

HOT LINES

October 2025

News about your community and cooperative



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

HOURS: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

419.394.4110
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

Cooperatives protect members from electric price volatility



Matt Berry, CEO
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Electric rates for customers of Ohio's investor-owned utilities, such as AEP and AES, have been climbing at steep double-digit percentages, and their rates are now noticeably higher than those of Midwest Electric. These increases are largely due to the difference in power supply strategies: The investor-owned utilities no longer generate electricity but buy their electricity from the regional power market. And the power markets have seen big price swings due to increasing demand and dwindling supplies. Ohio's electric cooperatives continue to generate all of our power needs, thus insulating us from the wild market swings.

While AEP and AES customers may see ads promoting "8 cents per kilowatt-hour," that figure only covers the generation portion of the bill. Once transmission and distribution charges are added, their total rates exceed what Midwest Electric members pay.

Midwest Electric members are protected from this market volatility because of the cooperative business model. Unlike investor-owned utilities that

purchase electricity in auctions run by the regional grid operator, Midwest Electric co-owns Buckeye Power, which generates electricity for Ohio's electric cooperatives. Buckeye Power's diverse portfolio includes the Cardinal coal-fired plant, natural gas facilities, solar arrays, hydropower, and renewable sources like biogas and methane. By owning our generation, we can provide members with reliable electricity at stable, affordable rates.

In fact, Buckeye Power consistently produces more electricity than needed for the 1 million Ohioans it serves. Excess power is sold, and the resulting revenue helps offset rising costs for fuel, transportation, and supplies. Some of these funds are even returned to local co-ops, including Midwest Electric, in the form of patronage capital. This system ensures that our members benefit directly, keeping rates as low as possible while maintaining strong financial health and dependable service.

Read more on our website: www.Midwestrec.com/cooperatives-protect-members-electric-price-volatility



Community Calendar

- ♦ Oct. 2-5 **Big Traders Days**, Ohio Progressive Sportsman Club, Ft. Recovery
- ♦ Oct. 3-4 **Fall Into Fun Fest**, Downtown Celina, facebook.com/downtowncelinaohio
- ♦ Oct. 3 **Harvest Fest 2025**, Downtown Wapakoneta, 5pm-8 pm, wapakoneta.com/community-calendar
- ♦ Oct. 4 **Lee Greenwood**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, vanwertlive.com
- ♦ Oct. 3-5 **Minster Oktoberfest**, minsteroktoberfest.com
- ♦ Oct. 11 **St. Marys Tailgate for Cancer**, tailgateforcancer.com
- ♦ Oct. 11 **2nd Annual Fall Food Truck Fest**, Allen County Fairgrounds, facebook.com/people/Fall-Food-Truck-Festival/61577764066610
- ♦ Oct. 16-19 **45th Dirt Track World Championship**, Eldora Speedway, eldoraspeedway.com
- ♦ Oct. 17 **Puppy Pals Live at Lima Civic Center**, limaciviccenter.com
- ♦ Oct. 19 **Annual Walk with Nature Fall Festival**, St. Marys Memorial Park, htparks.org
- ♦ Oct. 24-25 **2nd Annual Spirit of the The Forest Bigfoot Festival**, Mercer County Fairgrounds, Celina,
- ♦ Oct. 25-26 **Crescent Players The Carol Burnett Show: A Tribute**, Grand Opera House Live, St. Marys, grandoperahouselive.com
- ♦ Oct. 28 **BOO! On the Moon**, Armstrong Air & Space Museum, Wapakoneta, armstrongmuseum.org



Office hours will return to winter hours on Oct. 6
Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

While the price of everyday items has kept sizzling upward over the years, electricity remains affordable.

Bacon \$5.83/lb.

VS

Electricity \$0.11/kWH

Reliable, affordable, here for you.

Electric cooperatives provide power with purpose.

NATIONAL

CO-OP MONTH

Hit a utility pole?

DO NOT EXIT

with downed lines



If you are inside a vehicle that makes contact with a downed power line, assume the lines are energized and dangerous.

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at **least 50 ft.** before exiting. If you are unable to drive due to injury, obstacles, or it is inoperable, **do NOT exit.** Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

50 ft.



If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.

2. Land with feet together and hop OR shuffle away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.

3. Keep going until you are at least 50 ft. away.

4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 50 ft. of the downed line.

5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

