

Up on the roof

Renewable energy comes to
West Washington School Corporation

See pages 4 & 5




Watt High Lights



**Jackson County Rural Electric
Membership Corporation**

Brownstown, Indiana

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

November 2009

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Watt High Lights

Jackson County Rural Electric
Membership Corporation

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Monday through Friday

To report outages
or emergencies

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day or night

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OUR COVER

More than two dozen people climbed the stairs to the roof of the West Washington School Corporation building to view the solar panels now providing hot water to the high school and elementary school wings. A renewable energy grant from Hoosier Energy and Jackson County REMC made the project possible.

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Happy Thanksgiving

**Each day, and especially during
this Thanksgiving season,
Jackson County REMC joins
with you in gratitude for our
bountiful blessings.**

*For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)



Remembering Ralph Holtman

REMC director 1960 - 1986

The REMC family was saddened to learn of the passing of former district seven director Ralph Holtman on October 23.

Mr. Holtman was a lifelong farmer in the Chestnut Ridge neighborhood south of Seymour in Jackson County. He was a graduate of Shields High School in Seymour and of Purdue University. He was active in his church, Immanuel Lutheran, and the community, having served on several committees and boards of directors.



Ralph Holtman

Mr. Holtman was appointed as district seven director on the Jackson County REMC board on April 14, 1960, to fulfill the term of the late William Dieringer. He served as president of the board from 1964 to 1969. In 1975 he was elected secretary-treasurer of the board, and he held that post through the end of his board tenure in 1986.

Mr. Holtman is survived by his wife of 43 years, LaVonna; son and daughter-in-law Carl and Amy; son Mark and fiancée Jennifer; grandson Brandon; and stepgrandchildren Bryant, Austin, J.D., Paige and Makayla. We know he will be sadly missed by his family and his many friends.

**A new furnace filter costs less than \$2.00.
A dirty filter can cost you a lot more.**

When was the last time you cleaned or changed your furnace filter? If it's been a while, you had better take a look. Chances are it's coated with dirt and lint and who knows what else! If you can't see daylight through the filter, you can bet heated air can't get through either.

A dirty filter makes your furnace consume more energy --- which costs you more money. The strain can also damage your furnace or heat pump system.

Check your furnace filter once a month. Clean or replace it before it starts causing your money to vanish into thin air!

Rebate deadline reminder

The REMC's 2009 rebate program is scheduled to end on December 31. You have until that date to apply for rebates on the following new equipment installations. Equipment must have been installed in 2009.

Water Heaters

Minimum size - 40 gallons
Minimum energy factor - .91

Heat Pumps

Minimum SEER rating - 14

Central Air Conditioners

Minimum SEER rating - 14

Geothermal Systems

For systems installed in new construction or replacing any types of heating and cooling systems except existing geothermal heat pumps.

Visit our website:

*www.jacksonremc.com,
or contact our Member
Services Department to
obtain rebate application
forms or for more
information about the
program.*

Our cover story

Solar water heating system to save West Washington Schools money and reduce the school's carbon footprint

System was made possible thanks to a grant from Hoosier Energy and Jackson County REMC

by Betty Baute, Member Services Representative

The students and faculty of the West Washington School Corporation near Campbellsburg are in hot water --- lots of it, in fact --- thanks to two new solar water heating systems installed just before the start of the current school year.

The two new solar systems replaced a large water circulation loop that previously required hot water to be pumped from one corner of the building throughout the high school and elementary school wings of the campus. Water had previously been heated by a 72,000 watt commercial electric water heat that had to be in operation year-round to provide even small amounts of hot water needed

during summer events and cleaning at the school.

The new system, which is the first of its kind for an Indiana public school, features a system with three solar panels serving the north wing of the school, and a second system with two solar panels serving the south wing. It's estimated that the two systems will heat up to 70 percent of the hot water needed at the school, saving many thousands of dollars over their projected 30-year life-span.

The project is also expected to save tons of greenhouse gases by reducing the use of electricity.

"We were spending hundreds of dollars every month just to keep hot water circulating in that large loop, even when the school was empty," said Tim Reinhart, Facilities Manager for the school, "I had been looking for a way to increase our efficiency and reduce our expenses, and the solar hot water systems are doing just that, plus providing our students with a unique and valuable learning tool."

The project was made possible when wholesale power supplier Hoosier Energy offered Jackson County REMC a grant of \$25,000 for a renewable energy project. Instead

Continued on next page

A group attending the dedication ceremony for the new West Washington School Corporation's solar water heating system listens as David Mann of Mann Plumbing in Bloomington explains the operation of the system.





Jackson County REMC General Manager Jed Whealey presented a symbolic “big check” to the West Washington School Corporation board during ceremonies on October 19. The \$25,000 check represented a grant given to the school to help offset the installation costs of a solar water heating system. The renewable energy project grant was given by Hoosier Energy, through Jackson County REMC.



West Washington School Corporation Superintendent Gerald Jackson cuts a ribbon at the stairway leading to three solar panels on the roof of the north wing of the school. The ribbon-cutting was part of the ceremonies on October 19 dedicating the school’s new solar water heating system. Jackson County REMC used a \$25,000 renewable energy grant from Hoosier Energy to help the school install the system and reduce its energy costs.

of using its grant money for a display project at its Brownstown headquarters, the REMC felt the money could be put to better use elsewhere. Since the REMC had been working on energy reduction efforts with the West Washington Schools, it was decided to provide help where it was needed.

“We are thrilled to help West Washington Schools with this grant. We wanted to distribute the grant money to the renewable energy project that would have the most impact, both short term and long term, and we knew that the school had high electric bills,” said Brian Wolka Member Services Director of Jackson County REMC.

“We put a monitor on their old hot water system and found that the recirculation loop and their aging 600-gallon storage tank were major culprits in the school’s high energy use,” Wolka explained. “We approached Tim Reinhart with the idea

of solar hot water and he was all for it. The energy savings, plus the great educational opportunity for the students, faculty and community make this project a winner for everyone.”

A ribbon cutting and check presentation ceremony was held on October 19 at the school. Representatives from the REMC, including Wolka and General Manager Jed Wheatley, participated. Also taking part in the program were Carrissa Moncavage, Renewable Energy Specialist from Hoosier Energy and Amy McCarty and David Mann of Mann Plumbing in Bloomington. Mann Plumbing was instrumental in the design and installation of the system.

We congratulate West Washington School Corporation on their efforts to lead the way in renewable energy. We’re looking forward to reviewing the electrical usage reduction data during the system’s first year of operation.

Three new Indiana Touchstone Energy[®] HomesSM completed

by Brian Wolka, Member Services Director

Three Jackson County REMC members recently made the wise choice of building energy efficient new homes and participated in the Touchstone Energy Home Program. Because they had the foresight of knowing that energy prices would be rising in the future and that if

they spent a few extra dollars on energy efficient construction, they then would be able to reap the benefits in lower electric bills for years to come.

"It cost them nothing to participate in the Program because it's free from the REMC"

By participating in the Program the REMC members have validation and peace of mind that through the home inspections and rigid energy efficiency

testing, their homes are truly energy efficient. Plus it cost them nothing to participate in the Program because it's free from the REMC.

The Touchstone Energy Home Program is in its fourth year and over 125 new homes have been constructed in southern Indiana to the energy efficient standards. To learn more about the Program contact our Member Services Department at 800-288-4458 or visit our website at www.jacksonremc.com.



This simple ranch home owned by Roy and Jamie Neff turned out to be exactly what they wanted in a new home. It's very energy efficient and comfortable and the electric bills fit their monthly budget. Boasting estimated average heating and cooling costs of only \$47.00/month, this rural southeastern Washington County home has lots of room within the confines of 2,944 sq. ft. of living space. Builder Craig Jones, owner of Big J Design & Construction, Salem, Indiana, is quite proud of his first Touchstone Energy Home. The 5 Stars Plus HERS rating was exactly what he was hoping to accomplish.



Tony and Natasha Starkey chose to build their new Touchstone Energy Home on a beautiful rural setting in western Jennings County. T.J. Vogel Construction, Hayden, Indiana, was picked to build the home to the energy efficient standards of the Program. The 1593 sq. ft. home achieved a 5 Stars HERS rating and estimated average heating and cooling costs are \$70/month.



Proud owners of this spacious and comfortable new farm house are Tom and Ruth Hackman. Located on the family farm in southern Jackson County the five bedroom home covering 5,844 sq. ft. is insulated throughout with spray foam insulation making it very energy efficient and economical to heat and cool. Two air source heat pumps complement the energy efficient construction leading to a 5 Stars plus HERS rating. Estimated average heating and cooling costs are \$112/month. This new home was built by Sparks/Spurgeon Construction, Brownstown, Indiana, and it was their first home in the Touchstone Energy Home Program.



LED holiday lights

*For a limited time only
Energy efficient LED lights available at
your REMC for \$4.00 per string!*

Our supply of LED holiday lights is going fast!

These multi-colored C-6 size lights are designed for both indoor and outdoor use. The lights are available for purchase in the REMC office for the special price of \$4.28 (sales tax included) per string. There is a limit of five strings per membership at this special discounted price. This price is good while our supply of light strings lasts. If you are making a special trip to our office to make a purchase, please call ahead to make sure we have the lights in stock.

When the lights go out . . .

Here's what you should do if your power goes off:

- Check your service panel to make sure you haven't tripped a breaker or blown a fuse.
- Check with or 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.)
- Disconnect sensitive equipment such as VCR's, TV's, computers, microwave ovens and 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 so you'll know when your power has been restored.
- Turn on a porch light 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 again.

Next Issue . . .

Holiday eggnog

Eggnog is a holiday tradition that has been around since Colonial times. We'll include some great eggnog recipes and some special safety tips in our December issue.

Send recipes, topic ideas, cooking questions & suggestions to:

Watt High Lights

Jackson County REMC

PO Box K

Brownstown IN 47220-0311

fax: 812-358-5719

e-mail: bbaute@jacksonremc.com

Great today, better tomorrow!

* Stew often tastes better "the second time around." Refrigerating leftover stew allows the flavors more time to "marry."

* Double your favorite stew recipe and freeze the leftovers in heavy duty zip-top bags for up to three months. You'll have a quick and easy supper waiting in your freezer.

* Stew is great for entertaining. You can make it up to two days ahead and simply have it reheating while you enjoy visiting with your guests. And, by making it ahead, you allow the flavors more time to blend.



In a stew?

These recipes are for you!

by Betty Baute, Member Services Representative



Stew is the ultimate comfort food. It combines all of our favorites --- a thick rich sauce, meat and vegetables --- in one dish that warms both the body and the soul. Just add a salad and bread or rolls and you have a well-rounded meal!

Most stews are one-pot meals that are easy and versatile. They can be simple enough to enjoy on family night at home or fancy enough for entertaining.

How about making stew tonight?

Lamb stew

3 tablespoons vegetable oil	1/4 teaspoon crushed dried thyme
2 pounds lamb cut into 2" cubes	4-1/2 cups water, <i>divided use</i>
1 beef bouillon cube	6 carrots cut into 3" strips
2 teaspoons salt	6 small white onions
1 bay leaf	1/4 cup cornstarch

Heat oil in a Dutch oven over medium heat; brown lamb on all sides in hot oil. Add bouillon cube, salt, bay leaf, thyme and 4 cups water. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer 1-1/2 hours. Add carrots and onions and simmer 30 minutes. Stir cornstarch into remaining 1/2 cup water; stir mixture into stew. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly, and cook until thickened. Remove bay leaf before serving. Yield - 6 servings

Venison stew

1/4 cup flour	2 teaspoons minced garlic
1-1/2 teaspoons salt, <i>divided use</i>	2 cups dry white wine or water
1/2 teaspoon pepper, <i>divided use</i>	2 tablespoons sugar
2 pounds venison, cut into 1" cubes	1 tablespoon sweet paprika
2 tablespoons butter	1 teaspoon ground red pepper
2 cups chopped onion	1 bay leaf

Combine flour, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon black pepper in a zip-top plastic bag; add venison and shake to coat. Melt butter in Dutch oven. Add venison, onion, and garlic; saute' 5 minutes, browning meat on all sides. Add wine (or water), remaining salt and black pepper, sugar, paprika, red pepper and bay leaf. Bring to a boil. Cover and bake at 300 degrees for 3 hours or until meat is tender. Remove bay leaf before serving. Yield - about 8 servings

Easy hunter's (or camper's) stew

1/4 cup vegetable oil	2 medium onions, sliced
2 large potatoes, peeled and diced	1 pound hamburger
2 large carrots, peeled and sliced	salt and pepper to taste

Pour oil in the bottom of a 3-pound metal coffee can; tilt can to coat bottom. Layer potatoes, carrots and onions in can; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Crumble hamburger over vegetables; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover with foil, replace lid on can and freeze. At the campsite, remove lid and cook over medium coals for 45 minutes to 1 hour until cooked through and hot. *(Making and freezing this stew helps with keeping whatever else is in your cooler cold. It should thaw by the time you've set up camp and are ready to cook supper.)*

Apple cider slow cooker stew

8 carrots, sliced thin	1/2 teaspoon crushed dried thyme
6 medium potatoes, sliced thin	1/2 cup chopped onion
2 apples, cored and chopped	2 cups apple cider or apple juice
2 pounds lean beef stew meat	1-1/2 tablespoons all purpose flour
2 teaspoons salt	3 tablespoons water

Place carrots, potatoes, and apples in slow cooker. Add meat and sprinkle with salt, thyme, and chopped onion. Pour cider (or juice) over meat. Cover and cook on LOW heat for 8 to 10 hours. Combine flour and water; add to stew and cook on HIGH until thickened. Yield - 6 to 8 servings



ENERGY SAVER TIP OF THE MONTH

The pan or pot you use to cook should match the burner size. A 6-inch diameter pan on an 8-inch burner wastes nearly half of the energy produced by the burner. Keep the lids on the pans as you cook. Cooking without lids can require as much as 3 times as much energy as cooking with them on. Use pots with glass lids if you like to keep an eye on what you are cooking.

Simple steps to savory stew

* For the best results, use a Dutch oven or a large pan with a tight-fitting lid.

* Use the right cut of meat. Meat that is too lean could be tough in your stew.

* Saute onions and garlic until golden brown to deepen their flavor, then remove them from the pan.

* To help thicken your stew, dredge the meat in flour and shake off the excess. Brown the meat to make a crust that locks in the flavor.

* Deglaze your pan by scraping the bottom as you add the liquid. The browned bits of meat, onion and garlic that are scraped up will add to the flavor of your stew.

* Simmer your stew over low heat or cook over a longer period of time in a slow cooker to make sure the meat gets tender.

* Cook the meat for a while before adding the vegetables so they won't become overdone and mushy.

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) at least six weeks before your event date. Include a phone number we can call to verify your information.

Brown County

December 5 - Annual homemade chicken and noodle dinner at the Christiansburg United Methodist Church (intersection of Christiansburg and Hamilton Creek Roads). Serving will run from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Carry-outs will be available. A bake sale and bazaar will also be held. All proceeds to benefit the current building fund. Call the church (812-988-1870) for more information.

Jackson County

November 21 - Mello-Tones Annual Fall Show at 7:30 p.m. at the Brownstown Central High School auditorium. The night offers an evening of a capella barbershop harmony music featuring the local Mello-Tones, the Indianapolis Circle City Sound chorus and the quartet Smilin' Through. Tickets are \$10.00. Contact Karl Anderson (812-522-1648) for more information.

November 21 - SEPAC Holiday Arts and Craft Market at the Seymour American Legion (corner of 2nd and Pine Streets). 40 to 45 vendors will be offering their wares from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be available. Funds raised go to annual scholarships that support disabled citizens. To inquire about spaces call Beth White at 445-3815.

November 21 - 15th Annual Crothersville FFA Craft Show in the main gym at the Crothersville Junior-Senior High School from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. One-of-a-kind items, silent auction, food and baby sitting services. All proceeds benefit the annual Crothersville FFA Toy and Food Drive. For more information or to reserve booth space please contact FFA Advisor Linda Maxie (812-793-2051).

November 29 - Jackson - Brown County United Methodist Ministry of H.O.P.E. cluster worship service; 6:30 p.m. at Mount Nebo United Methodist Church. A variety of talent will be shared by each of nine churches in the cluster. The public is welcome to

attend. For more information contact Bonnie Scott (812-497-2723).

December 4 - Annual Brownstown Hometown Christmas from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the county courthouse lobby. Vendors will be in the lobby all day and Santa will arrive at 5:30 p.m. for photos with the children. There will be free refreshments and Christmas music. Call the chamber office (812-358-2930) for more information.

December 12 - 5th Annual Snowflake Bazaar at the Brownstown United Methodist Church (corner of Walnut and Poplar Streets). Craft bazaar, quilt raffle, basket silent auction, cookie walk and more from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Margo Brewer (812-358-2924 or mlbrewer14@comcast.net) for more information.

December 19 - All-you-can-eat-pancakes to benefit the Missions Team of Apostolic Tabernacle. From 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at Applebee's in Seymour. Contact Rhea Arthur (812-522-1242) for more information.

Jennings County

December 12 - Hayden Bluegrass-Gospel Jamboree from 4:30 to 9:00 p.m. Open Jam from 4:30 to 5:30 with main show to begin at 5:30. Call the Hayden Museum (812-346-7779) for more information.

December 13 - Christmas at the North American House in Vernon. Come for turkey, ham and all the trimmings served from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Advance sale adult tickets are 2 for \$25.00; children aged 5-10 are \$7.50; children 4 and under eat free. Tickets at the door (if available) are \$15.00 for adults. Only 100 tickets are available. Sponsored by the Jennings County Historical Society. For more information or to purchase tickets call Wanda Kay Wright (812-346-8989 between 11:00 am and 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday or Friday).

Fall classes sponsored by the Jennings

County Cooperative Extension Service - Landscaping class - October 29, November 5, 12 & 19. **Birds In the Backyard** - November 30; **Native Plants 1 & 2** - December 7 & December 14. All classes will be held at the Jennings County Extension Office in Vernon. Classes start at 7:00 p.m. and end around 9:00 p.m. Class sizes are limited, so advanced registration is recommended. Contact Ken Salkeld (812-352-3033 or e-mail: ksalkeld@purdue.edu) for more information.

Lawrence County

November 19 - Annual Holiday Dinner & Auction at Erie United Methodist (718 Erie Church Road). Dinner starts at 5:00 p.m.; auction follows. Call the church (812-279-1731) for more information.

November 29 - Hanging of the Greens Service at 6:00 p.m. to begin the season of Advent at Erie United Methodist (718 Erie Church Road). Call the church (812-279-1731) for more information.

Scott County

November 16 - Scott County Historical Society Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; \$6.00 per person. Featured speakers will be Robert Fox, Janet Hall and Andrew Rowden: Indiana Authors. For more information call the Scott County Heritage Center & Museum at 812-752-1050.

November 16 - Holiday Silent Auction begins at the Scott County Heritage Center & Museum. \$5.00 per person. For more information call the museum at 812-752-1050.

November 18 - Brown Bag Lunch program at 12:00 noon at the Scott County Heritage Center & Museum. Featured will be Lincoln by Robert Fox. Bring your own lunch. Desserts and drinks will be furnished. For more information call the museum at 812-752-1050.

Continued on next page

Community Calendar continued

November 21 - Kids First holiday auction from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight; to be broadcast live on TV channel 25 in Scott and Clark Counties. Preview show at 6:00 p.m. on November 20. For more information contact Walker Ed Amick (812-595-0137) or Sue Amick (812-595-4309). Proceeds benefit needy children through the Scott County Clearinghouse and Scott County schools.

December 5 - Tea with Mrs. Claus from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Scott County Heritage Center & Museum. \$5.00 per person. For more information call the museum at 812-752-1050.

December 12 - Holiday Open House 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Scott County Heritage Center & Museum. Silent Auction ends at 5:00 p.m. For more information call the museum at 812-752-1050.

December 12 - Breakfast with Santa from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Scott Lodge 120 F&AM, US Highway 31 North in Austin. Child's photo with Santa available; donations only. Contact Barry Parks (812-794-2042) for more information.

December 16 - Brown Bag Lunch program at 12:00 noon at the Scott County Heritage Center & Museum. Featured will be holiday craft ideas by Jackie Benham. Bring your own lunch. Desserts and drinks will be furnished. For more information call the museum at 812-752-1050.

Washington County

Weekends now through November 29 - The restored Beck's Mill will be operating and open for tours. Friends of Beck's Mill, Inc., will greet visitors from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. Contact Lowell DePoy (812-472-3749) for more information or to schedule special group tours.

Dollars & Sense

"Spot heating" with space heaters

by Betty Baute, Member Services Representative

I know that autumn has definitely arrived now that nearly every newspaper and magazine I open has an ad for an "Amish" fireplace or a miracle space heater that promises to save you money on your heating bills.

Portable heaters can be very handy for getting a temporary source of heat where you need it or to add warmth to areas where the main heating system needs some help. But if you don't understand how to match the right style of heater to your specific needs, you could end up being disappointed.

We'd like to share some points about space heaters as provided by the Rural Electricity Resource Council (RERC).

Every Electric Heater Has The Same Efficiency - 100%

All electric heaters use the same method to change electricity into heat. Called "electric resistance heating," this simply means that current is sent through a material that is "resistant" to the flow of electricity. It's the same process used in your toaster, hair dryer, electric water heater and stove-top cooking elements. Unlike copper and similar metals with low resistance to electricity's flow, these

materials glow red as all the electric current is converted into heat.

Because every electric heater uses this same process, they all have the same efficiency - - 100%. There are no losses. Whatever the heater's shape, size or marketing claims, the amount of heat coming out is determined by the amount of electricity going in.

What is different is how the heat is transferred from the glowing coils to the person or objects to be warmed. Some designs use a fan to blow air across the heating elements and into the room, while others radiate their warmth directly to the user. Even though all electric heaters are 100% efficient at turning electricity into heat, one of the three types (high temperature radiant, fan-forced or natural convection) may be better suited to a particular application in a home or work area.

Want to learn more?

The REMC makes available an RERC pamphlet about choosing the correct space heater. To request a copy just call the REMC (1-800-288-4458 or 358-4458) for send us an e-mail (info@jacksonremc.com).

The Jackson County REMC office will be closed on November 26 & 27 for Thanksgiving. We will have a crew on standby for outages and emergencies.



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

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

Local calls - 812-358-4458

Toll free - 800-288-4458

FAX only - 812-358-5719

E-mail - info@jacksonremc.com

Web site - www.jacksonremc.com

EZ-to-pay online - visit our website

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

Stop this Energy Invader!

Don't be a "Bruno the Blinker" this holiday season!



His house is a little *too* dazzling to win the neighborhood decorating contest, but he's a cinch to win the "Most Energy Wasted" award. Bruno could brighten up for the holidays -- and maybe win the decorating contest -- if he just took some time to better plan his display.

You can have your lights and save energy, too. Here's how:

- ★ Use lower wattage strings of lights for your indoor and outdoor displays. Better yet, switch your lights to LED strings and enjoy brighter colors and less energy use.
- ★ Your light strings have probably collected dust since last year. Wipe them clean with a soft, dry cloth for more efficient and effective lighting.
- ★ Limit your holiday light use to a few hours each evening with the help of an automatic timer. It will turn your lights off in case you forget.
- ★ Turn off lamps, ceiling lights, porch lights and other regular year-round outdoor lighting. Let your holiday lights do the work.
- ★ Remember to offset extra holiday lighting energy use by cutting back in other areas of the home. Use smaller appliances (toaster oven, slow cooker, microwave) to do the same job as your range or oven. Be sure to turn off entertainment equipment and computer systems when they aren't in use.