

P.O. Box 427
Bloomfield, IN 47424-0427
812-384-4446 or 800-489-7362
www.udwiremc.com

OFFICE HOURS

7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Closed Saturday, Sunday and
major holidays

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer:
Brian L. Sparks

**Manager of Office and
Administrative Services:**
Laura Johnson

**Manager of Marketing and
Customer Relations:**
Jill Gilmore

Manager of Operations and Engineering:
Shane Smith

Manager of Energy Services:
Darla Truelove

Superintendent:
Bob Wilson

Assistant Superintendent:
Dan Raines

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 Jack Knust
District 2 President James S. Weimer
District 3 Vice President James A. Jackson
District 4 David L. Stone
District 5 Secretary Roger Shake
District 6 Ronald E. Thompson
District 7 Treasurer Bill Watkins
District 8 Jack Benham

SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

To report service interruptions, call:
812-384-4446 or 800-489-7362
(day or night)

**Please have your location number
ready when reporting outages.**

Routine questions answered during regular
business hours.

OUR MISSION...

*"To provide our members with electricity
and quality, efficient services, while main-
taining a financially healthy and rate
competitive position in the industry through
teamwork, mutual respect and an on-going
commitment to our members."*

Happy Fourth of July!

**In honor of the holiday, our office
will be closed on Monday, July 4!**

CEO'S COMMENTS

Many factors affect power prices

Whether it's at the gas pump or at power plants, prices for the fuel we use are climbing rapidly. Material costs for power are going up as well. Utility poles, trucks, distribution materials and equipment costs rose 98 percent in the last decade.

It also costs more to deliver electricity to rural areas because there are simply fewer people to share the costs of installation, materials, and maintenance of power lines, substations, and transmission equipment associated with power delivery.

The cost to deliver power through the regional grid is also increasing. This is due to regional transmission network improvements and changes in the wholesale power markets. While most of us want clean, reliable energy, there are costs associated with environmental compliance and maintaining reliability.

During the past five years, our power supplier, Hoosier Energy, has invested more than \$600 million in capital projects for environmental facilities and new generation resources to meet increasing power requirements. Its latest business plan calls for investing an additional \$900 million through 2015, primarily to comply with environmental regulations.

These are just some of the economic pressures driving up the price of electricity. But there are things you can do help keep electric-



Brian Sparks
UDWI REMC CEO

ity affordable. We're asking you to "Team Up To Power Down" in a joint effort to save energy and money. We're asking you to become informed on why costs are increasing and to consider changes in how and when you use electricity.

Ideas for what you can do to change the way you use energy may be found at Facebook.com/TeamUpToPowerDown. You'll find easy-to-follow energy tips and links to how-to videos.

You can also find information online at TogetherWeSave.com, EnergyStar.gov and EnergySavers.gov.

While there are pressures on the cost of generating and delivering electricity to your home or business, there are steps you can take to reduce the impact on your electric bill. By working together, all of us win in the effort to keep the cost of electricity as affordable as possible.



Energy Efficiency Day set for July 21

UDWI REMC will host an Energy Efficiency Day at the Greene County 4-H Fairgrounds on Thursday, July 21, in the Commercial Building. The program will include the following agenda:

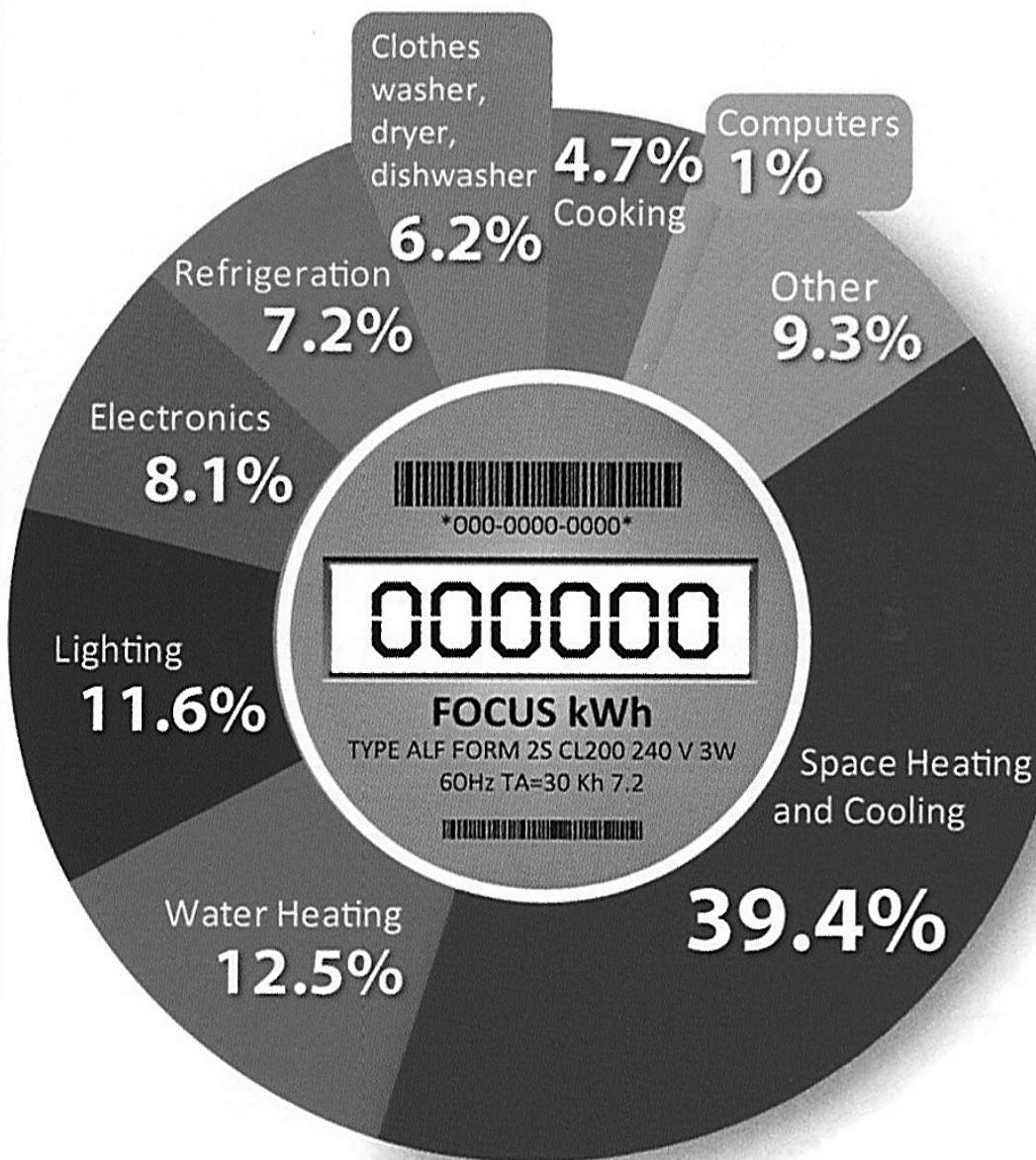
- 5 p.m.** — Safety demonstration by UDWI REMC employees
- 6 p.m.** — Home energy efficiency by Bob Geswein, efficiency expert from Harrison REMC
- 7 p.m.** — Farm energy efficiency and lighting efficiency by Wes McFarland of Hoosier Energy REC
- 8 p.m.** — Renewable energy by Caleb Steiner of Hoosier Energy

Other activities include:

- Two REMC trucks will be available to view
- Free hardhats for children
- Ask the Experts: Energy efficiency advice and information will be available for our members
- Participants who fill out a survey will be entered in a drawing for four \$50 bill credits! Winners will be announced at 9 p.m. Participants need not be present to win.

The 4-H concession stand will also be selling bottled water donated by UDWI REMC.

How Your Home Uses Electricity



Source: 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book, U.S. Department of Energy, Table 21.5. Represents an all-electric home. Updated February 2011.

Helping members save on their energy bills is very important to your electric cooperative. UDWI REMC has implemented an Energy Management Program that puts technology to work for all of us! The program is absolutely free, and you can start today by calling our office to have a meter installed on your air conditioner and water heater. Call 812-384-4446 or 800-489-7362 for more information.



UDWI REMC was happy to sponsor three local students on the 2011 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. They are, from left, Cain Caudell, Bedford North Lawrence High School; Candace Faulkner, Lighthouse Christian Academy; and Kyle Smith, Bloomfield High School. The three visited the REMC office on June 3 in preparation for their journey, which took place June 9-16.

Give us an 'A'

Students in our service area who receive an "A" on their report cards are eligible to enter our "Give us an 'A'" drawing, which is held twice each year, in January and in July. Four recipients will receive \$50 U.S. Savings Bonds, and one will receive a \$100 bond.



Co-op members, directors or employees, or dependents of members/directors/employees who are enrolled in an accredited educational program are eligible to enter. Just send us a copy of your grade card with your name, address, telephone number, REMC account number, and the name and grade of the school. Entries should be mailed to Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC, P.O. Box 427, Bloomfield, IN 47424. Please contact 812-384-4446 or 800-489-7362, ext. 46, for additional information.

Learn how your Co-op Connections Card can save you money!

Visit www.udwiremc.com for a complete list of local and national businesses where members can receive discounts on everything from vehicle maintenance to retail shopping.

Co-op members nationwide have saved \$28 million on prescription drugs through the card's prescription program.

If you have not received your Co-op Connections Card through the mail or in our office, please call us and we would be happy to send one to you.



Watch for signs of system overload

Increased electrical use in summer can place strain on a home's electrical system. During the hot summer months, consumers run the risk of overloading wiring systems due to the extended use of air-conditioning and other cooling mechanisms, possibly resulting in serious shock or fire. If the home has an old or damaged electrical system, it has an even higher chance of danger.



Don't overload your electrical system and outlets.

As part of the new "Teach Learn Care" TLC campaign, Safe Electricity urges everyone to be aware of the added stress placed on a home's electrical systems during summer months and steps you can take to keep your loved ones safe.

Underwriters Laboratories estimates more than a third of houses in the United States are more than 50 years old. Considering the increase in appliance use and related electrical demands over the past half century, many older homes are not adequately wired to handle and support the increased demands.

Outdated wiring can become overheated due to the increased loads required to run the appliances typically found in today's homes. If the wiring is deteriorating or crumbling it can be damaging its own insulation, putting the system at risk for fire.

According to the National Fire Protection As-

sociation, faulty electrical distribution and wiring contributes to tens of thousands of fires, hundreds of deaths, and more than a thousand injuries, not to mention more than half a billion dollars in damages. In order to help protect you and your family, watch for these warning signs:

- Lights often flicker, blink or dim momentarily.
- Circuit breakers trip or fuses blow often.
- Cords or wall plates are warm to the touch or discolored.
- Crackling, sizzling or buzzing is heard from outlets.

If you have any of these present, you should have your home inspected by a professional.

A home electrical inspection to find and correct hidden hazards could prevent many of these tragedies. The time and investment to have a qualified electrician check your residence and perform a few home repairs and upgrades is small compared to the protection and safety they provide to your family and home.

Safe Electricity recommends an electrical system inspection for all dwellings 40 years old or older and when purchasing a previously-owned home. Most mortgage companies also require an electrical inspection upon the purchase of a new home before a loan can be approved. You should also have an inspection when you've had a major renovation or if you've added major new

appliances in the last 10 years, or have extension cords or lots of power strips permanently in use.

Extension cords should only be used temporarily and should be in good condition with a sufficient amp or wattage rating. Never use cords which are frayed, stretched or worn and keep them out of the path of foot traffic. You should never use an extension cord for air conditioners, electric heaters or fans and never run them behind baseboards or beneath carpets or furniture. If electrical items to be plugged in are close together, such as computer equipment, use a plug bar or surge protector. But make sure not to overload the electrical circuit, which can create a fire hazard.

In addition to ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets, designed for protection from electrical shocks, Safe Electricity encourages homeowners to consider having a professional install arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) on circuits in bedrooms. The National Electric Code now requires AFCIs in new residential construction.

No matter the season, or age of homes, residents should be vigilant and continually check for electrical hazards such as cracked or fraying electrical cords, overloaded outlets and circuits, and improper wattage light bulbs in lamps and light fixtures. Also, make sure smoke alarms are placed and functioning properly.

"Teach Learn Care" TLC is a public service campaign of Safe Electricity, an electrical safety public awareness program created and supported by a coalition of hundreds of organizations, including electric utilities, educators, and other entities committed to promoting electrical safety.

Sharing 'safety first' with local students



On May 6, Eastern Schools' fourth graders visited UDWI REMC and watched a safety demonstration designed to keep them safe around electricity. The students also participated in an equipment demonstration and learned how linemen perform their daily duties.

What the students said ...

"Thank you for the safety program. I learned that electricity is very dangerous. Thank you for letting me try on the gloves. I hope we can come back next year." — Abby

"Thank you for the presentation you put on. REMC is a really cool place. I think I want to work there when I grow up." — Kelsie

"Thank you for telling us about the dangers of electricity. If you didn't tell us, we could have gotten hurt." — Timothy



On May 12, students from "Blooms for Bloomfield" visited the REMC and presented the cooperative with a basket of flowers. The group watched a safety demonstration from lineman Mike Chapman and learned about the equipment necessary to keep the lights on.

Thanks to all the students who were able to visit UDWI REMC and learn about electrical safety!

CO-OP NOTES

Rate schedule

Schedule "R" – residential service

Rate Schedule (as of April 1)

Consumer charge.....\$32 per month

June, July, Aug.\$0.12 per kWh

Dec., Jan., Feb.\$0.11 per kWh

March, April, May, Sept., Oct., Nov.

.....\$0.08769 per kWh

The above rates are subject to a Purchased Power Cost Adjustment Tracking Factor, in accordance with the order of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, approved Dec. 17, 1976, in Cause No. 34614, and fuel adjustment clause.

Budget billing

Our BUDGET BILLING PLAN allows you to budget your payments over the course of the year to improve your financial planning. With our BUDGET BILLING PLAN, you know each month exactly how much your electric bill is going to be.

The monthly billing amount is determined by averaging the kilowatt-hours used for the previous 12 months, and the payment is figured using the current rates. The member agrees to pay the budgeted amount each month for 11 months. However, actual use is recorded on each month's billing statement to allow the member to track his or her use throughout the year. In the 12th month, the member either pays the difference in what was actually used, or receives a refund if there is an overpayment.

The BUDGET BILLING PLAN is offered to members who have had electric service with the co-op for at least one year.

Applications for BUDGET BILLING are available throughout the year; however, members can only join the program from April 1 through Sept. 15. June is the first billing month of the program, with May being the 12th, or settlement, month.

For more information about UDWI's BUDGET BILLING PLAN call 384-4446 or 800-489-7362.

Payment options:



We accept Mastercard, Visa, Discover, and American Express credit and debit cards for payment.

Pay your electric bill online with just the click of the mouse. 1. Go to www.udwiremc.com 2. Click a) Log in or b) create a new account **Be sure to provide a valid e-mail address 3. Go to the Pay Your Bill option. (The amount of your bill will be displayed). 4. You will be asked to provide your credit card information — **including expiration date**. 5. Click on the Submit button. 6. You will receive an e-mail confirmation (to the address you provided) once your payment is processed.

If you are interested in paying your electric bill online, please call 812-384-4446 or 800-489-7362 to verify your password before logging on.



Touchstone Energy®

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Mike Reinhart



Johnathan Sutton

Dear REMC,

I received a call from Mike (REMC) a couple of days ago, and I think we might need to leave the volt meter on another week. The flickering does appear to be reduced, and the generator is not being tripped when it does not need to be. I must compliment REMC on its two wonderful linemen, John and Mike. They both have been very helpful.

Ruth Engs



Gary Swinney



Johnathan Sutton

Dear REMC,

Just wanted to thank the crew for getting our power back on Thursday night. When I called and reported it, they were out here soon after. Working in the dark could not be easy.

Bill and Kathy Thompson

WORK ANNIVERSARIES



Bill Baize
July 16
27 years



Rob Firestone
July 10
22 years



Steve Harp
July 12
7 years



Jarrad James
July 28
3 years



Steve Jerrells
July 22
37 years



Leon Manners
July 29
13 years



Kristi Parkes
July 9
10 years



Dave Patterson
July 17
5 years

Have you received outstanding service from an employee at UDWI REMC? If so, let us know. Your comment could determine our next *Employee of the Month*. Send a note to: UDWI REMC, c/o CEO Brian L. Sparks, P.O. Box 427, Bloomfield, IN 47424 or via e-mail at remc@udwiremc.com.