

HOT LINES

August 2025

News about your community and cooperative



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

SUMMER HOURS: Monday through Thursday 6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

419.394.4110
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

Understanding Peak Alerts

Saving money for the cooperative and our members

As electricity demand rises across the country—especially during extreme summer heat or freezing winter spells—your electric cooperative is working behind the scenes to keep power reliable and affordable. One key tool in this effort is the Peak Alert. But what exactly is a Peak Alert, and how can responding to it help save money for everyone?

What is a Peak Alert?

A Peak Alert is a message issued by Midwest Electric to notify members that electricity use is reaching a high point—also known as a “peak”—on the grid. These alerts typically occur during the hottest afternoons of summer or the coldest mornings of winter, when air conditioning or heating systems are working overtime. During these times, the cost for the co-op to purchase wholesale power skyrockets due to high demand across our regional PJM power grid.

Why It Matters

Electricity isn't stored like gas in a tank—it has to be generated and delivered in real time. When demand surges, more expensive and less efficient power plants may be called upon to meet the need. That drives up the cost of power for your cooperative, and those costs eventually get passed on to you, the member.

By reducing electricity usage during peak times, we can lower the amount of high-cost energy we need to purchase. This doesn't just help for that day—it can actually reduce our long-term wholesale power costs and infrastructure expenses. Many generation and transmission utilities use peak demand data to determine rates for the entire year. Lower peaks = lower costs.

How You Can Help

When a Peak Alert is issued, we're asking you to voluntarily reduce your electricity use for a few hours—usually in the late afternoon or early evening. Here are a few simple ways to help:

- Delay running large appliances like dishwashers, washers, and dryers
- Adjust your thermostat by a few degrees
- Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics
- Close blinds to keep out direct sunlight
- Wait until after the peak to shower

COOL RETURNS REBATE

\$100 BILL CREDIT

Join our Cool Returns Program and get rewarded!

- \$100 bill credit when you let us install a load management switch on your air conditioning unit.
- \$5 monthly bill credit during peak months, June - September
- No cost to you — installation is free!

Help us reduce energy demands and keep rates low. Sign up today: www.midwestrec.com/cool-returns.

The Long-Term Impact

Every time our members respond to a Peak Alert, we reduce our cooperative's peak demand, which directly impacts our power bill. These savings help keep rates stable and ensure that we can continue to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to all our members.

In short, Peak Alerts are a powerful example of how working together as cooperative members can create real, lasting savings for everyone. When you respond to a Peak Alert, you're not just cutting your own energy use—you're helping your neighbors and strengthening the future of your co-op.

Stay connected with us on social media and enroll in text alerts to help us beat the peak and save together!

Community Calendar

- ♦ July 27 – Aug. 2 **Auglaize County Fair**, www.auglaizecountyfair.org
- ♦ July 31 – Aug. 3 **Coldwater Community Picnic**, www.coldwaterpicnic.com
- ♦ Saturdays 8:30 am – 12:30 pm **Wapak Farmers Market**, Auglaize Co Courthouse Parking Lot
- ♦ August 2 **29th Annual Buzzard's Glory 5K**, Coldwater, www.mercerhealth5kchallenge
- ♦ August 3 **Kewpee / Lima YMCA Triathlon & Duathlon**, www.limaymca.net
- ♦ August 7 – 10 **127 Yard Sale - The World's Longest Yard Sale**, www.127yardsale.com
- ♦ August 7 – 10 **St. Marys Summerfest**, www.stmaryssummerfest.com
- ♦ August 7 – 13 **Mercer County Fair**, www.mercercountyohiofair.com
- ♦ August 14 **Brothers of the Heart**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, www.vanwertlive.com
- ♦ August 15 – 23 **Allen County Fair**, www.allencofair.com
- ♦ August 16 – 18 **Bremenfest**, New Bremen, www.bremenfest.com
- ♦ August 22 – 23 **Win on the Wabash (WOW) Super Raffle**, Fort Recovery, www.wowraffle.com
- ♦ Aug. 26 – Sept. 1 **Van Wert County Fair**, www.vanwertcountyfair.com
- ♦ August 29 – 31 **Max's Trader Days & Water Dog Races**, Allen County Fairgrounds, www.maxstraderdays.com



Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Join us in giving back to the community & saving lives.

BLOOD DRIVE | AUG. 19 | 7 a.m.–noon

Location:

Midwest Electric

06029 County Road 33A, St. Marys, OH 45885



Schedule an appointment by using the QR code or calling Julie Marchal at the co-op: 419-394-4110. Walk-ins are also accepted. *Please spread the word!*

Tour your Cardinal Power Plant

Tour details:

- Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025
- Bus leaves at 7:00 a.m.
- Breakfast snacks, coffee, juice, and water will be provided before departure.
- Lunch and dinner are included
- Return to Midwest Electric around 8:00 p.m.
- \$50 per member

Tour requirements:

- Open to co-op members age 12 and older
- Participants must be able to walk independently and navigate stairs, as the tour requires a considerable amount of walking.

Reserve your spot today! Call 419-394-4110 or email info@midwestrec.com.



**Community
Connection
Fund**

WE NEED YOU TO JOIN THE CCF BOARD!

Help allocate charitable funding with only four meetings per year

The Community Connection Fund is looking for three trustees (one from Auglaize County, one from Mercer County, and one from Allen/Putnam counties) to serve on the CCF Board.

The CCF board meets four times per year to review grant applications and decide where funds can make the most impact. No special background is necessary for this appointed position.

If you are interested, please contact Joel Johns for an application at jjohns@midwestrec.com or call 419-394-4110.

