HOT LINES

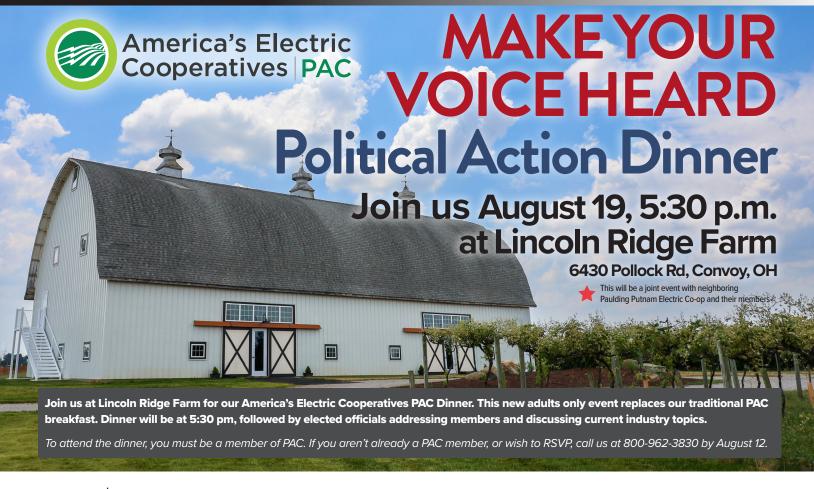


AUGUST 2024

News about your community and cooperative

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IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO



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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BASELOAD AND INTERMITTENT POWER and why it matters



MATT BERRY, CEO mberry@midwestrec.com

As summer temperatures soar, our first instinct upon returning home is often to crank up the air conditioning. This response isn't unique—it's mirrored across our entire region, putting a strain on North America's power grid. Every evening, as the workday ends, a surge in electricity demand ensues, challenging grid operators to ensure an ample supply to keep everyone comfortable.

The demand for electricity fluctuates throughout the day, peaking in the morning as households wake up and begin their

daily routines. Our electric grid draws power from a variety of sources: traditional fossil fuel plants like coal and natural gas, nuclear facilities, and increasingly, renewable sources such as wind and solar. Each source serves a specific role categorized as baseload, peaking, or intermediate power.

Baseload power, primarily provided by nuclear and fossil fuel plants, ensures a constant and reliable supply of electricity. However, these plants aren't designed for rapid adjustments to sudden changes in demand. In such cases, peaking and intermediate power plants step in—they can start up quickly to meet spikes in demand or provide more gradual adjustments as needed.

While renewable energy sources like solar and wind farms are on the rise, they present challenges due to their intermittent nature. Solar panels only generate power when the sun shines, and wind

turbines require specific wind speeds to operate effectively. Consequently, they can't yet replace baseload sources for delivering consistent electricity.

Relying solely on intermittent sources would compromise the grid's ability to provide reliable power. To bridge this gap, promising technologies like energy storage systems are being developed. These systems aim to store excess energy generated during optimal conditions, such as sunny or windy days, for use during less favorable weather periods.

However, the widespread adoption of these technologies is still in its infancy, facing challenges such as technological advancement and environmental impact from the materials used, such as lithium in batteries. For now, maintaining a diverse mix of energy sources including energy-efficient practices at the consumer level—is crucial. Simple steps like upgrading to more efficient appliances and reducing overall energy consumption not only cut down on utility bills but also alleviate the strain on our energy infrastructure.

As we navigate the complexities of energy management, understanding these dynamics can empower us to make informed choices. By embracing energy efficiency and supporting advancements in sustainable energy solutions, we contribute to a more resilient and environmentally conscious future. Reach out to learn more about how you can play a role in shaping our energy landscape sustainably. Together, we can reduce our collective energy footprint and ensure a reliable power supply for all.

Community Calendar

- ◆ Aug 1-4
- 127 Yard Sale, www.127yardsale.com
- ◆ Aug 1-4
- **Coldwater Community Picnic,**
- www.coldwaterpicnic.com
- ◆ Aug 9-12
- St. Marys Summerfest,
- www.stmaryssummerfest.com
- ◆ Aug 11
- Kewpee/Lima YMCA Triathlon & Duathlon
- www.limavmca.net
- ◆ Aug 16-18 Bremenfest, www.bremenfest.com
- ◆ Aug 23-24 Win on the Wabash WOW Super Raffle, www.wowraffle.com
- ◆ Aug 30-Sept 1 Max's Trader Days & Water Dog Races www.allencofair.com



- ◆ Jul 28-Aug 3 **Auglaize County** www.auglaizecountyfair.org
- **Mercer County** ◆ Aug 8-14 www.mercercountyohiofair.com
- ◆ Aug 16-24 **Allen County** www.allencofair.com
- ◆ Aug 27-Sept 2 Van Wert County www.vanwertcountyfair.com



TRUSTEES NEEDED

Join us in providing funding to charitable causes!

We are looking for three trustees one from Auglaize County and two from Mercer County.



The CCF board meets four times a year to review grant applications and decide where funds can make the most impact. If you are interested, contact Joel Johns at jjohns@midwestrec.com or call 800-962-3830.