

*Holiday  
greetings  
from your  
REMC!*




## **Watt High Lights**



**Jackson County Rural Electric  
Membership Corporation**

Brownstown, Indiana

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**December 2011**

Volume 66 - Number 6

## Watt High Lights

Jackson County Rural Electric  
Membership Corporation  
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### Office Hours

7:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
Monday through Friday

### To report outages or emergencies

358-4458 (local) or toll free  
1-800-288-4458 day or night

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### OUR COVER

The REMC office is aglow with holiday decorations. This tree was found in the accounting department and was decorated by employees Peggy Robison and Teresa Noelker.

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## Timing is everything when it comes to using power

You know the drill. You get off work. You drive home. As soon as you get in the door you throw some laundry in the washing machine, turn on the dishwasher and start preheating the oven for dinner.

We all have chores to do. And most of us tend to do our chores at the same time. When many consumers use their heating and cooling systems, washing machines, clothes driers, dishwashers, water heaters and other large appliances all at once, it greatly increases the demand for electricity.

As the demand for electricity builds, additional – and more expensive – power plants must be called on, creating a challenge for power suppliers and higher prices for consumers.

You may have already seen changes in electric rates based on when electricity is used. One reason is because electricity demand is highest and more expensive to provide during the summer and winter months and during peak times of the day.

If you want to help lower costs, wait to turn on the washing machine or dishwasher until after 9:00 P.M. or do those chores on the weekend. Those dirty dishes and socks aren't going anywhere.

Adjusting our thermostats a few degrees and using fans in the summer, and wearing sweaters in the winter, will help save on energy bills and lower demand.

There are many ways we can make our homes and businesses more energy-efficient. Contact our Member Services Department for help; check out the web at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com) for tips, a home efficiency tour, videos and more; or go to [Facebook.com/TeamUpToPowerDown](https://www.facebook.com/TeamUpToPowerDown) for links and to discover all kinds of ways to save energy and money.

While individual efforts can lower our power bills today, those energy saving steps will also have an impact on tomorrow, delaying the day when new, more expensive power plants have to be built.

Saving money now – saving money tomorrow – and improving the environment – working together, everyone wins.

Let's Team Up To Power Down when electricity demand is high. Timing is everything when it comes to electric power.

# Welcome Nancy & Christina!

We welcome Nancy Hawkins and Christina Schoenherr, our two newest members of the REMC family.

Nancy is our newest Customer Service Rep. Her first day at her new job was on October 24. Nancy resides in Seymour with her son and daughter. She holds a BS in forestry and a Masters in agriculture from Texas A&M University. Some of Nancy's responsibilities will include posting information from the crew's work orders and serving the REMC members in billing inquiries.

Christina is our new Administrative Assistant. Her first day with the REMC was October 17. She and husband Andy reside in Brownstown with their young



Nancy Hawkins and Christina Schoenherr

son. Christina holds a BA in psychology and human resources management from The College of New Jersey and a Masters in Human Resources & Employee Relations from Penn State University. Some of Christina's responsibilities will include assisting with administrative projects and managing the employee benefits programs.

We wish Christina and Nancy all the best as they begin their careers with the REMC family.

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## Power cost tracker increase pending before IURC

Jackson County REMC has asked the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to approve an increase in its metered rates that is based upon the cost of purchased electricity that is being charged by Jackson's power supplier, Hoosier Energy, Inc.

The request of a \$1.15 per 1,000 kWh increase stems from a pending January 1, 2012 quarterly adjustment in Hoosier's power cost tracker due to varying costs for energy fuels, market power purchases, and other highly fluctuating expenses.

Jackson County REMC's proposed rates continue the temporary \$3.00 per 1,000 kWh rate reduction recently approved by the REMC board of directors that became effective November 1, 2011.

Overall, the power cost adjustment factor would change from \$0.001129 to \$0.002278 per kWh, increasing a typical bill of 1,000 kWh from \$111.68 to \$112.83, or 1.03%. As submitted, the new rates will become effective on January 1, 2012, and should first appear on bills mailed after February 1, 2012.

[www.jacksonremc.com](http://www.jacksonremc.com)

Visit our website for:

- Links to energy efficiency websites
  - Information on payment methods
  - Links to educational children's websites
    - Rebate information
    - Safety information
- And much more!



It's time to "summertime!"

# Applications being accepted for 2012 Youth Tour & Touchstone Energy Camp

Even though the holidays are in full swing, you may want to start thinking about the coming summer if you are a high school junior or a sixth grade student. The REMC will again sponsor participants in the Touchstone Energy Camp and the Youth to Washington trip.



## 2012 Touchstone Energy Camp June 6-9

Touchstone Energy Camp helps youngsters learn about electricity and electrical safety and teaches them basic cooperative business principles. But Touchstone Energy Camp isn't all business. Participants enjoy the full camp experience, including swimming, boating and horseback riding.

Jackson County REMC will sponsor three youngsters to the 2012 Touchstone Energy Camp at Camp Tecumseh near Brookston, Indiana. All fees will be covered by the REMC. However, participants must provide their own transportation to and from the camp.

Applicants must currently be sixth grade students and must reside with a parent or guardian who is a member-of-record of Jackson County REMC.

**The deadline for completed Touchstone Energy Camp applications is February 17, 2012.**

**Applications will be judged and winners will be notified in March.**



## 2012 Youth to Washington June 13-21

Nearly 1,000 current high school juniors from around the country will be selected by their rural electric cooperatives to take part in the 2012 Youth to Washington event in our nation's capital. Jackson County REMC again plans to send three young people on the 2012 trip.

All expenses, including lodging, meals, and travel from Indianapolis to Washington, D.C., will be covered by the REMC. Participants will only need to take spending money for snacks and souvenirs.

The trip includes tours of many of the museums and monuments in our nation's capital, a viewing of the changing of the guard at Arlington Na-

tional Cemetery, visits with members of Congress when delegates "storm the hill," and a workshop with officials from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. There is also a stop to visit the Civil War battlefields in Gettysburg and the Flight 83 National Memorial in Pennsylvania.

Applicants must currently be 11th grade students and must be ready to enter the 12th grade at the time of the trip. An applicant must reside with a parent or guardian who is a member-of-record of Jackson County REMC.

They will need to complete an application form and prepare a 250-word essay about how Jackson County REMC improves the quality of life in his or her community. Applications are judged on academics, activities in and out of school, community involvement and the essay.

**The deadline for completed Youth to Washington applications to be returned to the REMC is February 17, 2012. Applicants will be notified of selections in early March.**

Application forms for the Youth to Washington trip and the Touchstone Energy Camp are available on our website: [www.jacksonremc.com](http://www.jacksonremc.com). You may also request an application by contacting us by e-mail at [info@jacksonremc.com](mailto:info@jacksonremc.com) or by phone at 358-4458 or 1-800-288-4458.

# Get ready for winter driving

## Tips shared by Indiana Department of Homeland Security

by Betty Baute, Member Services Representative

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is urging drivers to prepare their vehicles for winter weather and to prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in their car. Drivers are encouraged to follow these tips to winterize vehicles:

- Check tire pressure and tread depth. Check your owner's manual for the correct tire pressure and use an air pressure gauge to make sure your tires are inflated properly.
- For good traction, measure tire tread depth by insert a penny with Lincoln's head down in a tread. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, the treads are seriously worn and will not provide good traction. Also check your tires for uneven wearing which can also be dangerous.
- Make sure the battery is fully charged, and that the terminals are tight and free of corrosion. Hoses and belts should be inspected for leaks and cracks.
- Make sure the heater and defroster are working properly.
- Check the exhaust system for loose connections or holes that might allow dangerous fumes to enter the car.
- Check the coolant system. Make sure that a 50 percent antifreeze, 50 percent water mixture is at the proper radiator level. If the coolant is two years old, get it flushed and refilled. Make sure all caps are on tight.
- Change oil every 3,000 to 5,000 miles. Consider using a lighter, "winter weight" oil. Refer to your owner's manual for guidance.
- Check windshield wipers and blades: Replace the blades twice a year and make sure extra wiper fluid is on hand.
- Ensure the four-wheel drive system and brakes are functioning properly.
- It is a good idea to keep at least a half tank of gas in your car at all times during the winter months, to keep the fuel lines from freezing.



## Reporting a power outage When the lights go out . . .

- Check your service entrance box to make sure you haven't tripped a breaker or blown a fuse.
- Call a couple of your neighbors to see if they are out of power, too.
- Call the REMC at 358-4458 or 800-288-4458 to report the outage. (Be patient - other folks may also be trying to call, especially if the outage is wide-spread.)
- Unplug sensitive appliances and equipment such as VCR's, TV's, computers and microwave ovens. Turn off the breaker to your central air conditioner or heat pump. This will help prevent any damage by a power surge when the electricity comes back on.
- Turn on a single light switch so you'll know when your power has been restored.
- Turn your porch light switch "on" so the REMC crew will know the power is back on.
- When the power is restored, gradually reconnect your appliances and equipment to avoid overloading circuits.
- Have any appliances or equipment damaged during a storm checked by an electrician or technician before using them.

# Let's talk about it

## Could you lower your bill with time-of-use rates?

by Brian Wolka, Member Services Director

Time-of-use (TOU) rates are now available from Jackson County REMC. Rather than traditional rates that are essentially level for all seasons of the year and around the clock, time-of-use rates reflect realistic price differentials. As with any good or service, electricity costs less when demand is low and more when demand is high.

Time-of-use rates are significantly lower on nights, weekends, holidays, all through the spring and fall, summer mornings, and in the middle of the day in winter. All-in-all, significant savings are available about 88 percent of the time.

On the other hand, time-of-use rates are much higher than standard rates for about 8 percent of the hours in a year, i.e. on summer weekdays in late afternoons and evenings and on winter weekdays in early mornings and late evenings. (There is little rate differential the other 4 percent of the time.)

Two groups of customers may be able to take advantage of this pricing opportunity: 1) those that already use a relatively high percentage of their electricity at off-peak times; and 2) those that are willing and able to shift a significant

portion of their usage away from peak hours.

If a customer could avoid the peak hours completely, annual bills could be cut by approximately 25 percent. Of course, a typical residential customer would have great difficulty doing this, but even a 10 percent savings on total annual bills would amount to several dollars.

Some tools available to help you control when your appliances operate include programmable appliances, programmable thermostats and disconnects, time clocks and peak alert alarms (alarm clocks). Buying Energy Star appliances, using CFL bulbs and installing low flow shower heads and faucet aerators can also help.

TOU rates are also available

### How much are the TOU rates?

Option T – Time-of-use pricing

#### For December, January, and February calendar months

\$0.265098 per kWh during "Winter on-peak hours"

\$0.067549 per kWh during all other hours

"Winter on-peak hours": Monday – Friday, 7 am to 10 am & 6 pm to 9 pm EST (1)

#### For March, April, and May calendar months

\$0.063068 per kWh during all hours

#### For June, July, and August calendar months

\$0.312504 per kWh during "Summer on-peak hours"

\$0.101749 per kWh during "Summer shoulder hours"

\$0.069353 per kWh during all other hours

"Summer on-peak hours": Monday – Friday, 4 pm to 9 pm EDT (1)

"Summer shoulder hours": Monday – Friday, 12 noon to 4 pm & 9 pm to 10 pm EDT (1)

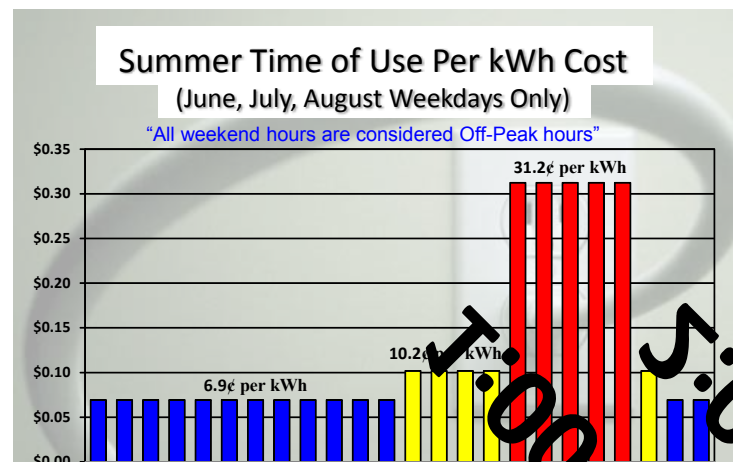
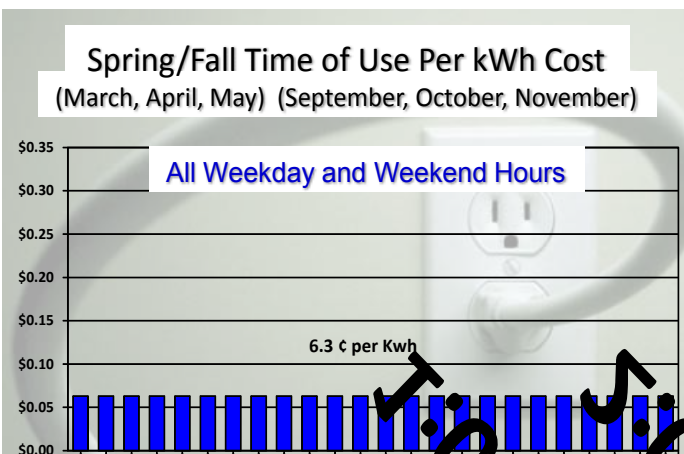
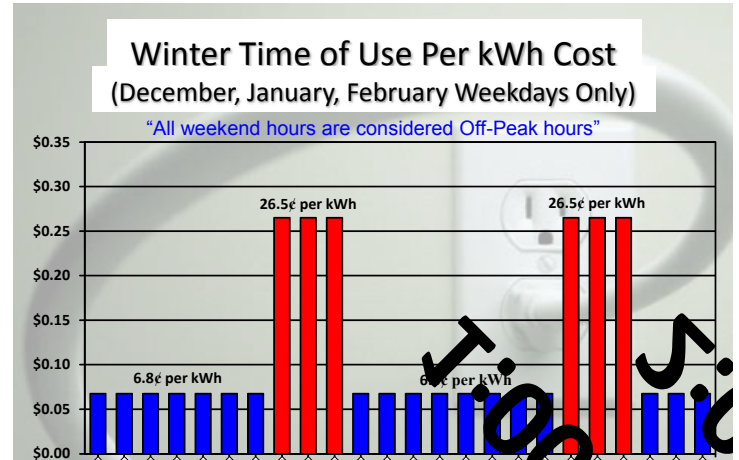
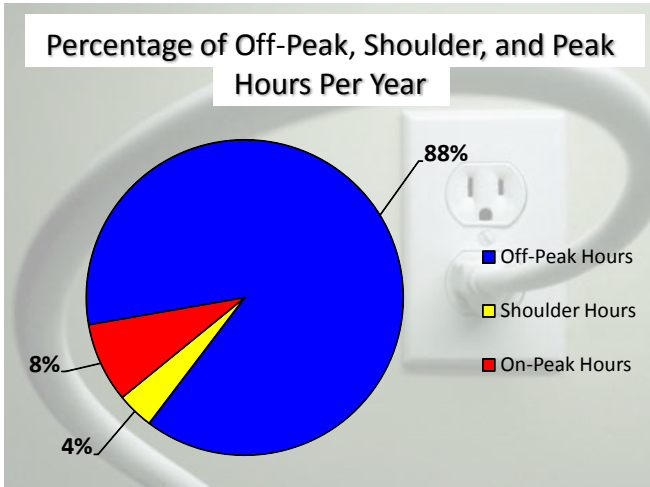
#### For September, October, and November calendar months

\$0.063068 per kWh during all hours

(1) Excludes Independence Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day

Note: All rate options include a basic service charge and a variable power cost adjustment.

# TIME-OF-USE RATES AT A GLANCE



Continued from page 6 . . .

for members currently on rate "G". Members on rate "G" are typically large industrial, commercial, institutional and agricultural accounts.

In order to switch to TOU rates you will need to sign an agreement requesting that you

be billed based on TOU rates.

While savings may be available in the winter months for those who can minimize their electricity usage during on-peak hours, a better time to start time-of-use rates may be in March, when rates are

lowest and savings are guaranteed.

For more information, go to our website at [www.jacksonremc.com](http://www.jacksonremc.com) or give us a call at 812-358-4458 or 800-288-4458.

# January Issue

Soup for one or two

Winter is always a great time to warm up with a supper of soup. If you like homemade soup, but don't like to have a lot of left-overs, our January recipes of "soup for 1 or 2" will hit the spot!

## Gifts that last a lifetime

This Christmas consider giving a gift that will help a loved one begin a better lifestyle.

Print or write down a bunch of good-for-you recipes and offer to help try them out.

Set up a regular exercise time with someone --- even if it involves just walking around the neighborhood a couple of times each week.

Resolve to visit with an elderly or shut-in friend or relative on a regular basis. Just a few hours will mean the world to them.



# Lighter treats

## for the holidays

by Betty Baute, Member Services Representative

Pies and cakes and cookies! Oh, my! If you're on a restricted diet, or you're just trying to watch your weight, the holidays can be almost as scary as the forest in the "Wizard of Oz!"

This month's recipes were selected to help take a little of the scariness out of the holiday sweets and treats without totally denying your sweet tooth. Nutrition information is provided at the end of each recipe to help you make wise goodie choices.



### "Mud" cookies

2-1/3 cup all-purpose flour	3/4 teaspoon baking soda
2/3 cup baking cocoa	1/4 teaspoon salt
2/3 cup granulated sugar	1 cup 1% buttermilk
1/3 cup packed brown sugar	1/3 cup unsweetened applesauce

Combine dry ingredients in a bowl. Stir in buttermilk and applesauce; dough will be thick and moist. Drop by tablespoonfuls 2 inches apart on baking sheets coated with non-stick spray. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes or until firm. Remove to wire racks to cool. Yield - 4 dozen. Nutrition information: 1 cookie equals 56 calories; 1 gram fat; trace cholesterol; 44 milligrams sodium; 12 grams carbohydrate; trace fiber; 1 gram protein.

### Cheesy meatballs

3 cups (12 ounces) finely shredded cheddar cheese	1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1 cup biscuit / baking mix	1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon salt	1 pound lean ground beef

Combine cheese, biscuit mix, salt, pepper and garlic powder in a bowl. Crumble ground beef over mixture and mix well. Shape into 1-inch balls. Place meatballs on a greased rack in a shallow pan. Bake at 400 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes or until meat is no longer pink; drain. Yield - about 4 dozen. Nutrition information: 3 meatballs equal 148 calories; 9 grams fat; 36 milligrams cholesterol; 314 milligrams sodium; 5 grams carbohydrate, trace fiber; 10 grams protein.

## Orange dip for fruit

1 cup orange juice	1 cup (8 ounces) reduced-fat sour cream
1 package (3.4 ounces) instant sugar-free vanilla pudding mix	1 carton (8 ounces) reduced-fat frozen whipped topping, thawed
	assorted fresh fruit chunks

Whisk together orange juice and pudding mix; whisk in sour cream. Gently fold in whipped topping. Transfer to a serving bowl; cover and chill until ready to serve. Refrigerate any leftovers.

Yield - 4-1/2 cups dip. Nutrition information: 1/4 cup dip (not counting fruit) equals 118 calories; 3 grams fat; 5 milligrams cholesterol; 99 milligrams sodium; 21 grams carbohydrate; 1 gram fiber; 1 gram protein.



## Healthy dining for the holidays

It isn't easy to stick to your diet during the holidays. If the cookies, cakes and pies don't get you, the eggnog, hot cocoa and mulled cider will! Here are some tips to help you keep your resolve not to overdo things when it comes to the sweets, treats and big meals.

**Focus on family and friends.** Don't let food become the main focus of your gatherings. Make memories, not pounds.

**Use smaller plates.** A full small plate appears more satisfying than putting small servings on a large plate. If you must use a large plate, think of an imaginary circle inside the plate. Don't put any food past the edge of the circle.

**Become a "sampler."** Instead of indulging in full servings of your favorites, find a "sampler buddy." Share smaller portions of desserts, candies and other treats. This way you can get a taste of everything without overloading.

**A second helping won't taste any different.** Before you reach for a second helping of food, tell yourself it won't taste any different than what you've already enjoyed.

**If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation.** Limit yourself to one or two drinks per day. Drink a glass of water or calorie-free soda between alcoholic drinks.

**Plan ahead by eating a snack.** It's easy to overdo it when you're hungry, especially when you walk into a room with lots of food. Enjoy a healthy snack before you leave home to help reduce the temptations.

**Don't stop after the holidays.** Use your new-found eating tips and tricks and resolve to use better food choices and portion control throughout the coming new year.

## No-sugar-added pumpkin pie

3/4 cup Splenda granulated sweetener	1 can (15 ounces) pure pumpkin
1/2 teaspoon salt	1 can (12 ounces) low-fat evaporated milk
1-1/2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice	
2 large eggs	1 unbaked 9-inch deep dish pie shell

Mix Splenda, salt, and pie spice in small bowl. Beat eggs in large bowl. Stir in pumpkin and splenda-spice mixture. Gradually stir in evaporated milk. Pour into pie shell. Bake in preheated 425 degree oven for 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350 degrees and bake for 40 to 50 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack for 2 hours. Serve immediately or refrigerate. Yield - 6 servings. Nutrition information: 1 slice equals 224 calories; 9 grams fat; 73 milligrams cholesterol; 433 milligrams sodium; 30 grams carbohydrate; 2.5 grams fiber; 9 grams protein.



Use ENERGY STAR-qualified lights and strands to decorate during the holiday season. They use 70 percent less energy than regular lights and last up to 10 times longer. They also give off less heat, thus reducing the risk of fire.

# Community Calendar

To have your non-profit group's event listed in our "Community Calendar," please contact us by letter, phone or e-mail ([bbaute@jacksonremc.com](mailto:bbaute@jacksonremc.com)) at least six weeks before your event date. Include a phone number we can call to verify your information.

## Scott County

**December 17 - Breakfast With Santa** from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Scott Lodge #120, F&AM (425 US Highway 31 North in Austin). Children's photos with Santa and breakfast; free-will donations accepted. Contact Barry Parks (812-794-2042) for more information.

**December 21 - Brown Bag At the Museum** from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Scott County Historical Museum. Guest speaker Meta Clark will sing and entertain with holiday music. Dessert and drinks will be provided. Call the museum (812-752-1050) for more information.



## The 2012 Student Art Contest sponsored by Electric Consumer magazine is now underway!

**Who Can Enter** - Any Indiana student, attending any public or private school or educated at home, who is currently in the grades kindergarten through high school senior may enter his or her original artwork in the 2012 competition to have artwork selected to appear in the 2013 Electric Consumer calendar. Artwork can be submitted by teachers, 4-H leaders or others as a group or class project, or by individual students or their parents or guardians. Students do not have to be from a family served by an Indiana rural electric cooperative.

**Subjects of Artwork** - Entries are to be made by the student's school grade to correspond with the months as listed below:

**Kindergarten** - Students are to create the cover art for the calendar. There is no theme for the cover. Any subject, season, event, etc. is acceptable.

<b>1st Grade</b> - January	<b>5th Grade</b> - May	<b>9th Grade</b> - September
<b>2nd Grade</b> - February	<b>6th Grade</b> - June	<b>10th Grade</b> - October
<b>3rd Grade</b> - March	<b>7th Grade</b> - July	<b>11th Grade</b> - November
<b>4th Grade</b> - April	<b>8th Grade</b> - August	<b>12th Grade</b> - December

**The Prizes** - A first place "Artist of the Month" will be selected for each grade, kindergarten through 12, and will receive \$200.00. Up to nine additional artists will be selected for honorable mention awards and will receive \$50.00. An "Artist of the Year" will be selected from among the first place winners for the "Best of Show" and will receive an additional \$100.00. Judges may also select "Awards of Merit" who will receive certificates.

**Entry Deadline** - Artwork must be at the Indianapolis office of the Electric Consumer by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 23, 2012.

**For more details** - Please contact Richard Biever or Emily Schilling at Electric Consumer by phone at 317-487-2220 or 800-340-7362, or by e-mail at [ec@indremcs.org](mailto:ec@indremcs.org).

A complete set of contest rules should be downloaded or viewed by visiting the website [www.electricconsumer.org](http://www.electricconsumer.org). Entry forms and requirements, along with information on judging criteria, are also available from the website.

## Service awards presented to nine employees

Nine employees were honored at the annual company holiday party for reaching employment milestones in 2011. They included:

Jed Wheatley - 40 years  
Betty Baute - 35 years  
Brian Covert - 20 years  
Matt Persinger - 15 years  
Pat Rieckers - 15 years  
Brian Sweeney - 15 years  
Phil Cooper - 10 years  
Jeff Kriete - 10 years  
Ken Nicholson - 10 years

Their service to the REMC totals 170 years. We thank and congratulate this group for their hard work and dedication to the members of Jackson County REMC.

# Tips to help make your holidays energy efficient

## *Easy no-cost, low-cost ways to save*

by Betty Baute, Member Service Representative

The holidays can really put a strain on your energy budget thanks to the added decorating, cooking and entertaining. Here are a few tips to help you reduce the amount of energy you and your family uses during the coming days.

### ***Use a timer on your outdoor decorations***

You're just wasting energy if you leave your lights on all night long or during the day when there is no one around to enjoy them.

### ***Add decorations instead of lights to your tree***

Consider adding more tinsel or mirrored ornaments to help reflect the existing lights.

### ***Turn off room lights when your tree is lit***

The tree should provide you with more than enough light to navigate around the room.

### ***Cook in your microwave whenever possible***

A microwave will use up to 75% less energy than a conventional oven.

### ***If you do use your electric oven, use it efficiently***

Cook more than one dish at a time. Check your food for doneness by looking through the window or using a timer since you lose 25 to 50 degrees of heat every time you open the door. Use glass or ceramic dishes and lower the temperature by 25 degrees.

### ***Unplug the "second fridge"***

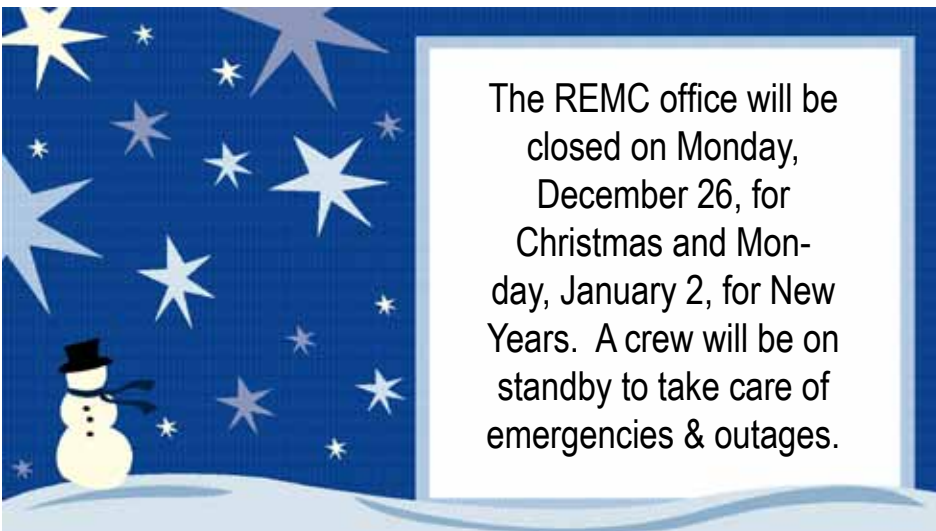
Unless you really need an extra refrigerator for storing food for entertaining, unplug it. Keep extra beverages cold on the porch or in the garage if temperatures permit. This will also help reduce the number of times you have to open your main refrigerator.

### ***Turn down the thermostat when you have guests***

It might be tempting to raise the temperature in the house a few degrees after having the door open for arriving guests, but resist the temptation! Extra bodies in the house mean extra warmth at no cost.

### ***Say goodbye before opening the door***

Don't let the heated air out and the cold air in with lingering farewells in front of an open door.



TELEPHONE (812) 358-4458  
TOLL FREE (800) 288-4458

During regular office hours you will be connected with our switchboard operator. After regular hours you will be connected with our answering service. Please call during regular office hours for all business other than outages or emergencies.

### OFFICE HOURS

7:30 AM to 4:30 PM - Monday through Friday

FAX only - 812-358-5719

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Web site - [www.jacksonremc.com](http://www.jacksonremc.com)

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EZ-to-pay by phone - 1-866-850-1766

When calling or writing please give the name and account number shown on your label or billcard.

*Christmas is forever, not for just one day,  
for loving, sharing, giving,  
are not to put away  
like bells and lights and tinsel,  
in some box upon a shelf.  
The good you do for others  
is good you do yourself.*

*~Norman Wesley Brooks,  
"Let Every Day Be Christmas," 1976*

*Happy holidays from the employees and directors of  
your Jackson County REMC*