



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
www.myremc.coop
www.orangeountyfiber.coop

CONTACT US

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OFFICE HOURS

7 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday-Friday

STREET ADDRESS

7133 N. State Road 337
 Orleans, IN 47452

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 208, Orleans, IN 47452

TO REPORT SERVICE

**INTERRUPTIONS, PLEASE CALL
 855-865-2229, (OPTION 1) DAY OR NIGHT.**

Have the phone number associated with your account ready when reporting outages. Please limit after hours calls to emergencies and outage situations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Eugene Roberts, District 1
- Randy Roberts, District 2
- Danny Easterday, District 3
- Rodney Hager, District 4
- Ben Lindsey, District 5
- Brian Hawkins, District 6
- George Key, District 7

REMC SENIOR STAFF

- Matthew C. Deaton, *General Manager/CEO*
- Marcy Bennett, *Office Manager*
- Misty Tincher, *Accountant*
- Mark Belcher, *Member Services Manager*
- Billy Chastain, *Electric Operations Manager*
- Charlie Rollins, *Fiber Operations Manager*



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www.facebook.com/orangeountyremc



Moving forward



Last month, Orange County REMC held a unique annual meeting as we streamed the business portion of the 83rd Annual Meeting live from the REMC boardroom. In an effort to comply with guidelines limiting

large gatherings due to the COVID-19 situation, we felt this was our best option to conduct “business as usual” with a few modifications. During the meeting, Eugene Roberts, director for District 1, and Ben Lindsey, director for District 5, were officially seated for another three-year term, as no petitions were submitted by members to run for those district seats.

We would have preferred to see you all at a traditional annual meeting, and hope that in the future, we can gather in person once again. But we were pleased that over 600 members returned their registration cards to easily meet the needed quorum to conduct official REMC business. The night of the meeting, more than 100 of you tuned in to watch the live stream of the meeting, and since then, more than 900 more have had a chance to view the video which is still posted online at www.facebook.com/OrangeCountyREMC/live_videos/.

You can still go to www.myremc.coop and download a copy of the financial report that was reviewed in the video, as well as a copy of the previous year’s annual meeting minutes, which was also referenced in the annual meeting live stream.

Even though it was an “virtual” meeting, we were still able to conduct our members’ favorite part: the door prize drawing. We awarded 40 prizes to members who registered for the meeting. Ronnie and Carol Kellams won the grand prize, was \$1,500 cash from the REMC.

We continue to appreciate the understanding our members have shown during the last several months of difficult times for our community and our nation as a whole. We love serving our community in many different ways and we appreciate the support we receive in return.

On the following pages you’ll notice an “Industry Update” with details about some of our programs to help keep your electric service affordable and reliable. You’ll also see information about discounts to Holiday World for our members. Whether it’s keeping our right-of-way clear, installing upgraded meters, or providing special discounts for summer fun, we are always looking for ways to put our members first.

MATTHEW C. DEATON
 General Manager/CEO

co-op news

Rate Schedule

How to compute your monthly electric bill:

Use this information to figure your bill for electric use in January, February and March.

Rate Schedule for Standard Service

Standard Service Consumer Charge.....	\$26
Standard Service Energy Charge....	\$0.1124
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker ..	\$0.0032734
Total bill x Indiana sales tax.....	7%

Example for 1,200 kWh

Standard Service Consumer Charge.....	\$26
1,200 kWh @ \$0.1124	\$134.88
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker	
1,200 kWh @ \$0.0032734.....	\$3.93
Total.....	\$164.81
Indiana sales tax	\$11.54
Total bill	\$176.34

Rate Schedule for Time-of-Use Service

Time-of-Use Consumer Charge.....	\$30.90
Energy Charge On-Peak	\$0.1671
<small>(On-Peak: 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday–Friday, EST)</small>	
Energy Charge Off-Peak.....	\$0.0691
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker .	\$0.0032734
Total bill x Indiana sales tax, 7%	

Example for 300 kWh (On-Peak) and 900 kWh (Off-Peak)

Time-of-Use Consumer Charge.....	\$30.90
Energy Charge On-Peak	
300 kWh @ \$0.1671.....	\$50.13
Energy Charge Off-Peak	
900 kWh @ \$0.0691.....	\$62.19
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker	
1,200 kWh @ \$0.0032734.....	\$3.93
Total.....	\$147.15
Indiana sales tax	\$10.30
Total bill	\$157.45

Rate Schedule for Security Lighting

Security Lighting: 100 W HPS	\$9.82
Security Lighting: 40 W LED.....	\$9.82

Visa, MasterCard and Discover cards accepted

Pay by phone at 833-890-7734.

Visit www.myremc.coop for these services:

- Pay online
- Pre-pay your bill
- Sign up for recurring monthly payment



Congratulations! Ronnie and Carol Kellams of Paoli won the grand prize in the drawing from members registered for the 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting, which was live streamed from the office on June 6. The Kellames won \$1,500 and are pictured here with Charlie Rollins, the Orange County Fiber operations manager.

Save on summer fun!

Orange County REMC members can get exclusive discounts to Holiday World and Splashin' Safari with the Holiday World Fun Club. Just visit www.myremc.coop and look under the "REMC Store" menu for Discount Holiday World Tickets. This page will provide the username, password, and link to the Fun Club website for members to purchase their discounted tickets.

Listed below are some important details about how the theme park is complying with health guidelines in light of the recent COVID-19 situation.

- Holiday World opened to the public on June 17. Splashin' Safari plans to open on July 4. However, there will be daily attendance limits. Tickets will only be sold online and not at the park.

- Fun Club discounts for the admission tickets will be \$1 off the online rate for Adults, Under 54 inches and Seniors (60+).
- Sales of Any Day tickets will be suspended in favor of date specific tickets and season passes.
- Holiday World and Splashin' Safari will be employing social distancing and enhanced cleaning protocols.

Be sure to visit www.holidayworld.com for the latest updates and plans before planning your summer trip to the park.



INDUSTRY UPDATES

Orange County REMC is working in several areas across our service territory, performing system upgrades and maintenance. All REMC crews and contracted personnel carry identification, and their vehicles are marked with our logo. Please keep our crews safe and drive with caution as all this work means extra utility vehicles along roadways.

Pole testing

Beginning this month, pole testing will begin in the areas served by the Leipsic substation as well as areas north of Mitchell.

Meter Change-out

We are halfway through our 5-year plan to upgrade member meters to new digital meters. These new meters require less maintenance and report outages more accurately. Crews are currently working in the Livonia and Huron areas.

Please note that when your meter is changed out, it does cause a brief disruption in service. We appreciate your patience. Please feel free to contact the REMC office with any questions.

Brush Control

The REMC crews are conducting vegetation management in the areas served by the Abydel and Valeene substation.

High Speed Internet Service

Orange County Fiber continues to make progress in bringing fiber optic internet to our members. As reported in our June 5 annual meeting, at the end of 2019 we have installed 540 miles of strand and fiber, and 2,305 drops. More access to this much-needed service is being added daily. Please visit our fiber website, www.orangecountyfiber.coop to see where crews are currently working and when service will be available in your area.

Welcome to our newest employee



Josh Coles
Member Service Technician

Josh Coles, new member service technician, joined the REMC team on June 8. He will be working with Zach Motsinger on our Demand Side Management program, energy audits, water heaters, security systems, and ETS service and repairs. He will also enter the Meter Technician Apprenticeship Program in the fall.

Coles graduated from Ivy Tech Community College in 2008 with an industrial technology major. He previously worked at Cooley's Heating and Air as a lead service technician. While at Cooley's, Coles installed the DRU energy management switches for Jackson County REMC and is familiar with ETS heating equipment.

Coles resides in Salem with his wife, Tisha; their 16-month-old daughter, Gracelyn (Gracie); and their newborn son. Coles serves as pastor for the Smedley Church of Christ.



Five home 'energy hogs'

Orange County REMC often gets questions from members who wonder why their electric bill is higher than that of a friend or family member who has a home of similar size.

What many people don't understand is that even though one home may be the same size, and even have the same number of people living here, there may be hidden energy hogs causing electric bills to be higher — possibly MUCH higher. Here are five energy hogs that may be increasing your energy use.

OLD FRIDGE OR FREEZER IN THE GARAGE

That second fridge or freezer may be costing more than you think. If the model was produced prior to 1990, it's likely using twice as much energy (or more!) than a newer ENERGYSTAR®-rated model. If it's located in the garage, it may run constantly in the summer, which could lead to higher electric bills.

COOLING OR HEATING AN UNINSULATED AREA

Cooling or heating an uninsulated workshop or garage can be expensive. To give you an example, one energy advisor noted that during an energy audit, he found that the homeowner heated an uninsulated shed to keep several half-empty buckets of paint from freezing. So, the homeowner was paying more to keep his paint warm than the paint was even worth. Pet owners have been known to heat and cool an uninsulated garage to keep pets comfortable, not realizing that this might be costing more than heating their actual home. If you really want to heat or cool these types of spaces, they need to be well insulated and heated/cooled efficiently, perhaps with a ductless mini-split system.

HOT TUB

The average operating cost of a hot tub is \$250 per year. But that amount may be higher if your hot tub is an older, less



PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREW HOLMES

Before buying a hot tub, make sure you're ready to pay to operate it. The average annual energy cost for a hot tub is \$250 a year.

efficient model, or if you live in a colder climate. A smaller hot tub with better insulation, a cover and a pump that runs on a lower voltage will use less energy than other models. In the end, getting a "good deal" on a used hot tub may cost more in energy bills in the long run.

SWIMMING POOL

If you have a swimming pool, consider installing a smaller, more efficient pump and reducing how often it runs. You can also look at installing a larger filter and maximizing the flow of water through the pipes by making them larger and reducing how sharply the corners turn. These measures could cut your electric use for the pool pump by as much as 75%. Consult with a pool installation specialist to find the most efficient setup that will still keep your pool clean.

AGRICULTURE PUMPS

If you live on acreage or on a farm, you probably have several pumps, including irrigation, well, septic and sump. If you're like most of us, you use those pumps until they break down. Consider replacing the oldest and most-used pumps over time with new, more efficient ones that are sized correctly for their task. Also, make sure you're eliminating leaks in the water lines which make your pumps work harder and longer.

If one of these five energy hogs doesn't explain the difference in energy use between your home and the one you're comparing to, there are many other possibilities. Consider conducting an energy audit, which should give you the answers you seek. Contact the REMC for more information.