amount you wish to pay.

Members may also make telephone number updates using the Access 24 system. As always, a live representative will be available to take calls in unfortunate outage situations.

Bite into Savings with Long Distance from Parke County REMC



Long Distance
as low as
5.9¢*
per minute

With long distance savings from Parke County REMC, you'll enjoy great benefits such as:

- ◆ State-to-State long distance only 5.9¢ per minute
- ◆ Toll-free number as low as 5.9¢ per minute
- ◆ No monthly minimum use required
- ◆ You don't have to be an REMC member to sign up

Call Today!
1-877-833-2006

Parke County REMC
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Certain restrictions or early termination fees may apply. Please call for details. In partnership with TransWorld Network, Corp.

Local Organizations Benefit From Round Up Grants

The following grants were awarded at the January Round-Up meeting: **Hope's Way Recreation Center** received a \$2,500 grant to help with a septic system for the activity center. **Parke County Emergency Management** received a \$520 grant to purchase 125 white reflective custom window decals for individuals of Parke County with special needs. These decals assist First Responders in case of an emergency. **Putnam County Girls Softball League** received a \$4,800 grant to aid in building a concession stand with restrooms, lighting, improvement on fields and equipment for the Big Walnut Sports Park. This will help with the sponsoring of tournaments in an effort to become self supporting. **Parke/Vermillion Even Start** received a \$1,360 grant to purchase two new computers for their program. This will allow them to keep efficient records, create lessons, and provide learning experiences for families. **Big Brothers/Big Sisters** received a \$1,500 grant to help with the Northview High School Mentoring Program. **Marshall Vol. Fire Dept.** received a \$4,300 grant to purchase a Rescue Strut Kit that is used to stabilize vehicles during an auto accident.



The grants awarded for January totaled \$14,980. The deadline for the March Round Up meeting is March 5th at 12:00 noon.



Parke County REMC Receives Safety Accreditation

Pictured above, Parke County REMC's Keith Fischer receives a certificate of Safety Accreditation from Gayvin Strantz, Indiana Statewide Safety Dept. To maintain accreditation status, Parke County REMC employees are required to receive training on dozens of topics each year. Safety training for REMC employees includes grounding, padmount transformers, ladder safety, URD switching, pole top rescue, bucket truck rescue, CPR and basic first aid among other topics.

Sealing small leaks, gains big savings

There are probably a lot of tiny leaks in your home that are virtually invisible – except when it comes to your utility bill. You may not notice the air slipping through those leaks, but they could suck up as much as 30 percent of your heating and cooling costs.

These tiny leaks show up in a variety of places. You may find them between your walls and windows, around your light fixtures, or next to tub drains. While none of these are very large, they add up to a big loss of air. In winter, they allow your heated air to sneak out and bring cold air into the house. These leaks are often the cause of those drafts you can feel but can't seem to find.

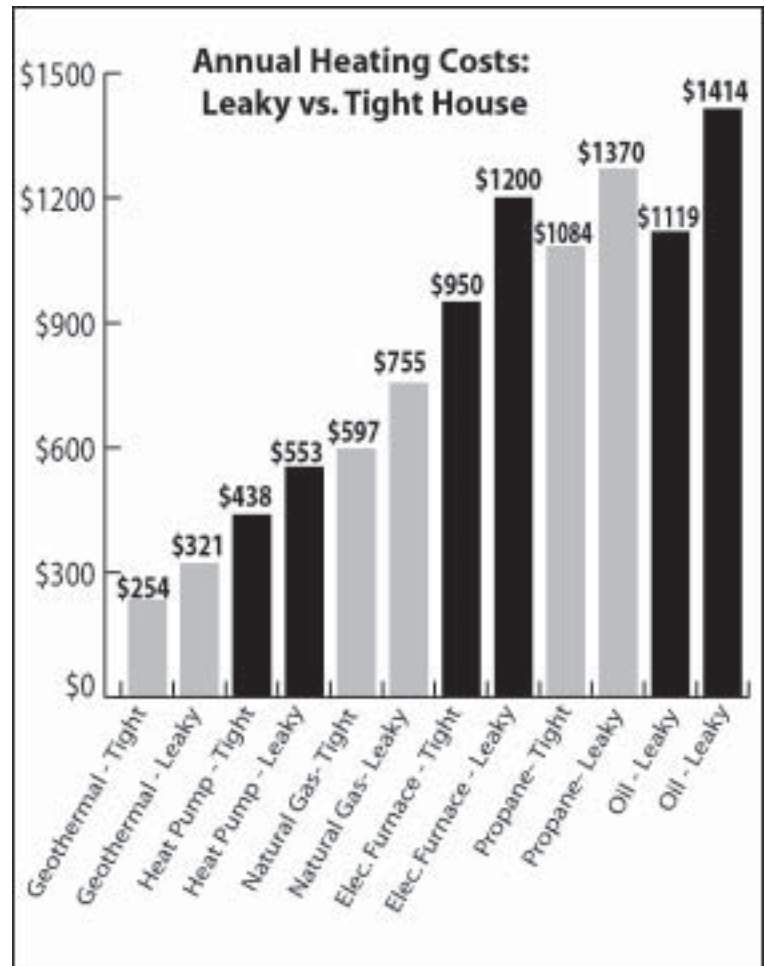
Leaks are annoying. Even worse, they are expensive. In fact, a 1500-square-foot house that is heated by an electric heat pump and is well-sealed can cost just \$438 annually to heat. The same house with common air leaks can cost \$553 annually – that's a 26 percent difference! With an oil furnace, the well-sealed house could cost \$1,119 to heat, compared to \$1,414 for a leakier

home. You can obtain an estimate for your own home with the calculator at the Web site www.parkecountyremc.com or energyadvisor.coop.

The cost also extends beyond your monthly energy bills. Leaks in your home force your heating and cooling system to work extra, which may lead to repairs or shorten their useful life.

There are three steps involved in making your home more energy efficient – sealing it, insulating it, and equipping it with the right appliances. Of the three, sealing is the most critical, because good insulation and top-quality equipment can not compensate for drafts and air loss from poor sealing.

Common sources of leaks are places where electric and plumbing lines go through walls and ceilings; joints between floors, walls, and ceilings; light fixtures mounted in the ceiling; attic doors; chimneys; and warm air registers. Sealing those leaks is not particularly expensive or difficult. All you need is a little time and widely available products such as caulk, insulating foam, and weatherstripping.



Cost of Service Study Recommendations Implemented

With the start of 2007, we know the only constant will be change. Sometimes change is uncomfortable, but necessary. This is the case with Parke County REMC's rate realignment.

A cost of service study was completed in 2006 and the board of directors approved the rate realignment change effective with your January kWh use, billed in February. The most apparent change will be the Consumer Charge that will increase from \$14.00 to \$17.00 per month per meter. At the same time, cost for kilowatt-hours used will decrease slightly. (See comparison chart below.)

There is a large investment in each pole, transformer and other equipment running at each meter location. Some locations use very little electricity and some use a lot of electricity. But the equipment costs the same for each location. The new, unbundled rate design allows for a more accurate recovery of both energy and distribution costs (poles, wire, etc.) by having a larger consumer charge and a lower energy or kilowatt hour charge. The average REMC customer consuming 1,000 kWh of electricity per month will see a small decrease in his/her power costs. Those using 1,500 kWh or more, for example, will see an even larger decrease.

How did this new rate design come about? Management and the board of directors recommended conducting a cost of service and rate study in 2006. In this study, operating costs, as well as wholesale power costs,

were reviewed and allocated to the appropriate rate classes based on their actual contributions. Revenue from each class was then examined and the appropriate rate schedules were developed to satisfy the study's findings and to make sure each class was only paying for its proportionate share. After reviewing the rate study recommendations, the board of directors approved implementation of the plan. Making sure costs are being recovered fairly and in a manner that will promote business stability and continue to maintain a competitive retail rate are determining factors in the decision.

It is important to remember we are talking about costs for local operations. The majority of your energy cost is the cost of wholesale power. Currently the energy markets are very volatile, gasoline and natural gas prices are the prime examples. The wholesale power industry is affected too. We have seen power cost recovery in the past year that has increased your overall cost. Parke County REMC has no control over that portion of your energy costs.

In the past, we could forecast our wholesale power costs for a year with some accuracy. That is no longer the case. In the past couple of years, Parke County REMC has absorbed some of those wholesale power cost increases, but we are not able to do that now. We believe these rate changes are in the best interest of all members of Parke County REMC.

January tree trimming



Tree Trimming for January

The Parke Professional Service LLC has just completed trimming the Greencastle Substation area. They will start trimming in the Reelsville Substation area the first week of January. They will be in this area for the next couple of months. They are starting north of Reelsville and working their way south. If there are any questions or concerns please call our office at 1-800-537-3913 and ask either for Richard Stout or Keith Fischer.

Attention Parke County REMC Members:

We have refunds pending and checks are being held for REMC members Jeffery A. Gilliatt, Wesley M. and Jaclyn R. Anderson and Dean Weaver. At this time, we are unable to contact these members, due to insufficient forwarding address information. If you have any information regarding these REMC members, please contact the REMC office at 1-800-537-3913.

kWh Used	Present Rate	Proposed Rate	Difference	Percent Change
0	\$14.00	\$17.00	\$3.00	21.4%
100	\$23.69	\$26.30	\$2.61	11.0%
200	\$33.38	\$35.60	\$2.22	6.7%
300	\$43.07	\$44.90	\$1.83	4.3%
400	\$52.76	\$54.20	\$1.44	2.7%
500	\$62.44	\$63.50	\$1.06	1.7%
600	\$69.93	\$70.70	\$0.77	1.1%
700	\$77.42	\$77.90	\$0.48	0.6%
800	\$84.91	\$85.10	\$0.19	0.2%
900	\$92.40	\$92.30	\$(0.10)	-0.1%
1000	\$99.89	\$99.50	\$(0.39)	-0.4%
1100	\$107.38	\$106.70	\$(0.68)	-0.6%
1200	\$114.87	\$113.90	\$(0.97)	-0.8%
1300	\$122.35	\$121.10	\$(1.25)	-1.0%
1400	\$129.84	\$128.30	\$(1.54)	-1.2%
1500	\$137.33	\$135.50	\$(1.83)	-1.3%
2000	\$174.78	\$171.50	\$(3.28)	-1.9%
3000	\$249.66	\$243.50	\$(6.16)	-2.5%
4000	\$324.55	\$315.50	\$(9.05)	-2.8%
5000	\$399.44	\$387.50	\$(11.94)	-3.0%