

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES
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OFFICE HOURS
Indiana Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Ebensburg Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Closed Tuesday and Thursday

Understanding Your Electric Bill



STACY HILLIARD

AUGUST IS TYPICALLY ONE OF the warmest months of the year, and that means air conditioners across our community are working overtime to keep homes comfortable. During periods of extreme heat, many members may see an increase in their electric bill and wonder what factors contribute to the cost of electricity.

At REA Energy, we believe understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home or business.

The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours, and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be. During the summer, air conditioning is typically the largest driver of increased energy use. When temperatures climb into the 90s and higher, our cooling systems run longer and more frequently, consuming significantly more electricity than they do during milder weather.

Another major factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. REA Energy, like the other rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, purchases its electricity from our statewide generation and transmission provider, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. The cost of producing electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including those for natural gas, coal and other energy resources used to generate power. Changes in wholesale power costs influence the price of electricity delivered to members.

Transmission costs also play a role. Before electricity reaches your home, it must travel across a network of high-voltage transmission lines that connect power plants to local distribution systems. Transmission equipment requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability, especially as electricity demand grows.

Closer to home, REA Energy maintains the local electric distribution system — utility poles, power lines, transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely deliver power to members. The cost to maintain this equipment is covered through the monthly access fee. This is a flat fee that all members pay, regardless of how much electricity they use. It ensures all members pay a fair share of the basic, operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve your home or business. Whether a member uses a little or a lot of electricity, we must maintain infrastructure and have crews, equipment, and resources available to provide electricity around the clock.

Summer temperatures can also influence costs in less obvious ways. When the demand for electricity is high across a region, wholesale power prices can increase. Utilities and grid operators must make sure enough generation is available to meet peak demand, and those costs can be reflected throughout the electric system.

The good news is that simple steps to lower energy use can make a meaningful difference. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away, replacing dirty HVAC filters, using ceiling fans, sealing air leaks and avoiding the use of major appliances during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce energy consumption, lower your bill, and reduce strain on the local grid during peak demand.

REA Energy's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity while

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Youth Tour: A Tradition of Leadership and Cooperation

KAYLA KING, CCC, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

EACH JUNE, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS from across the country travel to Washington, D.C., through the Rural Electric Youth Tour, a leadership program sponsored by electric cooperatives nationwide. More than just a sightseeing trip, Youth Tour gives students the opportunity to learn about the cooperative business model, develop leadership skills, meet elected officials and gain a deeper understanding of their communities.

The program traces its roots back to 1964, when Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson challenged electric cooperatives to give young people the opportunity to experience government and leadership firsthand. Inspired by his vision, electric cooperatives began sponsoring educational trips to the nation's capital. Throughout the decades, the program has grown into one of the most successful youth leadership initiatives in the country, introducing thousands of students to the values and principles that guide electric cooperatives.

Today, Youth Tour continues to reflect several of the Seven Cooperative Principles, including education, training and information, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community. These principles are woven throughout the week as students learn and build relationships with peers from across the country.

This year, REA Energy was proud to sponsor seven outstanding students from our service territory to participate in the 2026 Rural Electric Youth Tour. Along with fellow delegates from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the students embarked on a week-long adventure filled with learning opportunities, historical landmarks and unforgettable experiences.

Learning, growing, discovering

The journey began on Monday, June 15, as students boarded buses and traveled to Washington, D.C. After arriving at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, delegates participated in orientation activities that introduced them to the week's events and helped them connect with fellow participants. The evening concluded with a ride on the Capital Wheel, which offered breathtaking views of the Potomac River and the Washington skyline. For many students, it was their first glimpse of the nation's capital and the start of an exciting week ahead.

Tuesday continued the focus on leadership and cooperative education while also giving delegates a first-hand look at government in action. Students began the day with a co-op advocacy class, where they learned

about the role electric cooperatives play in serving rural communities and advocating for their members. Delegates then listened to speeches by Youth Leadership Council (YLC) candidates and participated in the voting process, gaining valuable insight into democratic participation and leadership development.

Following these sessions, students traveled to Capitol Hill to meet with congressional representatives and staff members. These conversations provided a meaningful opportunity to discuss issues impacting rural communities, energy policy and the future of the electric cooperative industry. The day concluded with the Marine Corps Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial and a visit to the Pentagon Memorial, a powerful tribute to service and sacrifice.

Wednesday gave students the opportunity to connect history with government while exploring some of Washington, D.C.'s most notable landmarks. The day began at Arlington National Cemetery, where the teens reflected on the sacrifices made by generations of Americans. Students then visited both the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of American History, expanding their understanding of the nation's scientific and cultural heritage.

Later, they toured several iconic memorials, including those dedicated to Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR), Martin Luther King Jr. and Thomas Jefferson. The visit to the FDR Memorial served as a reminder of the important role the Rural Electrification Act played in bringing electricity to rural America and helping launch the electric cooperative movement. The day concluded with an evening of fun and fellowship at the Boardwalk Arcade, where students strengthened friendships with fellow delegates.

Thursday's activities centered on leadership, communication and personal growth. Students participated in the Leadership in Action program, an interactive experience designed to build confidence and strengthen leadership skills. They also visited the Planet Word Museum, which celebrates language and communication.

Later that afternoon, delegates toured the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, one of the week's most impactful stops. The museum's exhibits encouraged students to reflect on history, human rights and the importance of civic responsibility. The evening brought together students from across the country for NRECA's Youth Evening and Camp Co-op, where they celebrated the cooperative spirit while building friendships that often

last long after the trip ends.

Friday offered a blend of education and entertainment. Students explored the National Zoo and visited the Museum of Illusions before gathering for the Co-op Connections Evening. The event served as a celebration of the relationships formed throughout the week and highlighted the principle of cooperation among cooperatives. By bringing together students from different states, backgrounds and communities, Youth Tour demonstrates how cooperatives achieve more when they work together toward common goals.

Before departing for home on Saturday, delegates visited the Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. These final stops provided an opportunity to reflect on the history, leadership and service that shaped our nation, as well as the lessons learned throughout the week.

The next generation of leaders

While the monuments, museums, and landmarks make Youth Tour memorable, the true value of the program lies in the experiences students gain and the connections they make. By investing in young leaders and introducing them to the principles that have guided electric cooperatives for generations, REA Energy and electric cooperatives across the country are helping prepare the next generation to lead, serve, and strengthen their communities.

Now 62 years after its founding, the Rural Electric Youth Tour continues to fulfill its original purpose: providing young people with opportunities to learn, grow and discover how they can make a positive impact on the world around them. For REA Energy's delegates, the memories made and lessons learned during the 2026 Youth Tour will undoubtedly last a lifetime. 📸



REA Energy 2026 Youth Tour students are, from left, Adelyn Burns, Carissa Adkins, Susie Patterson, Nico Cusimano, Kaitlyn Houser, Katie Bertolino and Bethany Smith.



YOUTH TOUR 2026
Make Your Mark

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

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being transparent about the factors that impact energy costs. We understand every dollar matters, and we are committed to making smart investments that keep the lights on and support the communities we serve.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill or are looking for energy efficiency tips to help you save,

please reach out. We're here to help you make informed decisions that work for your household.

Thank you for allowing REA Energy to serve you. 🙏

STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKAE
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22

ONLINE ONLY

The annual meeting of the members of REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. will be held online Tuesday, Sept. 22. The business meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Those who attend the virtual meeting for the entire time will receive a \$15 bill credit and be entered for a chance to win door prizes.

To register for the virtual meeting, visit reaenergy.com and click on the button that says "Annual Meeting Registration." Registration will open on Aug. 10. Please register by noon on Sept. 22.

REA Energy offices will be closed at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept 3, for employee training.

The offices will reopen for business on Friday, Sept. 4.

To report an outage or to make a payment, please call 844-920-3395.

REA Energy offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day.

The Indiana office will reopen for business on Tuesday, Sept. 8, and the Ebensburg office will reopen on Wednesday, Sept. 9.

To report an outage or to make a payment, please call 844-920-3395.

Right-of-way management/facility construction news

REA Energy contractors will be completing tree-trimming work in the following areas in August: Contractor crews from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way of the Smithport substation service territory, in addition to emergency maintenance areas. Members in the areas affected will be notified. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractor employees will carry identification cards and their vehicles will display their company name. If you have any questions, call 724-349-4800 or view the specifications at reaenergy.com.

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REA Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.