

HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

February 2021

News about your community and cooperative

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www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

WHAT RESEARCH REVEALS ABOUT YOUR COOPERATIVE

Our recent Power Requirements Study contains a lot of data that we use to continuously improve service to you. The PRS looks at our co-op members' historical energy consumption to understand how members have used electricity and then forecasts future electric consumption. Here is a summary:

Midwest Electric owns and operates an electric distribution system that serves an average of 10,824 consumers through 1,522 miles of distribution lines. In 2019, the cooperative provided electric service to 9,959 residential consumers, 570 seasonal consumers, and 295 commercial consumers.

The PRS reviews the data of residential members' kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage spanning from 2009 through 2019. This review reveals a positive trend of energy efficiency among our members. The average Midwest Electric residential member used 1,455 kWh per month in 2019, a number that has barely changed over the years. In fact, the average usage was 1,529 kWh per month in 2011. The future projection is similar: 1,460 kWh per month in the year 2029.

What does this mean to members?

It means you're saving energy and saving money. Most people have been adding electrical items over the years: an additional refrigerator; more

cell phones, tablets, and other computing and communications electronics; and more TVs and related entertainment boxes and devices. But electric use hasn't changed. That's because we're making our homes more energy efficient, and our newer appliances are more efficient than the older ones. To put it simply, we're wiser about how we use energy.

Our digital electric meters have helped members improve their energy efficiency. Coupled with our online SmartHub e-bill site, you can access your monthly, daily, and hourly electric use data. That makes you a better informed consumer, which can lead to smart energy choices.

The study also shows weather impacts residential electric use significantly more than a family's income level. Speaking of income, electric bills take up just 2.74% of average household income according to the PRS. What a tremendous value! Think of everything electricity does for your family – every day – and it costs (on average) less than 3% of your income!



That's value for your family!

NO RATE INCREASE PLANNED FOR 2021

This marks 11 years of stability. We haven't had a rate increase since August 2010!

Someone you know could have unclaimed cash waiting for them!

Check at midwestrec.com. Click the "My Coop" tab, then "Patronage Cash Back."

5 WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL



1) ONLINE: Visit www.midwestrec.com and click "Pay Bill" to access your SmartHub account (or create one). You can also download the free SmartHub app for mobile devices.

2) BY PHONE: Call 1-800-962-3830. You can pay with a check or debit/credit card via phone.

3) IN PERSON: Use our 24/7 drop box at 06029 County Road 33A in St. Marys. Or you can pay at a MoneyGram pay station near you.

4) BY MAIL: Just drop your payment off at the post office!

5) AUTO-PAY OR AVERAGE BILLING: Call to set up an electronic funds transfer, which automatically pays your bill for you each month. You can also even out monthly payments by enrolling in average billing to avoid variations and "surprise" high bills. This is great for families or individuals wanting to better budget their finances.

WHERE ARE YOUR ENERGY DOLLARS GOING?



Find out using our suite of energy calculators and other efficiency tools to help you conduct your own home audit, find DIY projects to print, and much more!

Visit midwestrec.com and click the "My Home" tab to get started. If you need additional help or want details on a free home energy audit by phone, give us a call. Our team of energy experts are here to help you lower your bill by offering customized advice for your home.

That's the not-for-profit cooperative difference!

Meter tampering is illegal and dangerous



State law requires the co-op to notify our members once each year that meter tampering and the theft of electricity are illegal and dangerous. Ohio law now sets penalties and fines for these illegal acts:

1. Tampering with or bypassing an electric meter or attachment with the intent to steal electricity.
2. Knowingly using electricity that has not been correctly registered because of tampering.
3. Reconnecting electric service that has been disconnected by cooperative personnel.

4. Knowingly consuming electricity that's been unlawfully reconnected.

We know that most of our members would not engage in this dishonest action. But, just as with shoplifting, the actions of a few can cause higher rates for everyone. If you know of or suspect unlawful practices, please report them to Midwest Electric.

Interested in renewable energy, but not the hassle of maintenance costs?

Our EnviroWatts program might be perfect for you! EnviroWatts gives both residential and business members the opportunity to support renewable energy for as little as \$2 a month. It is sold in 100 kilowatt-hour blocks. *Buying just 1 block for a year has the environmental impact of not driving your car for 3 months!*

Pricing: 1-25 blocks is \$2 per month; 26-250 blocks is \$1.50 per month; and 251 blocks or more is \$1 per month.

The energy comes from electricity produced by wind and solar energy, as well as methane gas from landfills, poultry operations, and dairy farms. To sign up, call us at 1-800-962-3830 or email info@midwestrec.com.