



350 WEDCOR AVE.
WABASH, IN 46992

PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS

Local.....260-563-2146
Toll Free.....800-563-2146
Fax.....260-563-1523
E-mailmail@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
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, assistant secretary
2047 E. Baumbauer Road
Wabash260-782-2341
- District 5 – D’Ann Stouffer, vice president
4152 W 700 S, Wabash 260-563-8500
- District 6 – Steven Byerly, president
2205 E 700 S, Wabash765-981-4549
- District 7 – Gene Bowman, secretary
11930 S 700 W, Amboy765-395-7546

CREDIT CARD BILL PAYMENT



Wabash County REMC offers our members the option of paying their electric bills with Visa or MasterCard.

FROM THE CEO

Net metering vs. net billing

When you might have to pay part of your neighbor’s bill

There’s been much discussion over the last few years regarding the use of renewable energy to help utilities avoid building new power plants. The federal government has taken this discussion to a new level by creating incentives for companies and individuals to help offset the cost of building new renewable energy devices. The reason given for these incentives is to reverse the “so called” effects of climate change by eliminating the generation of electricity using coal.



Rob Pearson
Chief Executive Officer

The government is also starting to set mandates on the percentage of renewables required by power generators. For now, it is leaving it up to each state to set these percentages. Indiana has not made it mandatory, but has requested power companies make renewable energy part of each company’s total generation portfolio.

For individuals interested in producing some of their own power requirements, the federal government has set up tax incentives to help offset installation costs. Renewable power is expensive to install and the government knows the only way to get people to install these devices is to use tax money to offset the installation cost. This is great for a person wishing to put one in because he/she will get his/her tax money and cut his/her electric use.

Once an individual decides to build a renewable energy device, the issue arises of how the utility will reimburse the individual for the excess power generated. There are very few occasions that the installed device will produce all the power needed by the homeowner or business. But, there are times when the device is producing power when the user doesn’t need it. So the question becomes – “What is that power worth?”

If the individual truly sold power back to the utility the same way utilities purchase power, the rate would change every hour of every day. The metering and billing required to do that would not be cost effective. So the utility has to try to establish an average price based on multiple factors. First, what does it cost to produce the power? Second, what costs are involved in transporting the power?

When purchasing power from a wholesale supplier, as Wabash County REMC does, there is not just the cost of moving the electricity from the power plants to the utility’s service area. Also included is the cost of all the poles,

wires, etc., the local utility has built to move the electricity to the member’s home. These costs are called “fixed costs.” As a not-for-profit cooperative, we all share equally in the “fixed costs” portion of Wabash County REMC’s system.

The federal government, in its attempt to promote alternative energy, has requested that all investor-owned utilities purchase the excess power produced from these small generators at the same retail rate the utility charges. This is called “net metering.” This, in essence,

allows the meter to spin backwards.

The government has admitted that by doing this, it is forcing the utility to add more costs to other customers because the fixed-cost portion is not being fairly paid by the small generation customer.

The reason large investor-owned utilities can do this is, at the present time, there are not enough generators out there to make a significant impact on rates. So, the utility will let them get by with it, for now.

Not only is the government using your tax dollars to help the owner install the generator, but it is also forcing the utility to unfairly give him/her more credit and shift more of the costs to you. You are now paying for that person’s portion of the cost of poles, wires, etc. Since most investor-owned utilities cross many state lines, the states can’t stop this mandate.

As for the electric co-ops, we are not forced to unfairly shift costs. Since we are in a state that hasn’t mandated net metering, we can still have “all” of our members equally share in the fixed costs of the utility. By only giving the generating member the “avoided cost” of the power bill, we are truly reimbursing them the actual cost of producing power minus the transportation and fixed costs that the rest of the members share. This is where the term “net billing” comes from. With net billing, we will pay the individual for the excess power produced, but not for his/her portion of fixed costs.

As the country moves forward and continues to push renewable energy, we know it will drive power costs up. But as you drive around the area, understand those devices you see were mostly paid for with your tax dollars and your electric rates. We will do everything we can to make sure our members are treated fairly. We will continue to do what we can to keep rates reasonable and to make sure you are not forced to pay a part of your neighbor’s electric bill.

CO-OP NOTES

Security light rental

Monthly rental fee	175-watt.....	\$ 9.80
	400-watt.....	\$14.60
	400-watt flood.....	\$15.70

Includes all electrical use and maintenance.
Extra cost for additional pole or wire required to serve light.

Heating incentives

For residential applications, an all-electric heating rebate incentive is available when certain qualifications are met. For more information, please contact the office at 260-563-2146 or toll free at 800-563-2146.

Electric water heater rebate

For residential applications, a water heater rebate is available – when certain conditions are met. For more information, please contact our office at 260-563-2146 or 800-563-2146.

Clothes washer rebate

For residential applications, an ENERGY STAR® clothes washer rebate is available, when certain qualifications are met. For more information, please contact our office at 260-563-2146 or 800-563-2146.

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.

Ever wonder how much the extra refrigerator in the garage is costing you?



Contact us today at 260-563-2146 or at 800-563-2146 about our Kill-A-Watt Rental Program.

A Kill-A-Watt is a device that will measure the exact electrical use of any one appliance.

It is now available to rent at Wabash County REMC for a refundable deposit.

Operation Round Up approves local grants

On July 19, the board of trustees for Operation Round Up, a community service program of Wabash County REMC, approved two grants. They were:

- **Little Friends Day Care and Preschool** – \$1,200 for educating infants and toddlers, educational materials.

- **Wabash County Chamber of Commerce** – \$500 for Leadership Development Wabash County, educational materials.

These grants are made possible by the generosity of Wabash County REMC members. Members who elect to participate in Operation Round Up have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the next dollar amount. The change from all participating members is transferred to the Operation Round Up program each month.

Once in the program, the funds are dispersed by the board of trustees who meet on a regular basis to review grant applications that are submitted by non-profit organizations or community service organizations for projects that will benefit the community as a whole.

Local non-profit or community service organizations who are interested in pursuing a grant must complete a grant application form and submit it to the trustees of Wabash County REMC Trust for review. The next deadline for grant submissions is Oct. 4.

Organizations can contact the REMC office at 260-563-2146 or 800-563-2146, for information about Operation Round Up or to request a grant application.



Operation Round Up Trustee Kari Airgood, far left, presents Operation Round Up grants to representatives of Little Friends Day Care and Preschool. Representatives are, from left, Jodi Getz, director of Little Friends Daycare; Brenda Landis, Little Friends board clerk; and Kathy Jaderholm, children's pastor.

REMC launches redesigned website



Times are constantly changing and Wabash County REMC strives to keep its members up-to-date with the latest information. To achieve this goal, we are proud to show off our newly redesigned website.

The website is a great place to find information on how to keep your energy bills affordable and learn about all the incentive programs we offer. Whether it be the ease of paying your bill online, the new home energy use calculator, or simply educational games for the kids to play, there is something for everyone.

Visit us at www.wabashremc.com

Shopping for light bulbs? Look for lumens, not watts

When you're shopping for light bulbs, compare lumens to be sure you're getting the amount of light, or level of brightness, you want. A new lighting facts label will make it easy to compare bulb brightness, color, life, and estimated annual operating cost.

Buy lumens, not watts

We typically buy things based on how much of it we get, right? When buying milk, we buy it by volume (gallons).

So why should lighting be any different? But for decades, we have been buying light bulbs based on how much energy they consume (watts), not how much light they give us (lumens). With the arrival of new, more efficient light bulbs, it's time for that to change.

What's a lumen?

Lumens measure how much light you are getting from a bulb. More lumens means a brighter light. Fewer lumens a dimmer light.

Lumens are to light what pounds are to bananas or gallons are to milk — they let you buy the amount of light you want. So when buying new bulbs — think lumens, not watts.

The brightness, or lumen levels, of lights in your home may vary widely, so here's a rule of thumb:

- To replace a 100-watt traditional incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that gives you about 1,600 lumens. If you want something dimmer, go for less lumens; if you prefer brighter light, look for more lumens.

- Replace a 75-watt bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 1,100 lumens
- Replace a 60-watt bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 800 lumens
- Replace a 40-watt bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 450 lumens.

What should I look for? The lighting facts label

To help consumers better understand the switch from watts to lumens, the Federal Trade Commission will require a new product label for light bulbs starting in January 2012. The label will help consumers buy bulbs that are right for them.

Like the helpful nutrition label on food products, the lighting facts label will help consumers understand what they are really purchasing. The label clearly provides the lumens — or brightness — of the bulb, estimated operating cost for the year, and the color of the light (from warm/yellowish, to white to cool/blue).

To learn more about lighting options and other ways to save energy at home, visit www.energysavers.gov. — *Energy Savers, U.S. Department of Energy*

What to Look for When Purchasing Lightbulbs

Instead of shopping for watts, look for lumens. Here's a helpful comparison chart.

Lumens (brightness)	
150-W	2,600 lm
100-W	1,600 lm
75-W	1,100 lm
60-W	800 lm
40-W	450 lm

Watts (energy)

Estimates based on typical incandescent bulbs.
Source: U.S. Federal Trade Commission

What Are My Lighting Options?

Starting in 2012,
lightbulbs must be
more energy efficient.

The three most
common bulb options
consumers will find on
store shelves are:



Halogen incandescents

Energy Savings:* 25 percent
Lifespan:* Three times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$3.50



Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

Energy Savings:* 75 percent
Lifespan:* 10 times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$1.20



Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)

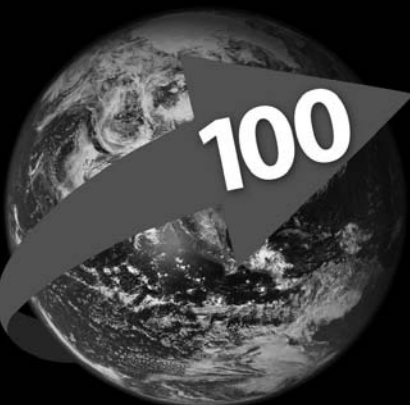
Energy Savings:* 75-80 percent
Lifespan:* 25 times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$1

* As compared to traditional incandescent bulbs

Learn more at
energysavers.gov/lighting

Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives own and operate more than 2.5 million miles of distribution lines. That's enough line to circle the equator more than 100 times!



Source: NASA, NRECA



**Congratulations to the
August 2011
\$10 off your
electric bill winner!**

**Wayne Simons
Clarkston, Ind.**



Touchstone Energy®



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

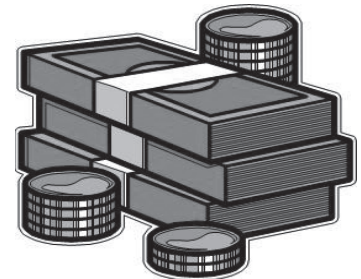
Is your washing machine more than 10 years old? According to the U.S. Department of Energy, families can cut related energy costs by more than a third—and water costs by more than half—by purchasing a clothes washer with an ENERGY STAR label. Choose a front-load or redesigned top-load model.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Take \$10 off your electric bill!

- By simply answering the following three questions and returning this coupon with an on-time, paid-in-full bill, you could win \$10 off your electric bill! All of the answers can be found in this month's *Electric Consumer*.
- When you return the coupon, it will be put into a monthly drawing to win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.
- If you are a member who pays by e-bill or bank draft, a copy of the coupon can be found on **www.wabashremc.com**. If you fill the coupon out online, your drawing entry will be e-mailed to Wabash County REMC.
- The monthly drawing will be held the first day of every month. All entries must be received by the last day of the preceding month. Good luck!



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

1. What does the "LED" stand for when referring to LED light bulbs? _____

2. What has Wabash County REMC just redesigned? _____

3. When shopping for light bulbs, what should you look for? _____

Return the completed entry to:
Wabash County REMC
350 Wedcor Ave.
Wabash, IN 46992

Wabash County REMC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 