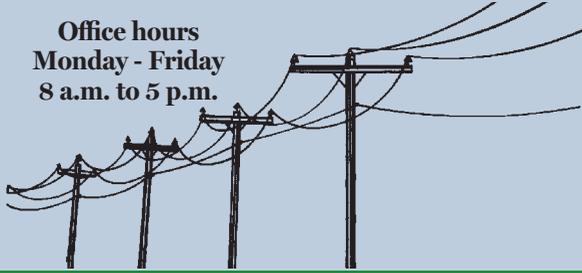


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



TRUSTEES

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

EMPLOYEES

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

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 **Steven Murray** nor **Sam Westmeyer**, both of rural Delta, reported spotting his hidden account number in the February issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, he 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!

Billing change effective April 1

IT IS ALWAYS DIFFICULT to make decisions that impact our members' electric bills. We do everything possible to minimize these changes and still provide you with safe, affordable and reliable electricity.

Our last rate adjustment was in 2012. It was for \$0.008 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), although our wholesale power costs had increased by \$0.0125 per kWh during that period. Over the past four years, we have been able to manage our controllable costs very well. However, uncontrollable costs have forced us to make a change.

Despite our nonprofit status, Tricounty pays several taxes. One of those taxes is a kilowatt-hour tax imposed by the state of Ohio on every kilowatt-hour we sell.

In lieu of a rate adjustment, the board of trustees has decided to bill the kWh tax Tricounty is required to pay on the kilowatt-hours purchased by our members as a separate line item on your bill. Two six zero zero zero one

Showing this as a line item on your bill follows industry standards. It also allows more transparency in showing our members where their dollars are actually going. This is not a new tax. The kilowatt-hour tax was enacted in 2001 under Ohio Revised Code 5727.81. Until this point, Tricounty has included the tax in the rates charged and account for it as an expense.

Even though our rates will remain unchanged, the addition of the kilowatt-hour tax line item will affect your electric bill. For example, a member that uses 1,000 kWh in a month will see an increase of \$4.65, or 3.7 percent, on the electric bill.

The tax charge will be applied according to the following table, as found in the Ohio Revised Code.

	Per kWh
First 2,000 kWh sold per month	\$0.00465
Next 13,000 kWh sold per month	\$0.00419
Over 15,000 kWh sold per month	\$0.00363

This change is effective April 1, 2016. It will be reflected on the billing statement you receive around May 10 and is for electricity used in April. The payment due date is May 25.

Even with this billing change, Tricounty continues to have some of the lowest rates in Ohio. We appreciate the support of our member-owners as we strive to provide you with safe, affordable and reliable electric energy. ☺

— Brett Perkins, General Manager

Thank a lineman on April 11

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day. Tricounty will honor our dedicated linemen who often work in challenging conditions to keep power flowing to the homes and businesses in northwest Ohio. We proudly recognize all linemen for the work they do around the clock, often in dangerous conditions, to serve our members and protect the public safety.

Tricounty's linemen maintain over 600 miles of line spread over five counties within our service territory. They are the first responders of our electric distribution system. A lot of their time is spent maintaining our infrastructure to keep power outages from happening. But when bad weather or a vehicle accident damages power lines and poles, linemen brave the elements and leave their families at all hours of the day and night to ensure reliable service for members.

To Tricounty's linemen and all lineworkers across the country — THANK YOU!



OHIO'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

#thankalinenman

April 11 is **Lineman Appreciation Day**. When you see linemen, please thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Your **power** is their **priority**. Always.

April 11, 2016

LINEMAN

— *Appreciation Day* —



Capital credits:

One of the many benefits of being a co-op member

There are many benefits that come with co-op membership. Perhaps one of the best is capital credits.

What are capital credits? At the end of each year, Tricounty calculates its margin, the amount by which its revenue exceeded its expenses during the year. Six eight eight seven five zero zero.

We then allocate the margin as capital credits to each member based on the amount of electricity purchased throughout the year. When our board of trustees determines it is financially feasible and prudent, we retire the capital credits.

In the interim, we use the capital credits that are allocated, but unretired, to improve and expand our electric system and meet our other capital needs. This reduces our need to borrow money and helps us provide reliable electric service.

Why do we do this? As an electric cooperative, we are here to provide at-cost electric service. We aren't here to make a profit, and we don't have shareholders. As a member of an electric cooperative, you

invest in the efficient operation of your co-op. Unlike an investor-owned utility, we don't pay dividends or other amounts to shareholders who don't purchase electricity from us.

The 2015 Notice of Capital Credits Allocation recently was mailed to all members who received electric service from Tricounty last year. Your notice showed your total patronage (billing) and the amount of your capital credits allocation. The total allocation for 2015 was \$1,076,704 and represented over 12 percent of your billing for 2015. Your total unretired capital credits balance is also shown on the notice. Should you ever move out of Tricounty's service area, be sure to give us your current address so you can receive any capital credits owed to you in the future.

In December 2015, over \$419,000 was refunded to current and former members who received electric service from Tricounty in the year 2000.

Collectively, America's electric cooperatives retired \$974 million last year — that's the cooperative way. Capital credits are just one of the many benefits of being a member of Tricounty.

HOW TO START SAVING *energy and money*

1. Look around your home for no-cost ways to be efficient. Close the curtains in the summer and open them in the winter. Turn off your computers overnight. Also turn off video game consoles when they're not being used. Better yet, keep them off and send the kids outside to play.
2. Look for small measures you can DIY. Caulk around drafty windows. Check the attic for the correct amount of insulation. Switch to LED light-bulbs. Plant a deciduous tree on the sunny side of your house; in a few years, the leaves will cool your home against the sun in summer, then fall off to warm it in the winter. Old cable-TV boxes use a lot of energy. If yours is not ENERGY STAR-rated, call your cable provider and ask for a new one. If you have a major appliance like a refrigerator, washing machine or dryer that's more than 10 years old, don't repair it. The energy efficiency of a newer model will likely pay for itself with energy savings in a few years. Before buying any appliance, look for the ENERGY STAR label, and learn to read it and compare products.
3. Call Tricounty or visit www.tricountyelectriccoop.com about rebates for efficient appliances that can help you save energy and money. You can also visit www.touchstoneenergy.com and click on "Together We Save" to find how little changes around your home can add up to big energy savings.

U.S. Supreme Court grants stay to Clean Power Plan

Utilities are not required to begin implementation while the regulation's legality is debated in courts

IN FEBRUARY, THE U.S. SUPREME COURT ruled to halt implementation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan until the legal challenges against it have been settled in the courts.

Why is the ruling important to you and your electric cooperative? Had the stay not been granted, electric co-ops would have been forced to take costly and irreversible steps to comply with the rule, which co-ops contend is outside the scope of the EPA's regulatory authority and achieves little to no environmental benefit while increasing the cost of electricity.

"Because Tricounty is a not-for-profit cooperative, we have an obligation to our member-owners to balance environmental responsibility with affordability and reliable service," General Manager Brett Perkins says. "Our power generation across the United States is cleaner than ever and will continue to get cleaner without the EPA's regulations.

"We will continue to advocate for our members to maintain their affordable, reliable supply of electricity while being good stewards of the environment."

Tricounty is a member-owner of Buckeye Power, a generation and transmission cooperative that supplies electricity to Tricounty and 24 other coopera-

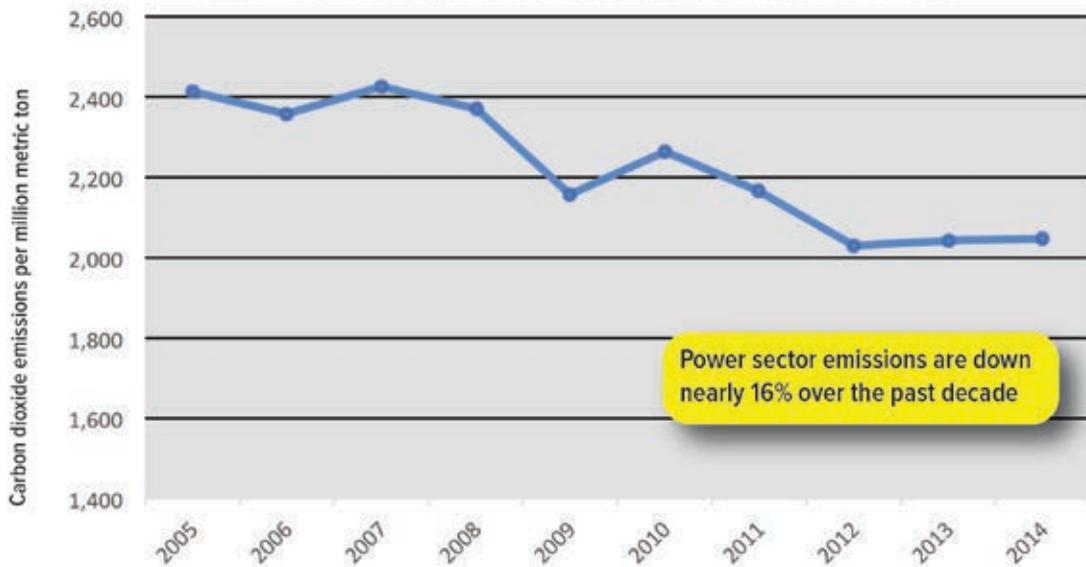
tives serving Ohio. Over the past 13 years, we have invested more than \$1 billion in emissions-control equipment to make our coal-fired power plant, Cardinal Generating Station, one of the cleanest of its kind in the world.

"Voicing our opposition to the Clean Power Plan, which will result in a lot of financial pain for very little environmental gain, has been ongoing for two years," Perkins says. "We thank our members for their support and those who have sent messages to Congress and the White House on behalf of our electric cooperative. We hope to work with the EPA on a solution that makes sense for both consumers and the environment."

The legality of the Clean Power Plan is now being challenged in the U.S. Court of Appeals, where the D.C. Circuit will review and reject, or uphold, the regulation. A decision is expected late this year or in early 2017.

The death of Justice Antonin Scalia does not affect the stay, but the makeup of the Supreme Court will, of course, have an affect on future rulings. Tricounty will keep members updated on important developments as the case proceeds. ☞

Carbon dioxide emissions by the U.S. power production sector



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Energy Information Administration