

**CONTACT US**

Toll Free: 800-762-7362

**OFFICE HOURS**

7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday

**STREET ADDRESS**

12628 E 75 N, Loogootee, IN 47553

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 430, Loogootee, IN 47553

**SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS**

To report an outage or emergency, call 812-295-4200 or 800-762-7362 day or night.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Brandt Schuckman, *Vice President*

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**MONTHLY MEETING**

Monday, July 19, 7 p.m.,

Daviness-Martin County REMC office

**BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS**

SmartHub — online bill payment system

Budget billing

Auto bank draft

Drive-through window

Night depository

Credit card payment (VISA, Discover and MasterCard accepted)

Pay-by-phone: 1-888-222-0624

**MISSION STATEMENT**

"Our mission is to provide safe, reliable electricity and quality services for our members at a reasonable cost."



**MINIMIZE INDOOR HEAT**

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.

— U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



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# A BALANCED FUEL MIX PROMOTES *power reliability*



As I've noted before in my past columns, the energy industry is undergoing a dramatic transformation as consumer demand for more renewable

energy sources grows, and innovation and technology continue to advance exponentially. You're likely witnessing this energy evolution first-hand.

In driving across the region, you may have noticed fields of solar panels owned by utilities, along with an increase in solar panels on your neighbors' roofs. Maybe you've heard about the impending changes in the transportation sector with most major vehicle companies announcing plans to offer more electric vehicles at more affordable prices.

Consumer interest in renewable energy is strong and growing. In addition, national studies indicate that consumers expect that companies operate in an ethical and responsible manner — including when it comes to the environment.

At Daviness-Martin County REMC, we have always put our community first. While our primary function is to provide reliable and affordable energy to our members, we are more than an electricity provider. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and to serve the long-term interests of our community. We feel we're doing both by obtaining our electricity from a supplier investing in renewable energy sources.

Green energy is certainly not new. Solar, wind and hydro power have been around for decades. In recent years, Daviness-Martin County REMC's power provider, Hoosier Energy REC, has been able to adjust its fuel mix by utilizing more renewables. Today, 6.25% of its fuel mix is comprised of renewable

energy sources, the majority of which is wind and solar. By the end of 2021, it is expected to be at 10% and at 20% renewables by the end of 2024.

However, to borrow a nautical analogy, it takes a long time to turn the direction of a large ship — and changing the energy mix we use to power homes and businesses doesn't happen overnight. While renewable energy use is increasing, we will still depend on traditional forms of energy to keep power flowing reliably to your home. After all, solar and wind energy are referred to as "intermittent" power since the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. This fact, coupled with the growing demand for renewables, creates its own challenges. That's why there is real value in maintaining a balanced mixture of fuel types to ensure reliability and resiliency, and meet the growing demand for electricity.

As the energy industry continues to evolve, Daviness-Martin County REMC and Hoosier Energy REC are striving to take advantage of technology advances and market opportunities as they become available. This means that we can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable and affordable power to our community.

Albert Einstein once observed that, "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." In order for Daviness-Martin County REMC and Hoosier Energy REC to meet the growing demand for renewable energy and ensure the reliability of our power supply, we must constantly make operational adjustments as we strive for balance and a brighter future for our members.

**JANE BAHLER-HURT**  
General Manager

# Supporting innovation

Over the past several years, people all over the country have been taking the downsizing plunge into tiny homes. If you watch HGTV, there are shows like Tiny House Nation, Tiny House Hunters, Tiny Luxury, and many more that showcase the market and demand for this rising lifestyle. Local high school students are bringing that tiny but mighty market to the area.

A group of students at Loogootee High School received a grant to transform a shipping container into a tiny home. They were also granted \$5,000 to spend on supplies and materials.

Three teams were established with specific duties to utilize the students' unique abilities. The business team

is comprised of seven individuals — Kage Lyon, Morgen Wolfe, Katie Callison, Annalise Powell, Wade Graber, Parker Arvin and Madison McAtee. The design team includes Grace Foddrill, Kyleigh Courter and Lindsey Nolan. The construction expertise comes from Russell Mauder.

The students delegate responsibilities equally and continue to cross off milestones within this large project. While working together, they have learned how to budget, build social skills, and organize, while implementing teamwork and communication across the 11-person team. Currently, they are continuing the planning and market research process and will move into working more hands-on this month. The

project is expected to be completed in October.

The students are pursuing community business partners for sponsorship. The students are hoping to raise an additional \$5,000 to create a gratifying space to live in. Daviess-Martin County REMC is proud to be a sponsor of this team of young innovators.

All sponsorships are welcome — whether you are donating cash or materials. Each donation is one step toward project completion. If you would like to be a sponsor, contact Shelley Christmas by calling the Loogootee High School at 812-295-3254, ext. 524.



**Daviess-Martin County REMC presented a \$400 donation toward the tiny home project.** Pictured from left: Kage Lyon, Russell Mauder, Grace Foddrill, Morgen Wolfe, Kyleigh Courter, Katie Callison, DMREMC Communications Specialist Jackie McGlin, Annalise Powell, Wade Graber, Parker Arvin, Lindsey Nolan and Madison McAtee.





## COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

Power outages are never convenient. Sometimes, it's no mystery why we are left in the dark, like when lightning and thunder rattle windows and walls. Other times, an outage may come out of the blue.

The length of time it takes to restore power will vary by the cause. Daviess-Martin County REMC shares outage information through its Facebook page. Here are some common outage causes we face.

### WEATHER

The most common cause for power outages is Mother Nature. A heavy build-up of ice and snow on power lines, poles and equipment can bring them down.

Wind also causes widespread damage. High winds following a heavy ice storm can be particularly devastating.

Extremely hot weather can cause power lines to sag into vegetation and can also cause unusually

high demand that can overburden transformers and other electrical equipment causing them to fail.

Lightning strikes can cause major damage to electrical equipment, transmission towers, wires and poles. If the lights go out in the middle of a thunderstorm, lightning is probably the culprit.

### TREES

During high winds, snow and ice, tree limbs can snap or entire trees can topple onto power lines.

### ACCIDENTS

A vehicle hitting a utility pole can break the pole and knock lines from their overhead perch. Excavation work can disturb buried electric service lines causing an outage. Always call 811 before any gardening or digging project.

### ANIMALS

Squirrels, snakes and other small animals and birds can climb on poles

and electrical equipment which may cause a short circuit or equipment to shut down.

### VANDALISM

People shooting at insulators and transformers is still a sad cause for power outages in rural areas.

Thieves also steal copper wire and other pieces of electrical equipment. Both acts of vandalism can be extremely costly and deadly.

### PLANNED OUTAGES

If our crew is performing maintenance or upgrading its equipment, power may need to be temporarily turned off. DMREMC will try to notify members affected. Therefore, it is good to make sure your contact information is updated with the co-op.

If you experience an outage, report it through the SmartHub app or call 812-295-4200 or our toll-free number, 800-762-7362.

### YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

In each magazine issue, Daviess-Martin County REMC asks our readers three questions. The answers can be found in the articles of Indiana Connection. Clip the coupon below along the dotted line. Fill it out and return it to our office with your monthly payment before the 20th of the month. (Delinquent members are not eligible.)

Each month, a winner will be drawn from the entries submitted. Make sure you bring or mail in your most recent coupon, as the coupons are dated monthly. Members with automatic payment accounts will be entered in the contest as well. Copies will not be accepted, and coupons are not available at the office! Winners will be notified and their names will be published in the following monthly issue of Indiana Connection.

**MAY WINNER:** James Daniel, Loogootee

**For bills dated the 5th of the month and paid by the 20th.**

1. Hoosier Energy's renewable fuel mix is projected to be \_\_\_\_\_ % by the end of 2024.
2. During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat in the \_\_\_\_\_ to minimize indoor heat.
3. The off peak, summer and winter energy charges will all be \_\_\_\_\_ cents per kilowatt-hour.

**NAME:**

**ADDRESS:**

**ACCOUNT NO.:**

**PHONE NO.:**

## Rate adjustments take effect on June bills

Just as you face the rising cost of living and increasing costs for everyday essentials, your REMC also must navigate market forces, economic uncertainty, and cost increases. Recently, DMREMC worked with a consultant to compare its rates to the costs of providing you with electricity. Rates were last reviewed in September 2015.

The monthly customer charge — effective on members' June bills — was increased to \$40. This charge enables us to purchase and maintain our meters, poles, lines, transformers, and vegetation management. The charge is the same no matter how much energy a member uses. It will remain in effect for each billing cycle whether the metered location is connected or disconnected.

The off peak, summer, and winter energy charges will all be 9.83 cents per kilowatt-hour. These charges could potentially minimize seasonal fluctuations on members' bill.

Seasonal disconnects to cabins, grain bins, idle services, etc., will continue to incur the monthly customer charge. To ensure those locations are billed only for the prevailing basic customer charge without disconnecting, we advise the following:

- Turn off all electric appliances.
- Make sure the main switch or circuit breaker is turned to the "off" position and that the electric meter is registering no use.



**PLUG into SAFETY**

**Own an older home without GFCIs, AFCIs or TRRs?**

If not, for safety's sake, contact an electrician to install them.

**LEARN MORE ON PAGE 24**