


**Northeastern REMC**  
 A Touchstone Energy®  
 Cooperative   
 4901 East Park 30 Drive  
 Columbia City, IN 46725

PERMIT AND  
 USE POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 NORTHEASTERN  
 REMC

# LightPost

May/June 2011

Published for members of Northeastern Rural Electric Membership Corporation

## Electric water heaters are the top choice for safety and efficiency

### What makes an electric water heater so efficient?

While many design features affect energy efficiency, two are particularly important. First, electric water heaters typically use two heating elements to heat water. One near the top of the tank keeps water at the desired temperature, while one near the bottom turns on when hot water is being drawn out and the tank is being refilled, so the water always receives just the right amount of heat. Second, because both elements are in the water, all of the heat energy goes directly into the water. Gas water heaters use combustion to heat an uninsulated flue (tube) that runs through the center of the tank and vents outside the home. That flue heats the water, but also allows combustion gases and some of the heat to escape through the vent.

### Is an electric water heater safe for my family?

Because electric water heaters do not use combustion to heat water, there are no harmful gases like carbon monoxide, which are common to other fuel sources. And since they run on electricity there is no need to worry about keeping a pilot light lit.

### Where can I install an electric water heater?

Because there is no need to vent, you have more flexibility in choosing where to install an electric water heater. Installing it close to where it will be used makes it an even more efficient choice, because you'll lose less heat as the water travels through your home's plumbing.

### What size do I need?

Select the model that best meets your family's water consumption. Homes with one to four occupants need water heaters with up to 50 gallons of capacity, and those with four to seven occupants probably need up to 80 gallons.

### Northeastern's Water Heater Program -

One FREE 50-gallon energy efficient water heater is available to members meeting one of the following criteria:

- Building a new residence/business
- Replacing a fossil fuel unit

Units may be purchased for \$125.00 under the following conditions:

- Existing water heater fails and is non-repairable
- Existing water heater is over twenty (20) years old regardless of its working condition
- Additional units are needed after receiving one free water heater, not to include geothermal storage units

For details on Northeastern's water heater program, visit [nremc.com](http://nremc.com) or call Energy Advisor Doug Ferrell at 625-3700, ext 436.

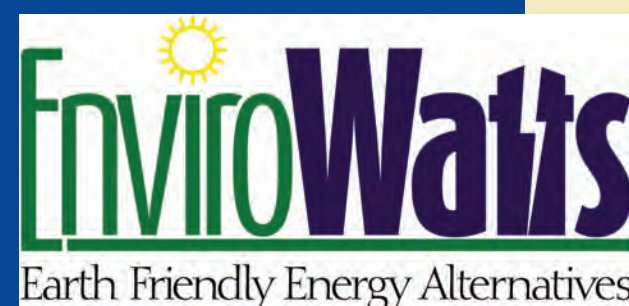
## ENERGY TIPS of the MONTH

Does your home have a window air conditioner? Make sure that your window unit is properly weather stripped, and clean the filter monthly. Keep "fresh air" vents on window A/C units closed.

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. "Smart" power strips are another good option—when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).



## Great News for Our Community



Grants awarded to expand local environmental efforts

- Details Inside

Questions? E-mail [customerservice@nremc.com](mailto:customerservice@nremc.com)

## LightPost

4901 East Park 30 Drive  
 Columbia City, IN 46725  
 260-625-3700 • 244-6111



### Office Hours:

Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

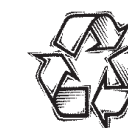
After office hours and on weekends or holidays, the telephone is answered by a Northeastern employee for trouble calls ONLY.

### To Contact Us:

260-244-6111 (Columbia City) or 260-625-3700 (Fort Wayne).  
 FAX # 260-625-3407  
[www.nremc.com](http://www.nremc.com)

### Line Locating:

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



Jo Dee Messina will be showcasing her world-class pipes, unbreakable spirit and unique musical and personal style when she treats members of Northeastern REMC to a free concert during the cooperative's Member Appreciation Night and Annual Meeting, September 10 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

Jo Dee has sold five million albums, had nine #1 singles, earned two Grammy nominations in addition to awards by the CMA and ACM, and seen her albums go platinum (Burn) and double platinum (I'm Alright). The latter made history, as three consecutive singles reached the #1 spot for multiple weeks on the Billboard singles chart, making her the first female artist ever to earn that distinction.

"I think what makes it all work," Jo Dee says, "is the fact that I'm so real and so relatable to the listener. When you hit that sincere groove, range, melody and topic, it rings true for people, and I think (my music) has all of that stuff."

Jo Dee was first attracted to country music while listening to Alabama, Hank Jr., Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton and Reba McEntire. At 19, she loaded a car and headed to Nashville, where she entered talent contests and got a regular gig on a Nashville radio show. Producer Byron Gallimore heard her and began working with her, introducing her to another struggling newcomer named Tim McGraw.

Gallimore and McGraw produced her early albums, and Jo Dee gained attention with "Heads Carolina, Tails

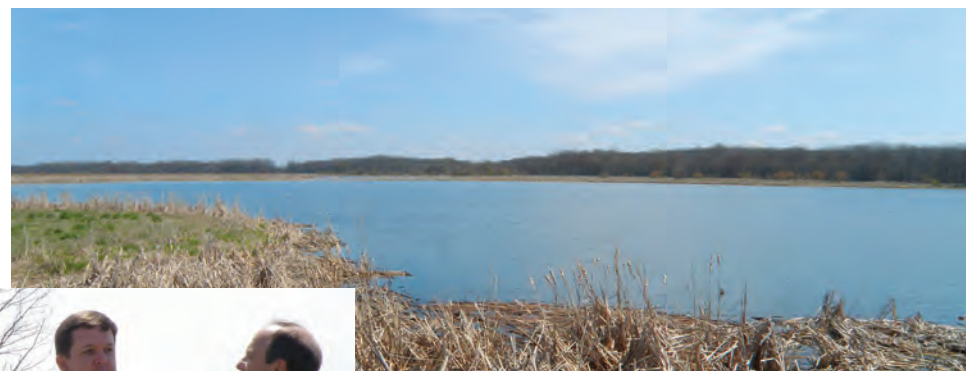
California" and "You're Not In Kansas Anymore" from her first album. The second album, I'm Alright, with its back-to-back-to-back chart-toppers "Bye Bye" (ASCAP's Song of the Year), "I'm Alright" and "Stand Beside Me," went double platinum and was nominated for Album of the Year by the Academy of Country Music. Jo Dee won the ACM's Top New Female Vocalist award, the CMA Horizon award, and Most Played Country Female of 1999 from Billboard. Her follow-up album, Burn, entered the Country Albums chart at #1, went platinum

(Continued - page 4)

Member Appreciation Night  
 &  
 Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 10

Details and reservation cards to be mailed in August.



The Little River Wetlands Project encompasses over 1200 acres of nature preserve in southwest Allen County.



LRWP Executive Director Sean Nolan tells Northeastern's Gene Donaghy how the EnviroWatts grant will be used to expand programs for the public.



Mary Ibe, Education Specialist for Trees Indiana; Kim Lochmueller, Principal at Cedar Canyon Elementary School; Carol Cavell, Executive Director of Trees Indiana; Gene Donaghy, Northeastern REMC; and Nancy Leininger, Curriculum Coordinator for Science and Math at Cedar Canyon.

## Northeastern REMC awards two local environmental grants

Northeastern REMC has awarded grants to two local organizations to further environmental programs and education in northeast Indiana. Little River Wetlands Project and Trees Indiana received funds collected as part of the EnviroWatts program supported by a number of Northeastern's members. Participants have a portion of their electric usage credited back to "green" sources of electric generation by paying an additional penny per kWh, up to 500 kWh per month.

The Little River Wetlands Project, whose mission is to facilitate the restoration and protection of wetlands and provide educational programs that encourage good stewardship of all natural resources, received funds to expand its free nature programs, including nature hikes throughout the preserves, field trips, a seniors program, nature presentations, educational materials, and supplies to further environmental awareness. The group maintains approximately 1200 acres of nature preserve, the largest in Allen County.

Founded in March, 2006, Trees Indiana's mission is to inspire and educate Indiana's youth to become stewards who plant, protect and maintain trees in their community.

Last year over 1500 youth were served and over 100 trees were planted and maintained throughout the area. Funds received from the EnviroWatts program will help establish the Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom. The outdoor classroom, established at Cedar Canyons Elementary School, will be open to students throughout northeast Indiana and be part of a national network of early education schools and programs committed to getting children outdoors more to connect with nature.

Through an agreement with its power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association, Northeastern has the ability to provide renewable energy as an option for its members. More commonly known as "green power", this energy is generated from environmentally-preferred sources such as landfill gas in Indiana and from wind farms located in Illinois. To be eligible for a grant, a not-for-profit organization must engage in research and development of new renewable resources, environment education, or other activities or programs involved in protecting our environment.

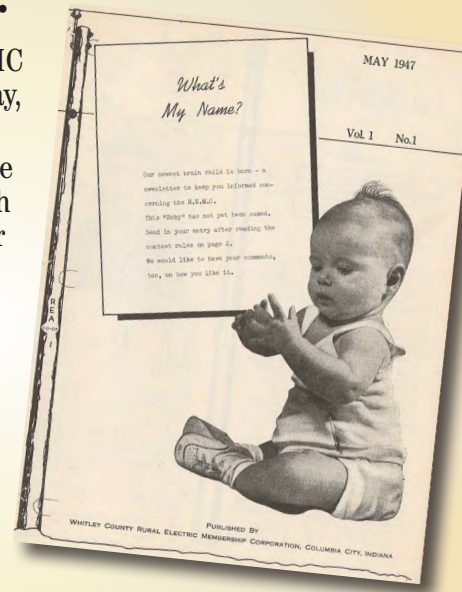
More information or to enroll go to [nremc.com](http://nremc.com).

## Our newsletter is born!

The first issue of the REMC member newsletter was printed in May, 1947...with no name!

In a contest to name the newsletter, members Newton Flaugh and Robert Mayer each won \$5.00 for submitting the name "Light Post".

The first newsletter featured tree trimming information, Letters to the Editor, tips on livestock care, a poem about electrical wiring, a list of new members, a joke column, cartoons, and instructions on reading your own electric meter.



NREMC...Powering homes and businesses for 75 years!

## Go Green. Go Paperless.

SAVE A TREE!

Sign up for e-statements... the environmentally friendly way to receive your monthly bill!

It's easy to pay your bill online. Click on the E-Bill icon on [nremc.com](http://nremc.com).



## Give your home's energy use a when you leave for **VACATION**

Going on vacation? Even if you plan to be away just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here are a few tips that can give your utility bill a break when you take a break.

**Water heater:** Turn down the temperature, so it doesn't keep the water hot while you are away.

**Thermostat:** During hot weather, turn up the thermostat on your air conditioning system to save energy...and money.

**Refrigerator:** Depending on food stored in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as high as 38 degrees without risking spoilage. Storing water-filled bottles in your refrigerator can prevent temperature fluctuations, which will save energy. Food in the freezer compartment will stay frozen if the temperature

remains at minus 5 degrees.

**Lights:** Turn off all unnecessary lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security if you are planning time away.

**Electronics:** Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices—computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave, and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features, or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use. You may think they are off, but they really aren't!

For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit [nremc.com](http://nremc.com) or contact Energy Advisor Doug Ferrell at 625-3700, ext. 436.

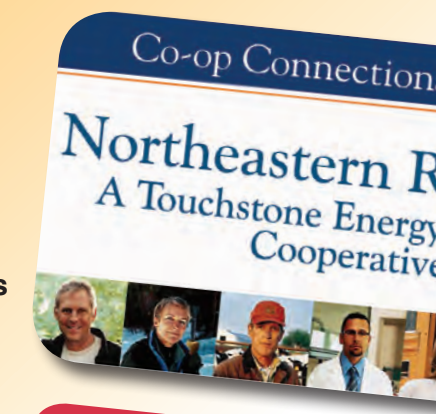


## Providing real VALUE - Discount card puts money in your pocket

Discounts are being offered to members of Northeastern REMC at nearly 200 local businesses! Plus hundreds of deals are available to you all around the country...so check for transportation, hotel, and destination deals before you leave for vacation.

The following area businesses have joined the Co-op Connections Discount Card program in the past few months, so check out [nremc.com](http://nremc.com) to see what great deals they are offering you...

- AK Cleaning
- Anytime Fitness Centers
- Collier's Heating and Cooling
- Curves
- Energy Wellness Products
- Hoosier Windows and Siding
- Jiffy Lube
- Key Exteriors
- Legacy Heating and Cooling
- Mancino's Pizzas and Grinders
- Moe's Southwest Grill
- Papa John's Pizza
- Pizza King
- Pro Exteriors
- South Side Furniture
- Stars Chimney Service
- The Strategic Marketing Group
- Vanilla Bean's Biscotti and Bakery Boutique



Pharmacy, dental, hearing and vision discounts, too!

If your business would like to join this promotional program, contact Mike DeFreeuw at 625-3700, ext 416, or [m\\_defreeuw@nremc.com](mailto:m_defreeuw@nremc.com). There is no cost to participate, and your business will be getting lots of local and national exposure!

## Jo Dee Messina (Continued)

and earned two Grammy nominations. Hits like "Lesson in Leavin'," "Because You Love Me," "Downtime," "Bring On The Rain," "That's The Way" and "My Give A Damn's Busted" would cement her reputation as one of country's most loved hit-makers. Along the way, Jo Dee earned a well-deserved reputation as a great live performer, and became one of the first women of country to mount a major headlining tour.

The annual meeting gives members the opportunity to vote for directors, hear brief operational updates from our CEO and board president, and visit a variety of booths promoting our services.

More details and concert ticket information will be mailed to members in mid-August.

# Spotlight

## Office will be closed on Monday, July 4

Northeastern REMC will be closed Monday, July 4. Emergency and power outage information can be called in to our office 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## Tree trimming efforts continue

The trimming of trees near power lines will continue to take place over the next couple of months in Eel River and Jefferson Townships. If you have any questions regarding this very important program, please visit [www.nremc.com](http://www.nremc.com) under "Programs and Services".

## Free energy audits of your home

Let our Energy Advisor do a detailed analysis of your home to determine where you are wasting energy, how your electric use could be reduced, and the steps you can take to save money every month! Call Doug Ferrell at 625-3700, x 436, to schedule your free energy audit.

## Rebates still available

Rebates are still available for members who are upgrading heating and cooling systems, buying new clothes washers or trading in old refrigerators. Visit [nremc.com](http://nremc.com) for all the details.