



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1165 OLD FOREST ROAD
P.O. BOX 517
CORYDON, IN 47112

www.harrisonremc.com

PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS

Local 812-738-4115
Local 812-951-2323
Fax 812-738-2378
Submit Meter Readings 812-951-2023
E-mail: . customerquestion@harrisonremc.com
Web Site www.harrisonremc.com

SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

To report service interruptions, call: 812-738-4115 or 812-951-2323 day or night. During regular business hours these phone numbers will connect members to personnel at the Corydon office. After hours, they will connect members to the REMC answering service. Members should restrict calls to the answering service to electrical outages or emergencies.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

C. Daniel Boone, Laconia, President
Ron Meriwether, Georgetown, Vice President
James Smith, Corydon, Secretary/Treasurer
Ronald Albin, Corydon
Pat Book, Palmyra
Larry Breeden, Mauckport
Darin Duncan, Elizabeth
Brian Koetter, Borden
David Walther, Lanesville

SERVICES WE OFFER

- Long distance phone service
- Dial-up Internet service
- Personal medical alert system
- Security lights
- Rebate program
- Metered propane
- Electric fireplaces
- Surge protection
- New home seminars
- Compact fluorescent bulbs
- Discount theme park tickets
- Answers to energy questions



Visit our
Web Site

www.harrisonremc.com

CO-opNews

Information from your electric cooperative

FROM THE CEO

Striking the right balance

When it comes to energy, Americans want it all. We like to have safe, reliable energy around the clock. We want to keep electricity affordable and take good care of our environment.

These are all great things to talk about, but how do we go about achieving them?

Everyone seems to have a solution. What will the electric utility industry be like in 10, 20 or even 50 years?

"Striking the Right Balance" was the theme of last year's National Rural Electric Cooperative's (NRECA) regional meeting held in September. The "Balance" refers to balancing the cost vs. the expected benefits of climate change legislative proposals. The politics and economics of climate change pose immense challenges for electric co-ops. The debate continues concerning the causes and effects of "global warming" but the political reality is that something is going to be proposed and enacted into law to address global climate change. Electric co-ops need to be "at the table" when legislation addressing climate change is proposed and discussed.

Electric co-ops across the country rely heavily on coal to produce electricity. Coal to the United States is like oil to the Middle East. Coal is our most abundant fuel resource and is utilized to produce about half of the electricity generated in the U.S. Coal is utilized to produce about 80 percent of the electricity consumed by co-op members nationally. The "cost" to address climate change could fall disproportionately on electric co-op members.

Coal generators, like our supplier Hoosier Energy, have been removing particulates, sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxide and will be addressing removing mercury from their stack emissions. The major uncertainty at this time is the



Paul D. Beckort
CEO

possible requirement to remove carbon from the stack emissions to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide which some believe contribute to climate change.

Most industry experts agree that viable cost effective methods to capture carbon from power plants do not presently exist. A viable carbon capture technology may be 10 to 20 years away. Most experts agree that carbon capture will be very expensive if the required technology is ever developed.

The cost of electricity nationally and locally will continue to increase due to environmental requirements. That is why "Striking the Right Balance" between cost and environment is so important and why our national organization, NRECA, is so focused on striking the right balance.

Another question frequently asked is "are renewable energy resources the answer?" The U.S. consumes about 100 quads (quadrillion Btus) of energy per year. Conventional energy resources such as coal, gas, oil and nuclear provide about 95 quads, hydro power (water) provides about four quads and renewable resources such as wind, solar and biomass provide about one quad.

Are you one of those people who would like to see coal-fired generating plants shut down and replaced with renewable energy? One reason you won't see that happen in a big way is that the country lacks the transmission infrastructure to bring wind energy from high wind areas (where few people live) to the places where electricity demand is highest (such as big cities). So, the number one vulnerability in our electricity system is a deteriorating transmission grid. While the government and industry have studied the problem and have been taking steps to fix this, progress is slow, and too few of the industry's resources are focused on it.

Are your energy dollars going up your chimney?

A fireplace accounts for approximately 14 percent of the air infiltration in your home. If your home has a fireplace, make sure the damper is closed and sealed when not in use.

An open damper is like having a 48 inch window open. And when your fireplace is in use, it can exhaust as much as 24,000 cubic feet of air per hour. This air has to be



replaced by cold outside air. If you are using your fireplace in conjunction with your central heating system, your central heating system must heat this cold air. After the air is warmed up, it travels through your home to the fireplace and up the chimney to the outside. Traditional fireplaces increase a home's heating costs in almost every case.

Your REMC does everything possible to keep the power on

It is impossible for Harrison REMC, or any electric company, to guarantee continuous, uninterrupted electricity to its members at all times. There are too many causes outside the control of the REMC that can interrupt the flow of electricity or lead to power outages. The list of causes includes, but is not limited to, falling trees, automobile accidents, birds and animals, snowstorms, ice storms, thunderstorms, high winds, labor strikes, equipment failure, criminal mischief and a variety of other reasons too numerous to list.



There have been some misconceptions regarding the new AMI (automated meter information) meters. AMI meters do not tell us that your power is off. We must ask the system if service is out; it is not automatic. For this reason it is very important that our members call the REMC when their power goes out.

We believe we have an excellent record for quickly restoring power when outages are experienced. We take power outages very seriously and do our very best to restore power as soon as is reasonably possible. However, even superhuman efforts cannot prevent power outages or guarantee immediate restoration of service. We strongly recommend you install a backup power supply to protect any critical loads that are put at risk when power is interrupted.

NOTICE:

Harrison REMC members will notice a new bill design in February. In order to improve the look of the bill and make it easier to read we have decided to change print vendors.

An example is available at our Web site www.harrisonremc.com



Photos with the Easter Bunny

March 5
2-7 p.m.
REMC Lobby

A FREE photo of each child will be available as well as treats and goodies. Children can register to win an Easter basket.

(One basket will be given to a boy and one will be given to a girl.)

Attention Students:

High School juniors — there is still time to submit an application for the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Join your peers from Indiana and travel to our nation's capital. The trip begins on June 12 in Indianapolis and ends on June 19. One day will be spent at the historic Gettysburg battlefield and students will participate in a Monday morning "Youth Tour Rally." This will prepare them for a busy Tuesday on Capitol Hill, when Indiana's students will visit with representatives of Indiana's Congressional delegation. The week will end on a high note with the "All-States Dinner Dance" at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City. Applications are available in the "Schools and Community" section of the Web site, www.harrisonremc.com. Deadline to submit applications is Feb. 8.



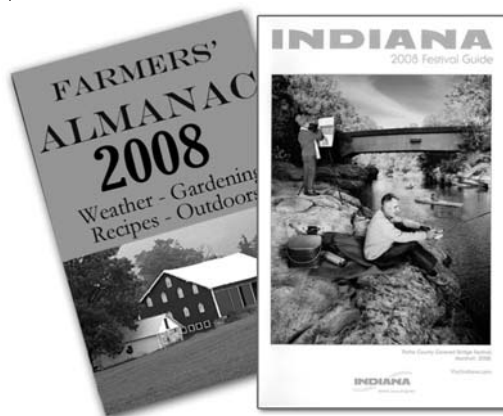
REMC-IUS Scholarship

High School seniors — Harrison REMC is seeking applicants for the REMC-IUS Scholarship. Harrison REMC will award several \$1,000 scholarships to local students who choose to continue their education at Indiana University Southeast in New Albany. Students must live with a parent or guardian of an REMC member, and be accepted as a full time student at IUS for the 2008 fall semester to be eligible. Applications are available in the "Schools and Community" section of the Web site, www.harrisonremc.com. Deadline to submit applications is April 18.

Students of all ages can submit artwork for the annual Student Art Calendar Contest, sponsored by **Electric Consumer** and Indiana's Electric Cooperatives. The deadline for artwork submission is March 14. More information is available at **Electric Consumer's** Web site: www.electricconsumer.org.

Student Art Calendar Contest

Festival Guides, Almanacs available



Your electric cooperative is not only the source for reliable electricity; we've also got your connection to having a good time throughout the year in the Hoosier state. Copies of the 2008 edition of the Indiana Festival Guide are now available at the Harrison REMC office.

If you're looking for a weekend getaway, a few hours out of the house or a way to relax and rejuvenate, you'll find something that interests you in the Indiana Festival Guide.

Stop by the REMC office for your Festival Guide today.

Members can also pick up a free copy of the Farmers' Almanac at the REMC office. This classic publication features long term weather predictions, This Day in History and many other interesting tidbits. Almanacs will only be available while current supplies last.

How can I lower my home heating bills?

Q: What can be done to really lower the cost to heat homes? Most recommendations promoted in the media like setting back thermostats make good sense but don't seem to make much difference in heating costs.

A: Most recommendations that we commonly read are valid common sense ideas. However, these recommendations typically only account for small savings except one — air sealing, which is more commonly known as caulking. In homes heated with electricity, an effective way to lower heating costs is to extensively air seal your home. Most homeowners understand hot air rises.

But few understand the significant impact this law of physics has on their cost to be warm. When we add heat to air, it becomes buoyant and tenacious in its effort to rise. Heated air will tirelessly search for an opening to rise through and escape to the cold outside. It will not stop looking for that crack or hole. When it successfully finds one, it pours through, creating suction inside our home that draws cold air in through cracks and openings down low in our home, generally the floor level or just below it in our band board/rim joist area.

This phenomenon explains why the air at the ceiling of most homes is much warmer than at the floor. Actually, we can reduce the amount of heated air escaping our home just by caulking or foaming in the band board/rim joist area and at

floor levels. Those snakes or noodles people put on the floor next to the outside doors are a strategy to accomplish air sealing — and they work. If we can successfully air seal the easily accessible cracks and holes down low in our homes, we reduce the hot air volume that tries to escape at the ceiling level because it cannot suck air in as easily down low as it could before our air sealing effort. Cold drafts that might have existed in our home will be reduced and some eliminated. Our comfort goes up and our cost to be comfortable goes down. If we can also identify and air seal high cracks and holes in our homes it would be even more beneficial, since finding these cracks and gaining access to them can be difficult.

Homeowners using any naturally vented fossil fuel heating equipment such as propane, oil, wood, coal or natural gas should get professional help before utilizing an air sealing strategy. Air sealing may cause these appliances to back draft, introducing deadly carbon monoxide into their homes.



As one learns effective strategies to reduce heating costs, it will quickly become apparent the hot air rising phenomena is a nasty culprit we must control. The more you understand the consequences of hot air rising and control it effectively, the more comfortable you will be and the less electric energy you will have to purchase.

If you held off replacing your old air conditioner last fall or hoped to get through another winter with an old electric heating system, consider installing heat pump technology this spring. Of all the conventional energy available to condition your home, the Btus of heat produced using heat pump technology is the lowest cost in today's marketplace.

For more information contact Bob Geswein, energy services, at Harrison REMC, by calling 812-738-4115 or 812-951-2323 or sending an e-mail to bgeswein@harrisonremc.com.

The "Ask REMC" column features questions submitted by our customers. This month's question was answered by Harrison REMC Energy Services Specialist, Bob Geswein. If you have a question for "Ask REMC" about REMC operations, energy efficiency issues, or electric safety, please send it to P.O. Box 517, Corydon, IN, 47112 or send an e-mail to: cracicot@harrisonremc.com. Your question could be featured in this column in the following months.



Pump up the savings

The benefits of electricity aren't new, but today's heat pumps have even more to offer as gas prices continue to rise.

- Savings of 30-50 percent
- Extra cash in your pocket, every month of the year
- Cleaner, safer and healthier environment
- Less maintenance
- Constant, even temperature
- Reliability
- New and improved technology over yesterday's heat pumps



Heat Pump Q&A

How does a heat pump work?

Just like your refrigerator or air conditioner, a heat pump doesn't create heat. It simply pumps it from one place to another. When it's cold outside, the heat pump uses electricity to extract the heat already existing in the outside air and pump it where it's needed to keep your home warm. In the summer, it does the same process in reverse, pumping warm air out of the house to keep things cool.

Why are heat pumps more cost efficient?

Simple! It takes far less energy to extract existing heat from the air than it does to actually create heat. Heat pumps are most economical when they're used year-round for all your family's heating and cooling needs.

Will changing from my outdated system to a new heat pump cost a lot?

Not at all. Electric heat pumps are easy to install in either new or existing homes. Because they can use your home's existing ductwork, it's easy to convert an inefficient propane or oil system to high-efficiency heat pump heating and cooling.

What about maintenance?

New advanced technology heat pumps have very few moving parts and require very little attention. Thanks to quiet operation (the only sound you'll hear is the fan,) you're apt to forget your heat pump is even there. Plus, you can count on years of reliable service from the heat pump you install today.

Contact Harrison REMC about our
REBATE PROGRAM.

812-738-4115 or 812-951-2323

REMC RATE SCHEDULE

Residential and Farm Service Rate

EXAMPLE FOR 1,800 KWHS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Facility charge | \$15.00 |
| First 750 kwhs @ .08415/kwh | 63.11 |
| Next 750 kwhs @ .06820/kwh | 51.15 |
| Over 1500 kwhs @ \$.05906/kwh ... | 17.72 |
| Power cost tracker 0.000 per kwh | 0.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL | \$146.98 |
| Indiana sales tax (6%) | 8.82 |
| TOTAL BILL | \$155.80 |

SECURITY LIGHT RATES

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 175-watt mercury vapor | \$8/month |
| 400-watt mercury vapor | \$15/month |
| 175-watt M.V. decorative | \$20/month |
| 400-watt M.V. decorative | \$25/month |

CUSTOMER SERVICES

- **On-line bill payment** — REMC members can now access their accounts and pay monthly bills via the Internet. Log onto the REMC Web site, www.harrisonremc.com, and click "Access My Account."

- **E-check** — This free service allows members to make a onetime payment via electronic check. Call 738-4115 or 951-2323 during business hours or visit www.harrisonremc.com any time and click "Pay by E-check."

- **Internet service** — REMC offers Internet service for as little as \$12.95 per month. Call 800-470-7362 to sign up.

- **Long distance phone service** — REMC offers long distance service for only 5.9 cents per minute (4.9 cents per minute for customers who choose the e-bill option) with no monthly fees. This low rate applies to all calls made to the lower 48 states, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Discount rates to international locations are also available. Call 800-470-7362 for more information.

- **Personal medical alert system** — Your REMC offers easy to use, medical alert systems to help seniors or disabled family members remain safe and secure in their own home. The medical alert system provides a fast way to summon help in an emergency, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for only \$35 per month for members and \$40 per month for nonmembers with a onetime \$50 set up fee.

- **Automatic payment plan** — Save time and postage by having your electric bill automatically drafted from your designated bank account without additional charges.

- **Budget billing** — REMC can help take the ups and downs out of your billing amount each month by averaging one month's bill based on the previous 12 months of electric use.

Signs on poles pose hazard to line workers

Being a lineman is no simple task. Climbing poles and stringing electric wire is a daily job, in spite of weather. Even when weather isn't a problem, linemen have a dangerous job. As a member of Harrison REMC, you can help make their jobs safer. Power poles are a dangerous place to advertise garage sales, endorse candidates or hang "no hunting or trespassing" signs. It greatly increases the risk of serious injury to linemen.

Linemen wear protective clothing, including special gloves, to prevent electrical shock. Protruding nails, heavy staples, hooks or fence wire can tear their equipment, thereby increasing their chance of electrocution. When linemen climb poles, they wear special boots and climbing gaffs. If these gaffs hit metal they could




be deflected and cause a fall, which could result in a serious injury to the worker. Electric poles are the property of Harrison REMC, and maintenance crews have been instructed to remove signs or other nonessentials from the poles. If members must put up signs, keep them at least 10 feet from electric poles. That helps prevent injuries to a lineman should he fall from the electric pole. Harrison REMC urges our members to remember, utility linemen are employed to assure you of quality, reliable electric service.

When you pound nails, hooks or fence wire into poles, you jeopardize your service and their safety.

Dive In!

the Newport Aquarium



If you are looking for something to do this winter while you wait for the temperature to rise, why not take a trip to the Newport Aquarium?

There are over 70 exhibits and five seamless acrylic tunnels that total over 200 feet in length. These exhibits feature a variety of aquatic life from around the world. Newport, Ky., is located across from downtown Cincinnati approximately 100 miles from Louisville. The aquarium is located right on the river at Newport on the Levee. This 10-acre leisure center opened in 2001 and features a great mix of restaurants, shopping and entertainment.

Discount tickets are available at Harrison REMC for only \$17.50 for adults and \$10.50 for children. (Regular prices for tickets are \$18.95 and \$11.95.) Newport Aquarium is open 365 days a year from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Visit www.newportaquarium.com for more information.

Buying, Building or Remodeling?



Attend a Residential Building Science and Energy Efficiency Seminar this year at Harrison REMC.

All seminars are FREE and include two nights (Wednesday and Thursday) from 7-9:30 p.m. A schedule of upcoming meetings is listed below.

Feb. 13 and 14
March 5 and 6
April 2 and 3

Call 738-4115 or 951-2323 for more information or to register for a seminar.