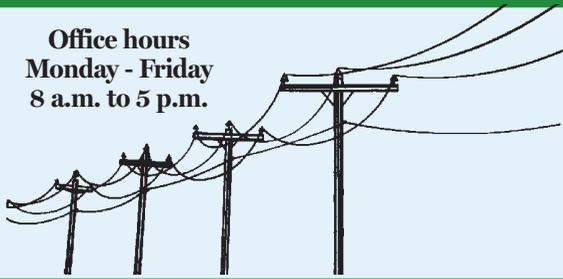


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 100 Malinta, OH 43535
Office Calls: 419-256-7900
www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop



TRUSTEES

Steve Hoffman	President
Lawrence Weirich	Vice President
Bradley Haupricht Sr.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Kenneth Brubaker	Johney Ritz
Dustin Sonnenberg	John Schuchert

EMPLOYEES

Brett Perkins, Manager	Craig Wilson
Doug Hall	Jason Warnimont
Sue Bockelman	Jeremy Warnimont
Chris Okuley	Tom Jones
Sandy Corey	Deb Stuller
Brian Bick	

To report a power outage: 888-256-9858

Your call will be answered by the Cooperative Response Center. Give them the name on your account, service address and a telephone number where you can be reached.

They will dispatch a line crew to restore service.

Be sure to check your fuse or breaker system before reporting a power outage.

Jackpot news!

Neither **Colby Carroll** of rural Napoleon nor **Patricia Kaplan** of rural Swanton reported spotting their hidden account numbers in the May issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, they would have won half the jackpot and received a check for \$30.

Your account number is on your bill statement. Disregard the zeros at the left in the number, but consider any zeros to the right when converting your number to words.

The hidden account numbers always are in Tricounty's local pages of the magazine. The jackpot now stands at \$80. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

The *power* of American independence

FIREWORKS AND FLAGS. Cookouts and cold drinks. The Fourth of July is a festive day when we celebrate our nation's independence. Typically, this is not a day of quiet reflection.

But it's worth thinking about this uniquely American spirit of independence that remains part of our collective DNA more than 200 years after the Declaration of Independence was written. And this sense of independence has served us well. For example, more than 70 years ago, an independent streak inspired groups of farmers across the countryside to band together and improve their quality of life by electrifying rural America. They did it themselves by pulling together and working cooperatively — a shining example of American determination and ingenuity. Five Nine Five Four Zero Zero Two

Nearly every president since Richard Nixon, during the time of the Arab oil embargo, has talked about the goal of U.S. energy independence: reducing our reliance on imported oil and other forms of foreign energy. We still have a ways to go, but we are closer to that goal than ever before. We are exporting more gas and importing less foreign fuel than in recent memory. American ingenuity, in the form of new technology and innovation, is spurring greater efficiency across all forms of energy.

Consumers have an important role to play in the road to energy independence by taking action in simple, practical ways, including insulating and caulking around windows, doors and electrical outlets; washing clothes in cold water instead of hot; replacing air filters; installing a programmable thermostat; and using more efficient appliances and home heating and cooling systems. Efficiency efforts can cut costs for individual households, but the collective benefit to our country is even greater.

If we all work together to achieve increased energy efficiency and reduce our overall energy consumption, we can make even more progress on our road toward energy independence. ☺



Brett Perkins
General Manager

Rebates available to members

Electric water heaters

New Construction or Converting from Propane or Natural Gas

Rebates are \$25 less than the purchase price of the water heater, excluding tax and labor, up to \$350, with the installation of a radio-controlled switch (RCS) for load control.

Replacement of Existing Electric Water Heater with RCS Already Installed

A rebate of up to \$200 will be paid for replacing an existing 40-, 50- or 80-gallon electric water heater with an existing RCS.

Replacement of Existing Electric Water Heater with First-Time RCS Installation

A rebate of up to \$300 will be paid.

All water heaters must be new and have an RCS in place to qualify for a rebate. We install the RCS at no cost to the member. All water heaters with an RCS receive a \$2 per month credit on the electric bill.

Rebates are not paid for replacement of non-leaking water heaters or water heaters that are replaced while in warranty. There is a 40-gallon minimum size to qualify for a rebate and RCS installation. No rebates or RCS installations are available for tankless water heaters.

Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems

All units must be new and rebates are available in new construction or as a replacement for an existing heating system.

\$800 rebate for the installation of a geothermal system with electric resistance supplemental heat

\$600 rebate for the installation of a geothermal system with fossil-fuel backup

Air-to-Air Heat Pumps

All heat pump units must be new, and wood burners are excluded as a qualifying fossil-fuel heat source. The cutoff temperature setting for heating shall not be set higher than 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

\$300 rebate for the installation of a Dual Fuel unit with a fossil-fuel furnace or as an add-on to your existing fossil-fuel furnace

\$300 rebate for installation of a Dual Fuel unit with an electric resistance furnace

2015 Annual Meeting to be at Delta High School

Plans are underway for Tricounty's annual meeting of members on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at Delta High School.

Registration will open at 5:30 p.m., with a delicious dinner beginning at 6 p.m. The business meeting will be called to order at 7 p.m. and will conclude with a door prize drawing.

This is a great opportunity to visit with your neighbors and friends, elect two trustees to represent you on the Tricounty board and hear reports on the operation of your cooperative.

A gift will be provided for each membership represented in person. We look forward to seeing you Sept. 16.

- What:** 2015 Annual Meeting
Where: Delta High School, 605 Taylor St., Delta
When: Wednesday, Sept. 16
Who: All Tricounty members are invited to attend!



Your water heater works while you're asleep

Hot water looms large in the list of household chores. Showers, laundry, dishes — they all require hot water. If you think about it, we use a significant amount of energy to heat water. Now, utilities and manufacturers are teaming up to bring you new water heaters equipped with technology that can make the electric grid smarter and more efficient.

Electric co-ops are at the forefront of research testing new water heater technologies, including ways to improve the use of water heaters to integrate renewable energy onto the electric grid.

Water heaters are unique among electric home appliances. They are omnipresent, use significant amounts of electricity and can store thermal energy for hours at a time.

For decades, electric co-ops have partnered with their members on “demand response” programs, which allow the co-op to turn home water heaters on and off in order to reduce how much power the co-op uses during peak periods, when power is more expensive. Members get a break on their bill in exchange for participation. New communications and automation technologies make this process more reliable, predictable and efficient.

More than 250 electric co-ops in 35 states use large-capacity electric resistance water heaters that can reduce the co-op's power cost and store electricity



produced by wind and hydropower. For example, when the wind blows at night, when most of us are sleeping and wholesale power is cheaper, the electricity produced can be used to heat water in our homes. The water will remain hot even if the water heater is turned off for a short period. In other words, water heaters can act like a battery, storing energy.

For all of these reasons, electric co-ops were dismayed in 2010 when the Department of Energy issued new efficiency standards for electric water heaters that would have made demand response programs using large-capacity electric resistance water heaters difficult. Nine Two Six Eight Zero Two

For the last five years, electric co-ops have been working with efficiency advocates, manufacturers and others to ensure that we can take advantage of new technologies that benefit our members. In April, Congress passed legislation that allows co-ops to continue to run these demand response programs.

Electric co-ops across the country hailed this bipartisan legislation as a win for consumers. Collectively, the current water heater programs can reduce demand by an estimated 500 megawatts, saving consumers hundreds of millions of dollars and avoiding the need for new power

plants.

Electric co-ops are now looking ahead and collaborating with partners to make sure the next generation of water heaters can provide more than just hot water.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



By cleaning your air conditioner's air ducts, you can lower your energy consumption between 5 and 15 percent.

Source: energy.gov



The office is closed
Friday, July 3,
in celebration of
Independence Day.

Have a safe and happy
holiday!

Emergency service is available at
888-256-9858.

Help is on the way when you're left in the dark

BY ABBY BERRY

Electric co-ops serve some of the most rugged, remote terrain in the country, covering more than 70 percent of the nation's landmass, which means we have learned how to restore power in incredibly difficult circumstances. Now, we're restoring power even faster. Collectively, electric co-ops have reduced the average time without power their consumer-members experience from 142 minutes in 2011 to 105 minutes in 2013 — a 26 percent decline.

Restoring power is a difficult job and must be done safely and strategically. When the lights go out, Ohio's electric co-ops must first assess all damage. Power is always safely restored to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time possible. Let's take a look at the power restoration process.

1. Repair high-voltage transmission lines

Transmission towers and lines deliver high-voltage power primarily from the power plant to local substations, which send power to thousands of consumer-members. If these towers or lines are damaged during a powerful storm or natural disaster, they must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Inspect distribution substations

Distribution substations receive high-voltage power from transmission lines then disperse the power at a lower voltage to the co-op's main distribution lines. Depending on your electric co-op's service territory, distribution substations can serve either hundreds or thousands of members. When a major power outage occurs, the co-op's line crews inspect the substation to determine if the issue stemmed from the transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or a problem farther down the line.

3. Check main distribution lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, the main distribution lines are checked next. These are the lines you're most likely familiar with. Distribution lines carry power to large groups of members in our service territory.

4. Examine supply and service lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, also known as tap lines, are examined next. These lines, found outside homes, businesses and schools, deliver power to transformers that are either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service. Occasionally, damage will occur on the lines between the nearest

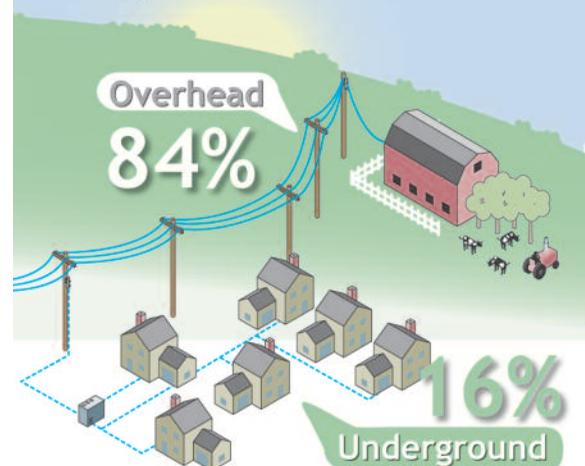
transformer and your home. Has your neighbor ever had power when you were left in the dark? This means damage occurred on the service line closest to your home. When the problem is on the service line, it may take crews additional time to restore power.

As you can see, restoring power after a major outage is a big job and involves much more than simply flipping a switch or removing a tree from a damaged line. We do everything we can to minimize outages, including preventive maintenance and right-of-way tree trimming, but sometimes, weather gets bad, accidents happen or critters crawl into substations. When the power goes out, your local line crews will work hard to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. ☺

ABBY BERRY writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

How is your power delivered?

Electric cooperatives own and maintain 2.5 million miles of distribution lines across America. The majority are overhead lines, while 16 percent are underground.



Source: NRECA, Funnel Inc.