

LightPost

September/October 2011

Published for members of Northeastern Rural Electric Membership Corporation

Advisor provides free home energy audits to save you money all year

It doesn't matter what season it is, a home with air leaks means you're losing money. Inefficient heating and cooling equipment, as well as lighting can also cost you. You can stop wasting cash by locating leaks, and identifying inefficiencies.

A basic do-it-yourself home energy audit can be as simple as examining your energy bills for the last 12 months and entering some basic information about your home into an energy use calculator, like those found at nremc.com or TogetherWeSave.com.

A more extensive do-it-yourself home energy audit involves assessing some common areas of home energy loss:

- Check your light fixtures. If they have inefficient incandescent bulbs, replace them with compact florescent (CFL) bulbs which use a fraction of the energy and last much longer.

- Check for air leaks. Air infiltration can occur around electric receptacles and switch plates, window frames, baseboards, doors, fireplace dampers, attic entry points, and can reduce your furnace efficiency up to 30%. Sealing those leaks with caulk or weather stripping is relatively easy and inexpensive and will greatly improve comfort while lowering energy cost.

- Check the attic for adequate insulation and proper installation.

- Check heating system components. Have you changed the filter regularly? Done routine maintenance? How old is the unit? If your furnace is 15 years or older, replacing it with an efficient unit will save you money and pay for itself with savings. Find information about rebates at nremc.com.

Northeastern REMC also offers members a free home energy audit. Energy Advisor Doug Ferrell can provide honest, straightforward solutions to help with a wide variety of energy-related questions and concerns.

Don't let any more of your dollars seep through the cracks in your home. To learn more, visit nremc.com or contact Doug at 625-3700, ext. 436 or d_ferrell@nremc.com.



Doug Ferrell
Energy Advisor

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A Touchstone Energy
Cooperative

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Thank you to our valued members



Annual Member Appreciation Night and Meeting wrap-up

- photos/details inside

Questions? E-mail customerservice@nremc.com

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Northeastern
REMC
Since 1936

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

After office hours and on weekends or holidays, the telephone is answered by a Northeastern employee for trouble calls ONLY.

To Contact Us:

260-244-6111 (Columbia City) or 260-625-3700 (Fort Wayne).

FAX # 260-625-3407

www.nremc.com

Line Locating:

Please call 811 at least 2 full business days prior to digging.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY SEMINAR

Wednesday, October 26

7:00 p.m. at

Northeastern REMC

4901 E. Park 30 Dr., Columbia City, IN

Informative speakers and displays featuring energy saving products and services

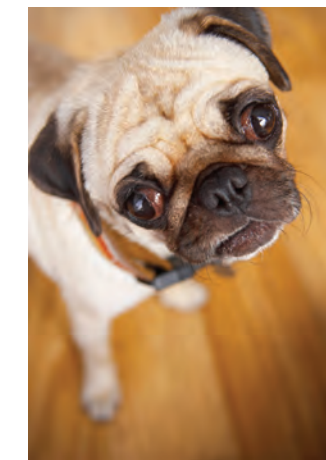
* RSVP BY OCTOBER 21 *

(260) 244-6111 or 625-3700, ext. 436

Seating is limited - Call today!

Informative sessions include:

- * Geothermal systems and what makes them so efficient
- * Air-to-Air Heatpumps - how do they work?
- * Energy efficiency programs and rebates
- * Do I have enough insulation and what type is best for me?



"Paws" and take steps to keep pets safe from hazards

Puppies and kittens are naturally curious and tend to turn unexpected household items into play or chew toys. A frisky dog or curious cat can cause an electrical hazard or fire in ways you may not have thought about.

- Keep electrical cords away from puppies and kittens so they don't chew on them and receive a severe shock. What

may seem like a mild shock to an adult may be enough to kill a small pet. One suggestion would be to cover the cord with a heavy plastic sleeve.

- Check to be sure nightlights and appliances are

completely plugged into wall outlets. Small paws or tongues can easily find partially exposed prongs and are a hazard for curious puppies and kittens.

- Halogen lamps should never be used in play areas. Halogen bulbs can reach very high temperatures, and if knocked over during play, could easily start a fire.

- All appliances near sinks or bathtubs should be plugged into an outlet equipped with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). Playful pets can knock radios, curling irons and other items into the water, creating a dangerous situation. GFCIs stop the flow of electricity instantly if there is a problem, and when properly used, can save lives.

- Do not allow pets to curl up for a nap behind warm computer equipment. They need to learn to stay away from all electrical connections.

Scenes and results from this year's annual meeting

Thank you to all who shared the evening with us

Members elect one new director, two incumbents, to board during REMC annual meeting

Members of Northeastern REMC voted in a new director and re-elected two incumbents to the electric cooperative's board of directors during the REMC's September 10 Member Appreciation Night and Annual Meeting.

Daniel Linnemeier was elected to represent members from the co-op's eighth district. Linnemeier has been serving as the Lake Township Trustee since 1978 and is currently the Director of Corporate Accounts for Aunt Millie's Bakery. Re-elected to the

board were Jane Scott, District 9, and Bruce Heffelfinger, District 1. Scott has been an REMC board member for six years and Heffelfinger has served 31 years.

Over 4000 reservations were received for this year's annual meeting, which was held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Multi-award winning singer Jo Dee Messina entertained members with a concert following the business meeting.



Linnemeier



Scott



Heffelfinger

Board picks leaders for 2011-12

In its first scheduled board of directors meeting following Northeastern's 2011 Member Appreciation Night and Annual Meeting, board members elected new officers for the coming year. Elected were:

Board Chairperson – Ted Hurley
Vice Chairperson – Doug Schrader

Treasurer – Tom Western
Secretary – Jane Scott



Patronage capital refunded to 1988 members

Because you receive your electricity from an electric cooperative, you own part of the company. As a member, your investment into the cooperative, known as patronage capital, is returned to you in the form of capital credits. This is one of the significant differences between an investor-owned utility and a cooperative.

Capital credits represent each member's investment into the cooperative. Because cooperatives do not earn profits in the sense that other businesses do, any margins or revenues remaining after all expenses have been paid are returned to the members in the form of capital credits. Your share of the patronage pool is determined by your total electric billing (excluding sales tax).

In July of each year, your board carefully assesses the financial condition of the cooperative, and determines what amount of capital credits to retire to our members. This year, the board voted to refund the remaining 80% balance, approximately \$660,000, of 1988 capital credits.

Checks were mailed out at the end of August to members whose refund met the \$5.00 minimum check requirement.

A list of names is posted on nremc.com under "Programs and Services" of those checks that are returned to us or are unclaimed. The list is updated each fall.

Like all businesses, Northeastern must maintain a balance between debt and equity to ensure financial stability. Capital credits are a significant source of equity and help to fund the growth and maintenance of the system.



Annual meeting speech on our website

If you missed Northeastern's Member Appreciation Night and Annual Meeting, you can watch the CEO/board chairman's report at nremc.com. It will be posted in "Current News" and "About Us".

Office closed

Northeastern REMC will be closed November 24-25 for Thanksgiving. As always, phones will be answered for outages and emergencies only.

2012 Cooperative Art calendars now available

A limited supply of calendars are now available free of charge at Northeastern REMC's office. This 2012 calendar features artwork from students locally and throughout Indiana from grades K-12.

Save money during the upcoming holidays

Remember to use your Co-op Connections Card for discounts when you begin your holiday shopping. Plus...it might come in handy if you are traveling during the holidays. The card offers discounts all across the country! Check out the link on our website, nremc.com, for details!