

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey



Chad Carrick
President & CEO

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.
75 Airport Road • P.O. Box 70
Indiana, PA 15701-0070
724-349-4800 • 800-211-5667

Ebensburg District Office
127 Municipal Road
Ebensburg, PA 15931
814-472-8570

Website: www.reaenergy.com
Email: reaenergy@reaenergy.com

Staff

Barry Baker

Indiana Operations Manager

Erin Bauer

ACRE Coordinator

Shane Cribbs

Network & Systems Manager

Dave Daugherty

Safety & Right of Way Manager

Jeff Dishong

Ebensburg Operations Supervisor

Lisa Gardill

Accounting & Finance Supervisor

Stacy Patterson-Hilliard, CCC

Communications & Marketing Supervisor

Local Pages Editor

Chris Masterson

Reliability Supervisor

Patrick McAndrew

Manager of Engineering

Bryon Roland

Purchasing & Facilities Supervisor

Brendan Short

Right-of-Way/Forestry Supervisor

Renee Spalla

Supervisor of Consumer Services

Chris Weller

Load Management Supervisor

Outages & Emergencies

1-800-332-7273

724-463-7273

Office Hours

Indiana Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ebensburg Office:

7 - 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Monday - Friday

From the President & CEO



New rates take effect in February

By Chad Carrick

OVER the last several months, your cooperative has reviewed revenue and expenses in detail. We analyzed our service charge, kilowatt-hour (kWh) charge and fees to determine if we are covering our expenses.

The last time REA Energy raised its kWh rate was 1991. While the cost of doing business has increased over the last 26 years, your kWh rates have not changed. The board of directors, management, and employees have worked hard to absorb inflationary increases with cost savings and revenue-generating programs such as the water heater program and REA Energy Services.

The costs of maintaining the right-of-way program and prices of capital items have risen, but our revenue has remained relatively flat. Due to this, the discount payment option will no longer be offered, and a rate change is unavoidable in certain rate classes. This rate change took effect with your February 2017 bill. A letter notifying you of these rate changes was sent to you in January. As part of this change, members will now have 10 days to pay their bill to get the lowest rate as opposed to five days.

REA Energy's rates are based on the cost of power we purchase from our power supplier and the distribution costs. The cooperative has some influence over power supplier costs through the appointment of a representative to our power supplier's board of directors. Another component of our rates is the cost of distributing the electricity to our members. This cost for the last 26 years has been covered through efficiencies,

good cost management and employee efforts. The new rates will enable the cooperative to better manage our system and tree-trimming efforts.


Residential rate changes

The rate for residential appliance accounts will remain the same. However, the option to pay the discounted price will no longer be available. But members will now have the benefit of 10 days to pay their monthly bill at the net rate. The net and gross service fee and kWh charge will remain unchanged.

Rates for electric heat, dual fuel and electric thermal storage (ETS) accounts will increase slightly. The electric heat accounts will be increasing to \$0.0784/kWh. The rate for the dual fuel and ETS accounts will be increasing to \$0.0525/kWh. Even with these adjustments, REA Energy's kWh rates remain one of the lowest in the state.

Commercial rate changes

Commercial rates will also be increasing slightly. The rate for small commercial accounts will now be \$0.0623/kWh. The rate for large commercial accounts will now be \$0.0522/kWh. Demand charges will remain the same.

The increase in rate charges will allow the cooperative to continue providing affordable, reliable and safe electricity. The board of directors, management and employees would like to thank you in advance for your understanding. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our office. For more information, please log on to www.reaenergy.com or our Facebook page. 

The board – did you know?

BEING a board member for REA Energy requires a great amount of commitment and dedication. Board members must attend many meetings, make difficult business decisions, be a part of the community, represent their individual districts and even receive phone calls at all hours of the day. However, one of the most demanding parts of being a board member is staying current on electric industry issues, and ensuring that REA Energy is well represented at the statewide and national organizations.

To stay current on industry trends, REA directors receive frequent and timely updates and training sessions. All of the REA Energy directors have received their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certification, demonstrating their commitment to members. The Credentialed Cooperative Director training courses are designed to provide knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors.

In addition to becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director, board members can also expand on their skills and knowledge by taking more courses to obtain their Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). Nearly all of REA Energy's directors have obtained this certificate to date.

Additionally, two of our directors were appointed to positions at our statewide organizations, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) and Allegheny Electric Coop-



CO-OP LEADERSHIP: Front, front left: John Learn; Herman Blakley; Jack Rising; and Sam Eckenrod. Back, from left: Chad Carrick, president & CEO; Rick Shope, vice chairman and PREA director; Robert Neese, secretary/treasurer and Allegheny director; Michael Bertolino, chairman; Wayne Farabaugh; and Jim Harteis.

erative, Inc. (AEC). District 2 Director Rick Shope serves as treasurer for the PREA Board of Directors, and District 5 Director Robert Neese serves on the AEC Board of Directors. Both of these men were elected to their positions by peer board members. Congratulations to all of our board members on their accomplishments and appointments. ⚡



DANGER! Outlet Overload

Every year, U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated **25,900 home electrical fires**. These fires cause an estimated **280 deaths, 1,125 injuries** and **\$1.1 billion in property loss**.

Thirty-nine percent of home electrical fires involve outlets and receptacles, and other electrical wiring.

To ensure safety, you should only use about 80 percent of the available current for each electrical outlet in your home.

Are you overloading outlets?
Use this formula to find out:

WATTAGE/VOLTS=AMPS

Example:

Let's say you are using 2,000 watts of power (for one outlet). Divide the watts by the volts in your home (typically 120), and you come up with 16.6 amps of current being used. With a 20 amp electrical outlet, you are using about 80 percent of the available current.

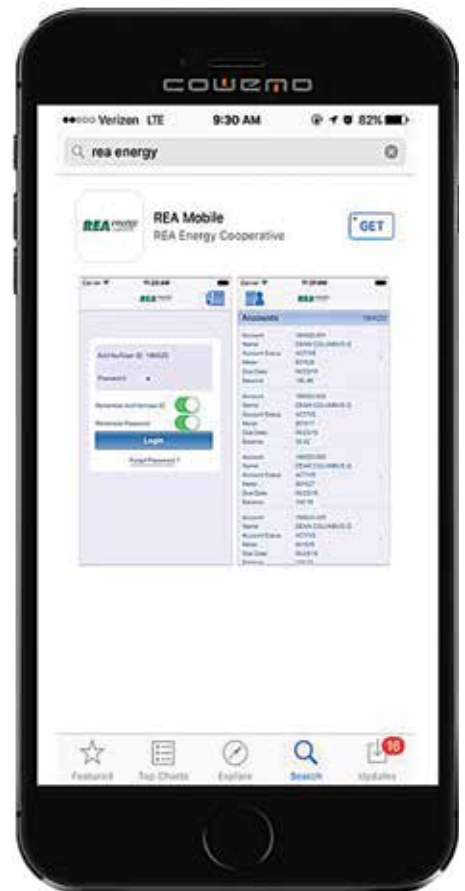
Source: U.S. Fire Administration, Home & Garden

Have you signed up for REA Energy's member portal?

Members can now download a FREE mobile app to make payments on the go.

To sign up for the member portal, members must initially sign up on a desktop computer. Upon signing up, members are offered many exciting features.

To sign up today, visit www.reaenergy.com. Inside the website, click on a green, square button reading "Member Portal." After signing up, members can simply log in each month on their desktop computer or visit the Google Play or App Store to download the mobile app.



Don't forget to stop by REA Energy's booth at the Indiana-Armstrong Home Builder's Show at the S & T Arena March 17-19. Members who visit the booth will receive a free gift.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS CONTACT PHONE NUMBER UPDATE!

Poseidon Waterproofing - 90 Christy Park Drive, Indiana, PA 15701, 800-637-6089 or 724-717-6360, www.poseidonwaterproofing.com - **15% off purchased services. Discount must be mentioned when scheduling your inspection; cards may be shown to inspector.**

Statement of non-discrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



Donald Rodgers was chosen as the winner in REA Energy Services 2016 contest. Customers whose REA Energy Services job or product was \$500 or more were entered into a drawing for a prize valued up to \$500. Shown in the photo are, from left: Stacy Hilliard, communications & marketing supervisor; Rodgers; and Chad Carrick, president & CEO. Congratulations, Donald, and thank you for choosing REA Energy Services.

In 2017, those whose REA Energy Services product or service is \$500 or more will be entered to win a prize. Stop by REA Energy Service's booth at the Indiana-Armstrong Builders Association Home Show in the S & T Bank Arena March 17-19 to learn more about all of the products and services we offer.



REA Energy Services offers the following products and services:

Electrical Contracting • Heating and Air Conditioning

Geothermal Heat Pumps • Backup Generators

Home Heat Loss Estimates • Portable Generators

Tree Trimming and Removal • Water Heater Service Program

2017 area meeting

In 2017, the area meeting will be held in March for Directorate Districts 5 and 6 at the Kovalchick Convention Complex.

District 5 includes the following townships in Indiana County: Cherryhill, Pine and Rayne.

District 6 includes the following townships in Cambria County: Chest, Elder and Susquehanna. District 6 also includes these townships in Indiana County: Banks and Canoe.

If you live in any of the townships mentioned above, you may receive an invitation in the mail soon.

Right-of-way management/facility construction news

REA Energy contractors will be completing tree-trimming work in the following areas during February:

- ▶ Contractor crews from Asplundh Tree Expert Co. will be trimming the rights-of-way in the areas served by the Cherryhill, Curry Run and Summerhill substations, in addition to emergency maintenance areas. Notification of work will be made using our automated phone system to members in the areas affected.

Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. If you have any questions, call 724-349-4800 or 800-211-5667, or you can view the specifications online at www.reaenergy.com. All crews will carry cards and have magnets on their vehicles identifying them as REA Energy contractors.

Your Board of Directors



Michael J. Bertolino
Chairman
District 3



J.R. "Rick" Shope
Vice Chairman
District 2



Robert P. Neese
Secretary/Treasurer
District 5



Herman Blakley
District 9



Sam Eckenrod
District 1



Wayne Farabaugh
District 8



James Harteis
District 4



John R. Learn
District 6



Jack R. Rising
District 7