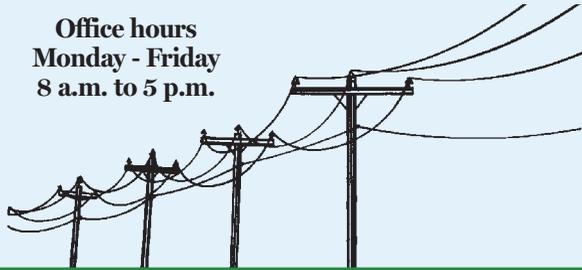


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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 Weirch	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!

Kenneth Knaggs of Grand Rapids reported spotting his hidden account number in the December issue of *Country Living* and won half the jackpot. He received a check for \$35.

John Jones of rural Liberty Center would have won the same amount if he had reported finding his account number.

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 \$60. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

Tricounty rebates \$5,000 for lighting upgrades

TRICOUNTY REC RECENTLY PRESENTED a \$5,000 rebate check to The Ridge Project of McClure for upgrading to new, energy-efficient lighting. Seven Eight Five Three Zero Zero Nine.

Steve Miller of The Ridge Project worked with Green Options, a division of County Electric based in Ottawa, to replace lightbulbs. By upgrading to a variety of more energy-efficient lighting, The Ridge Project was able to reduce its energy use by over 7,000 watts, which is about 16,000 kilowatt-hours a year — even more than the yearly electricity consumption of an average home.

Like The Ridge Project, businesses served by Tricounty REC are eligible for a rebate when they replace inefficient internal and external lighting. Specific requirements must be met, as determined by Tricounty's wholesale power supplier, Buckeye Power. The rebate is based on the number of watts reduced after replacing lights.

For more information, business members can contact Tricounty at 419-256-7900.



From left are Chris Ridley, Steve Miller, Catherine Tijerina and Ron Tijerina of The Ridge Project and Tricounty General Manager Brett Perkins.

Your elected representatives

ON THE TRICOUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Steve Hoffman
President
District I



Larry Weirich
Vice President
District II

Our service area is divided into seven board districts, each with a member-elected representative who sits on the cooperative's board of trustees. A nominating committee selects candidates for the position of trustee from cooperative members residing in the district up for election who have expressed an interest in serving. The entire membership votes on candidates at the annual meeting.

The seven-member board meets at the cooperative's headquarters, normally on the last Wednesday of each month. The trustees are responsible for cooperative policies, rates and objectives, and regularly review the cooperative's operating performance. As representatives of the rural community, they communicate the problems and needs of the membership.



Bradley Haupricht Sr.
Secretary-Treasurer
District V



Johney Ritz
District III

District I —

Dover, Pike, Fulton and York townships; Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 28, 32 and 33 of Swan Creek Township SW; and Sections 9, 16 and 21 of Swan Creek Township NW, Fulton County.

District II —

Washington and Liberty townships, Henry County.

District III —

Pleasant, Napoleon, Flatrock and Marion townships, Henry County; and Liberty and Van Buren townships, Putnam County.

District IV —

Harrison and Monroe townships, Henry County.

District V —

Providence Township, Lucas County; Sections 1, 12, 25 and 36 of Swan Creek Township SE; and Section 24 of Swan Creek Township NE, Fulton County.

District VI —

Damascus, Richfield and Bartlow townships, Henry County; and Grand Rapids, Milton and Weston townships, Wood County.

District VII —

Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 26, 27, 34 and 35 of Swan Creek Township SE, and Sections 10, 15, 22 and 23 of Swan Creek Township NE, Fulton County. ☞



Dustin Sonnenberg
District IV



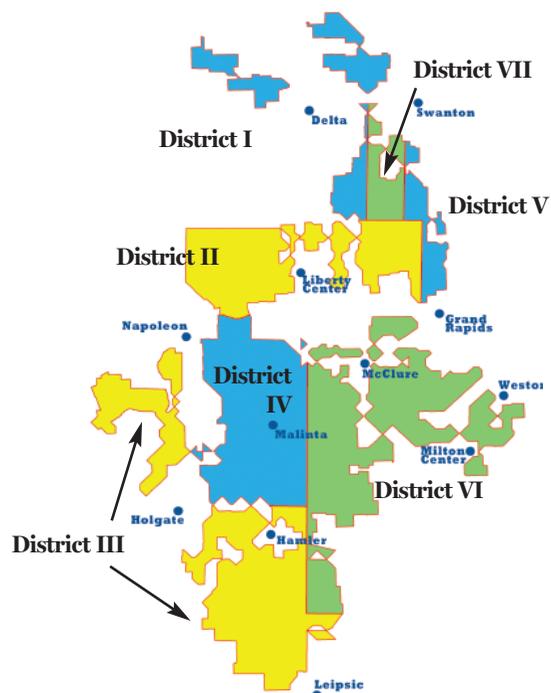
Kenneth J. Brubaker
District VI



John Schuchert
District VII



Brett Perkins
General Manager



Fight the *winter chills*

BY APRIL LOLLAR

WHEN THE TEMPERATURE DROPS, electric bills can go in the opposite direction, thanks to heating systems that work overtime. Heating and cooling can make up nearly half of your electricity costs, so instead of waiting until after a high bill hits your mailbox, be proactive. There are things you can do now to help ensure you are managing your energy use and spending less.

- Wrap exposed pipes and water heaters that are in unconditioned spaces.
- Make sure to change your furnace's air filter once a month. Three Zero Nine Six Zero Zero One.
- Keep drapes closed at night and keep those that don't get direct sunlight closed during the day, too.
- Keep the fireplace damper closed when it is not in use.
- Caulk around the fireplace hearth, and caulk or weather strip around doors and windows.
- Rather than turning up the thermostat when you feel cold, dress warmly and keep extra blankets on hand.

How weather affects your bill

Using the tips above can certainly help you manage

with energy efficiency

your energy use, but your bill may still be higher than normal in winter months. Why?

- The weather makes a big impact on electric bills, accounting for nearly half of your bill.
- Even those with the most efficient HVAC systems will see more use in extreme weather.
- When extreme cold temperatures hit, our heaters work overtime.
- For example, even if you set your thermostat to our recommended 68 degrees in the winter, when it is 19 degrees outside, your system has to work hard to make up that 49-degree difference.
- Your heater works harder and cycles on and off more often, making your use much higher. That means your bill will be much higher.
- Remember, there is value in comfort. For us to be comfortable in our homes, our heaters are going to work harder, but it may be worth the additional cost to you. ☹

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:

Interested in a life-changing leadership experience ... in Washington, D.C.?

June 12-18



YOUTH TOUR 2015

What is Youth Tour?

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is an annual leadership program coordinated by Tricounty and its statewide service organization, Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. It's a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., that gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to meet with their Congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, make new friends from across the country and see many of the famous Washington sights.

Electric cooperatives from 43 states will send about 1,600 students this year for the annual tour. *Will you be one of them?*

To apply for the Youth Tour ...

Successful applicants:

- must be a high school sophomore or junior.
- must be a son, daughter or legal ward of a Tricounty member living on the cooperative's lines and receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time of selection.

How will the finalist be chosen?

Tricounty will sponsor one student on the Youth Tour. Interested students should complete and return a test on rural electric cooperatives to Tricounty by **March 31**.

Yes! I am interested in hearing how I can be part of the trip to Washington, D.C., this summer.

Name _____

Address _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Sophomore Junior

Mail to:

Tricounty REC, Inc. • P.O. Box 100 • Malinta, OH 43535

The BIGGEST user

Learn how to estimate appliances' energy use to see if it's time to upgrade

YOU'VE HAD YOUR FRIDGE FOREVER. With the exception of some crumbling parts of the seal, it's in pretty good shape and keeps your food cold. Why worry about budgeting for an upgrade?

For starters, inefficient appliances can have a huge impact on your home's monthly electric bill. Replacing a refrigerator made before 1993 with a new, ENERGY STAR-rated model could knock \$65 to \$100 off your power costs each year.

When evaluating older appliances, one key question emerges: Which is the biggest user? To estimate the energy consumption of an appliance, use this general formula provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's EnergySavers.gov:

$(\text{Wattage} \times \text{hours used per day} \times \text{days used per year}) \div 1,000 = \text{annual kilowatt-hour (kWh) used}$

Remember: 1,000 watts = 1 kilowatt (kW)

Then calculate the annual cost to use an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by .098 rate per kWh used.

For example, a PC and monitor:

$[(120 \text{ watts} + 150 \text{ watts}) \times 4 \text{ hours per day} \times 365 \text{ days per year}] \div 1000$
 $= 394 \text{ kWh} \times 9.8 \text{ cents/kWh}$
 $= \$38.61/\text{year}$

and appliances become more technologically savvy, they often draw power even while turned off. A good indicator of this — called “phantom load” — is to check the device for a light that stays on all the time.

Phantom load will add a few watt-hours to energy consumption, but a few watt-hours on each of your many electronic devices adds up. To avoid this silent power draw, unplug the device or invest in a “smart” power strip, which allows certain electronics — like a cable box, which takes time to reboot after it's been unplugged — to continue using electricity while others can be completely shut down.

Here are examples of the range of wattages for common household appliances:

- Clothes washer: 350–500 watts
- Clothes dryer: 1,800–5,000 watts
- Dishwasher: 1,200–2,400 watts (heat drying feature increases energy use)
- Hair dryer: 1,200–1,875 watts
- Microwave oven: 750–1,100 watts
- Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet): 725 watts

Once you calculate how much money you spend to run aging home appliances, compare this to what it would cost to use more efficient models. There are other benefits, too. For example, not only have clothes washers become 64 percent more energy efficient since 2000, but the tub size has increased by 9 percent. With a new model you can wash more clothes for less money every month.

Don't want the hassle of adding up the potential savings? Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives' website, www.TogetherWeSave.com, demonstrates how small changes like replacing an appliance or unplugging electronics lead to big energy savings. On the website under 'Add Up Your Savings,' you can walk through a typical home's kitchen, living room and other common areas. Upgrade appliances and make other energy-smart choices in each room. Each time you make a change, you're shown how much money you could save on your annual electric bill. ☺

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, ENERGY STAR

You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance or on its nameplate. The wattage listed shows the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Because some appliances have a range of settings — just like the volume on a radio — the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time.

Keep in mind that as electronics

