

Decatur County REMC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

P.O. Box 46, Greensburg, IN 47240

To CONTACT YOUR REMC

Office hours: Monday through Friday,
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Telephone: 663-3391 (local)
800-844-7362 (toll free)

During regular business hours, these phone numbers connect you with our office and after hours to our on call service. When calling after hours, please limit your requests to outages and emergencies. Whenever you call, please give the name and account number of the service as shown on your bill.

How To REPORT AN OUTAGE

1. Check the fuses or breakers in your home.
2. Check the breakers below the meter if the meter is located on a yard pole.
3. Call your neighbors. If their power is also off, ask if they have reported it yet. Please do not take for granted that the outage has been reported.
4. Call Decatur County REMC to report your outage. Please be prepared to give the name, address, location number, and telephone number for the account without power in order for us process your call more quickly.

RATE SCHEDULE

Rate schedule for January use/February bill

Facilities charge	\$34.50
Winter rate kWh charge	0.10367
Total kWh x power cost tracker.. ..	
.....	\$0.005294
Total bill x Indiana sales tax	0.07000

Example of bill for 1,200 kWh

Facilities charge	\$34.50
1,200 kWh @ 0.10367	\$124.40
1,200 kWh @ 0.005294	\$6.35
TOTAL.....	\$165.26
Indiana sales tax.....	\$11.57
TOTAL BILL	\$176.82

MISSION STATEMENT

Decatur County REMC Mission Statement:

We are committed to provide, with integrity, the highest quality service to ensure a better way of life for our members and communities.

“Don’t forget to visit us online.”



www.dcremc.com

co-opNews Information from your electric cooperative

MANAGER’S COLUMN

Co-op membership matters

Last year, the U.S. Senate – building off similar action by the United Nations General Assembly – designated 2012 as International Year of Cooperatives. As a result, cooperatives everywhere are celebrating our unique not-for-profit, member-owned and member-controlled business model.

By and large, we don’t get to choose who provides our electric service. Folks on opposite sides of the road may be served by different electric providers, some by a stockholder-driven investor-owned utility, others a city-owned municipal electric system. We are a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by you and your fellow members.

But there’s one major difference between these entities. Every home or business that receives power from an electric cooperative – 18 million in 47 states – owns a portion of the utility. As a result, anyone who receives cooperative electric service becomes a member and consumer, not a customer. Across the nation, electric co-ops serve more than 42 million people.

Being a member matters. Decatur County REMC doesn’t exist to make profits for distant investors on Wall Street. We exist to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. And we want to do so in a way that raises the quality of life in our communities. Because electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis, they have no need to increase revenues above what it takes to run the business in a financially sound manner. This structure helps keep your electric bill affordable.

Membership also matters because electric co-ops care about improving the quality of life in the areas they serve. From sponsoring the scoreboard at the high school football stadium, taking donations for the local food bank,



**DON
SCHILLING**
General Manager

sponsoring students for Youth Tour or Touchstone Energy Camp, Decatur County REMC invests in local communities where you live and work.

Membership matters because it entitles you to certain benefits like helping you find ways to lower your electricity use through energy efficiency seminars or discussing different tips on conservation. You receive the *Electric Consumer* because you’re a member of an electric cooperative that wants you to stay abreast of important co-op news and events.

The Co-op Connections® Card even gives you discounts from national chain retailers and restaurants and local stores in your community. Check out dcremc.com to find discounts in your neighborhood.

Membership matters because you have a voice and a vote in how your co-op is governed. Through democratic control, members like you elected others from our co-op to serve on the board of directors. Control stays in local hands. Your board of directors, along with those who work for your co-op, are your friends and neighbors.

Electric co-ops are just one type of cooperative operating in America. Dairy cooperatives produce nearly 90 percent of our nations’ milk. Credit unions. They’re cooperatives, too, with more than 8,000 across the country serving 91 million consumers. You can also find housing, hardware, and even funeral co-ops throughout the U.S.

Membership matters because you receive returns on your investment in your co-op. Electric co-ops aim to operate at cost, so any excess revenues, or margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits, based on their electric use.

The bottom line – membership matters because you matter to your electric cooperative!

Your Co-op Connections Card helps you SAVE!



Visit dcremc.com
for a list of participating
businesses.

Use your card at your
local pharmacy to save on
prescriptions as well.

Start saving today!

Employees and directors honored for years of service

Three employees and a director of Decatur County REMC were recently honored for their years of loyal service.

A luncheon was held in November to pay tribute to the years of dedicated service of these employees reaching milestones in their careers at the cooperative. These four employees alone have a total of 77 years of service. Honored were William Richardson, lineman, 35 years; Tim Gauck, director, 30 years; Kevin Williams, line department manager, 10 years; and Mary Adams, customer service representative, two years.

We're proud of our organization, employees, and directors. Congratulations to all!



Honored for their combined 77 years of service to Decatur County REMC were, from left, William Richardson, Kevin Williams, Mary Adams, and Tim Gauck.

Statement of nondiscrimination

Decatur County Rural Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance effort is the manager of corporate relations. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels this organization has subjected him or her to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



Mark your calendars for the Decatur County REMC Annual Meeting!

What: Decatur County REMC Annual Meeting

When: Tuesday, March 13

Registration: 6 p.m.

Meeting: 7 p.m.

Greensburg High School Auditorium

\$20 bill credit

Door prizes

**Entertainment:
Comedian Jay Hendren**

Also at your annual meeting:

- **Reports from your officers**
- **Election of three nominating committee members**
- **Election of three directors**

Note: The office will close at 4 p.m. this day

Baking contest winners announced

Applaud on the back to all Decatur County REMC employees who submitted recipes to our Dessert Baking Contest. We are pleased to announce that the winning dessert, Apple Streusel Cobbler, was submitted by Becky Metz. Metz received a \$50 Visa gift card for her winning confection.

Participating employees were Shanna LeBaron, Tammie Spurlock, Mary Adams, Jennie Meyer, Crystal Greathouse and Teresa Smiley. The judges had a hard time making their selection. They determined that we have some good bakers working at our co-op!

Metz's winning recipe is below.

Apple Streusel Cobbler

2 (21 oz.) cans apple pie filling	½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
2 large eggs	½ cup all-purpose flour
1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk	¼ cup cold butter
¼ cup melted butter	½ cup chopped nuts
½ t. ground cinnamon	½ cup oats
¼ t. ground nutmeg	

Preheat oven to 375 F. Spread apple filling in a buttered 9-inch square baking pan. Beat eggs, sweetened condensed milk, melted butter and spices in a large bowl. Pour over apple filling. Combine brown sugar and flour in a small bowl. Cut in cold butter with pastry blender or two knives until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add nuts and oats. Sprinkle over top. Bake 50 minutes or until set. Cool. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream, if desired. Serves 9-12.



Becky Metz



Baking contest judges, from left, Eric Ewing, Ray Ruble, and Jim Wallpe had a tough decision. They were assisted by Jeanne Loechle.

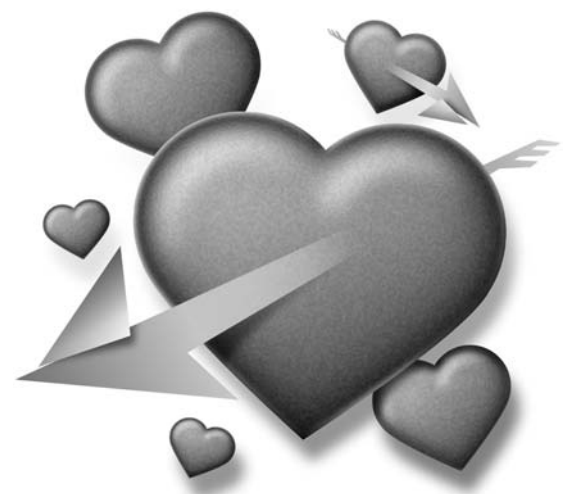


Stay Clear!

A downed power line may not be a dead line. It could cause serious injury or death.

Surviving the accident itself might not be enough to stay alive without awareness of the right moves to make. Follow these steps to ensure you stay safe.

- If someone is injured by contact with a power line, call 911 and keep others away until help arrives.
- If a power line falls across or near your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives, unless the vehicle is on fire.
- If you must exit, jump clear so that no part of your body is touching the car when you land. **KEEP BOTH FEET TOGETHER**, and shuffle or hop at least 30 feet away from the vehicle.



Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at Decatur County REMC!

ENERGY STAR appliances save money and energy

Every appliance comes with two price tags: what it costs to take it home and what it costs to operate it each month. ENERGY STAR®-qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies and use 10 to 50 percent less energy than standard appliances. From refrigerators to clothes washers, ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances save energy, save money, and help reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants at the source.

Benefits

- **Lower utility bills.** Appliances account for nearly 20 percent of the average household's energy use.
- **Improved quality and durability.** Energy-efficient appliances often include quality components surpassing those found in standard appliances. These can result in fewer mechanical problems, longer equipment life, and in many cases extended warranties.
- **Enhanced performance.** ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances often outperform standard appliances due to improved design and advanced technologies. For instance, some ENERGY STAR-appliances include features that decrease operating noise, while others include technologies that reduce water use.

Overview

Refrigerators and freezers

ENERGY STAR-qualified refrigerators use up to 40 percent less energy than the conventional models sold in 2001 and at least 15 percent less energy than models built to current federal standards. These refrigerators feature high-efficiency compressors, improved insulation, and more precise temperature and defrost mechanisms. ENERGY STAR-qualified freezers use at least 10 percent less energy than required by current federal standards. **TIP:** Leave space between the refrigerator and walls to allow air movement and brush (or vacuum) refrigerator or freezer coils regularly to maintain efficient operation.

Dishwashers

ENERGY STAR-qualified dishwashers use at least 41 percent less energy than the federal minimum standard for energy consumption. These dishwashers use "smart" features such as effective washing action, energy-efficient motors, and sensors that determine the necessary cycle length and water temperature. **TIP:** Use short wash cycles for everything but the dirtiest dishes.

Clothes washers

ENERGY STAR-qualified clothes washers use 40 to 50 percent less energy and about 55 percent less water than standard washers. Most qualified washers extract more water during the spin cycle, providing further energy savings when using a clothes dryer because drying time will be shorter. **TIP:** Use the correct amount and type of detergent; too many bubbles will make the machine work harder than necessary.

To learn more about ENERGY STAR, visit www.energystar.gov.

A Greensburg/Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Event



2012

Future In Farming

Southeastern Indiana Ag Conference

March 2, 2012

Doors open at 7:30 a.m.
Wolf Theatres, Greensburg
\$20/person

Call 812-663-2832 for tickets sales or more information

winter ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Winter weather may make electric power lines sag and break. This can bring power lines into contact with the ground, trees, homes, vehicles, and other objects, that can cause serious injuries or even death. Protect yourself by staying away from downed power lines.

Even if you don't see sparks from a downed power line, the line and the ground around it may be energized so it's important to never touch or try to move it. Call your local power company or 9-1-1 right away. If a line falls on your vehicle, unless you are in imminent danger, stay inside. If you must exit, jump clear so that no part of your body is touching the car when you land. KEEP BOTH FEET together and shuffle or hop at least 30 feet away from the vehicle.

If you see someone in contact with a power line ALWAYS CALL 9-1-1. Pulling or grabbing the person away from the line could put you in contact with electricity.

