

# POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

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## FEBRUARY DUE DATES

The due dates for payment of electric bills are **February 19** and **26**.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

## UNDERSTANDING FACTORS THAT IMPACT YOUR ENERGY BILLS



MARY JO THOMAS  
CEO

January and February brings some of the coldest weather of the year, and as our home heating systems work harder and longer to keep us warm, we typically see higher energy bills.

There are a few key factors that affect electricity prices, as well as a few ways you can make a meaningful impact on home energy savings.

When you receive your monthly bill from WWVREMC, you're provided with a summary of how much electricity you used during the billing cycle and a comparison of your energy use last month and last year. If you log into your SmartHub account you can see how electricity use may have spiked on a particularly chilly day or when relatives were staying with you.

But you might be surprised to learn that, beyond your monthly energy consumption, external factors can impact the cost of electricity.

### FUEL PRICES

WWVREMC purchases electricity from our power generation partner, Hoosier Energy, at a wholesale cost, and then we deliver that power through our distribution system to our local members. The cost of generating and transmitting electricity from our generation partner accounts for a significant portion of the cost to provide electric service to local homes and businesses. The cost of fuels that are used to generate that electricity, such as natural gas and coal, fluctuates based on supply and demand. While these fluctuations can impact the cost

of electricity, we work closely with Hoosier Energy to plan ahead and help stabilize electricity prices for our members.

### EXTREME WEATHER

While we can't control the weather, we can review weather patterns and forecasts to prepare for times of extreme cold or heat when we know the demand for electricity will increase. But when temperatures become extremely cold and the demand for electricity spikes, the price of electricity can also increase.

The fuel fluctuations from supply & demand and weather extremes are covered in the Wholesale Power Adjustment (WPA) and reflect the difference between the estimated cost in the base rate to the actual costs.

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

To cover the costs associated with providing electricity to your home or business, WWVREMC members pay a monthly service fee on their bill each month. This flat monthly fee covers the cost of equipment, materials, labor, and daily operations to make sure electricity reaches all members in WWVREMC's service territory. To ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local grid, including power lines, substations, and other essential equipment.

### ENERGY POLICY AND REGULATIONS

Federal energy policies and regulations can have a profound impact on electricity costs. As energy generation shifts to the use of more renewable sources and stricter regulations for traditional, always-available

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## WELCOME, MAYA

We are excited to introduce our new Operation Round Up Trustee, Maya Hughes. We are happy to have you serve at our cooperative.

### *energy efficiency* TIP OF THE MONTH

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. **Use ENERGY STAR®-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models.** Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use.

In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.

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fuel sources, such as natural gas and coal plants, costly upgrades and technologies must be constructed and deployed. These additional costs are ultimately passed to consumers.

U.S. power consumption is expected to double by 2050. Across the country, electric cooperatives are working with members of Congress to advocate for smart energy policies that reliably power our local communities. We are urging the Trump Administration to take concrete steps to repeal the EPA's power plant rule and bolster the long-term reliability of the nation's grid.

### YOU HAVE CONTROL

While many of these external factors that impact electricity costs are out of our control, we all have the power to manage our energy usage at home. The most effective way to lower usage is thermostat management. Since heating and cooling account for a major portion of home energy use, adjusting the thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting can help you save energy and money. Be sure to seal air leaks around windows, doors, and other areas where gaps are possible. This will help your heating and cooling system work less and improve the overall comfort of your home.

Remember to service your heating and cooling system annually and replace dirty filters as needed. We will be continuing our rebates for 2025, so take advantage of this program by submitting your rebate once you service your HVAC with a tune-up, and you can receive up to \$50 back from us.

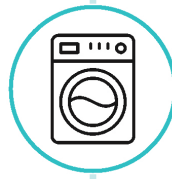
## EFFECTIVE WAYS To Lower Home Energy Use

Outside factors, such as fuel and equipment costs and extreme weather, can impact electricity prices. But you have the power to control home energy consumption by taking proactive steps to reduce energy use.



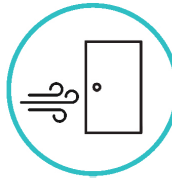
### Thermostat Management

The thermostat is one of the best places to lower your energy use because heating and cooling account for a significant portion of home energy consumption. During winter months, adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting to reduce energy use. The Dept. of Energy recommends 68 degrees or lower.



### Utilize Off-Peak Energy Times

Plan energy-intensive chores and tasks, such as running the dishwasher or washing clothing, during off-peak energy hours, when the demand for electricity is lower. Off-peak times are early in the morning while we are sleeping or late in the evenings after dinner and baths. By scheduling these activities during off-peak periods, you can help keep rates lower, reduce demand and relieve pressure on the grid.



### Seal Your Home

According to ENERGY STAR®, about 20% of heated or cooled air that moves through a home is lost due to lack of proper insulation and air leaks. Ensure your home has sufficient insulation levels and seal air leaks around windows and doors with caulk and weatherstripping. This is a simple, effective way to lower energy use and improve indoor comfort.



### Maintain Equipment

The health of your heating and cooling system is essential for comfort and can greatly impact energy bills. Maintain your system by regularly replacing dirty filters and scheduling annual inspections for maintenance and necessary repairs.

WVREMC is your local energy partner, and we're here to help. Follow us on Facebook to learn about our efficiency programs designed to help you save, as well as the energy-saving tips that we share throughout the year. As always, we will continue working diligently to provide you with reliable power at an affordable cost.

## why IS MY WINTER ELECTRIC BILL HIGHER?

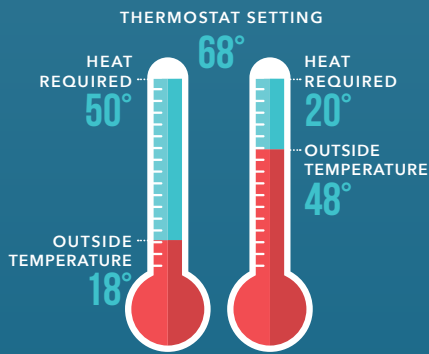


**a frigid fact:** You use more energy in cold weather.

### HERE'S WHY:

In cold weather, your heating system works much harder to keep your home comfortable.

Even if you don't change your thermostat setting, it runs longer to heat your home.



When the difference between outside and inside is significant, your heating system must run more to condition your home.

Even gas heating systems use electricity to power the fan and distribute the warm air.

### ENERGY USE MATTERS

Your monthly bill is largely determined by the amount of energy you use.

### ENERGY USED

The meter on your home measures the energy you consume. **This is your "usage."**



### ELECTRIC RATE

There is a charge for each kilowatt hour you use. **This is your "rate."**



APPLICATIONS DUE SOON FOR

# youth programs

## Cooperative Calendar of Student Art

Indiana Electric Cooperatives' Cooperative Calendar of Student Art Contest is open to all K-12 students who want to create an illustration for the student art calendar. A first-place artist will be selected for each grade, and the winners will each receive a \$200 prize. In addition, the artwork from each grade division winner will illustrate the cover and all 12 months of the calendar. **Learn more at [wwwremc.com/calendar-contest](http://wwwremc.com/calendar-contest).**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEB. 28**

## Camp Kilowatt

JUNE 4-7

Participants enjoy traditional summer camp activities at Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Indiana, such as canoeing and horseback riding, while learning about electrical safety, energy and careers at electric co-ops. Current sixth graders are eligible to apply. **Learn more and apply at [campkilowatt.org](http://campkilowatt.org).**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 3**

## Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

JUNE 15-22

This week-long trip of a lifetime includes visits to Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian museums, a night cruise on the Potomac River, meeting legislators and learning about cooperatives. Current high school juniors are eligible to apply. **Learn more and apply at [indianayouthtour.org](http://indianayouthtour.org).**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 3**

## HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

Each month we hide an account number in the Powerlines. Did you find it?

## NO DECEMBER WINNER

Keep reading your Powerlines each month. The next hidden account number could be yours!

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

### U.S. Mail

Whitewater Valley REMC, P.O. Box 350  
Liberty, IN 47353

### SmartHub

Log on at [wwwremc.com](http://wwwremc.com).

### Pay-by-Phone

Call 855-940-3859. Set up your PIN. Follow prompts.

### Liberty Office

In person or in the drop box.

### Automatic Withdrawal

Simply request a form and submit it to our office.

### Franklin County National Bank (FCN)

In person or in the drop box. Bring payment stub.

### VanillaDirect

Visit [vanilladirect.com](http://vanilladirect.com) for payment locations and details.

For more information about payment options, please call us:

765-458-5171 or 1-800-529-5557



## BILL CREDIT WINNERS

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members of the 2024 annual meeting continues. Here are the winners.

### FEBRUARY

**Christopher Shaw**, Lynn

**Vicki Elliott**, Richmond

**Randall Gray**, Greens Fork

**Chris Burris**, Greens Fork

**Sandra Floyd**, Modoc



## FIELD OF DREAMS: IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

This year, we will introduce a new family-friendly annual meeting event for our members. The event will take place on June 12 at our facility, starting at 4 PM, and will include food, entertainment, and prizes.

During the event, we will provide updates on our cooperative's progress from 2024, priorities for 2025 and review the cooperative's financial health. Your participation as a member is important, and this is an excellent opportunity to connect with board members, employees, and fellow members.

Voting for our Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee will open on May 12. If we have your email address on file, please watch for your electronic ballot. The hidden account number is 1510602. Mail-in ballots will be mailed to those without an email address. Additionally, SmartHub users can vote directly through the SmartHub application.

In the April issue of Powerlines, we will provide voting information and candidate profiles for your review before voting begins. Stay tuned as we continue to share more details in the coming months.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION



### Liberty Office Hours

New location is 1201 S. State Road 101,  
Liberty, IN 47353

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

**CLOSED SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS**

### To Report an Outage or Emergency

Call 1-800-776-0493, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Log in to your SmartHub account and report your outage.

### BE READY TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- The name and account number under which your electric service is listed.
- Map location number.
- Your phone number – needed to call back or confirm power restoration.
- The type of problem you are experiencing – flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.



1201 S. State Rd. 101, P.O. Box 349, Liberty, IN 47353

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