

News & Views

Modest rate increase implemented

As a not-for-profit cooperative business, Johnson County REMC works diligently to keep rates affordable. We operate on a five-year strategic work plan that incorporates cost projections based on current rates. Rate increases, if necessary, are generally implemented concurrent with this work plan.

At the March meeting of the board of directors, a rate increase of approximately 2.5 percent was approved, beginning with May usage, reflected on your June bill. The increase is primarily due to fixed costs, so the increase will be absorbed into the

facility charge rather than into the actual rates. The facility charge for residential accounts will increase \$3.75 per month from \$25.00 to \$28.75.

Over time, our operational costs increase just as they do for any business. These costs have been offset by residential and commercial growth in our area,



Chet Aubin, CEO

allowing us to keep rates in place for as much as 10 years. However, as growth on our system slows, this time frame correspondingly shortens.

We have programs in place that offer equipment incentives and weatherization

improvements to help members keep electric costs down. We have updated our digital meters and installed a fiber-optic network to improve operational efficiencies. And we are committed to supporting energy sources that minimize wholesale generation cost and maximize our level of federal compliance (see pages 3 and 4).

Johnson County REMC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The mission of Johnson County REMC is to provide reliable, competitively priced utility services to its customers and the community.

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Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit the safety section at jcremc.com.

Put safety first all year long

It's May – and Johnson County REMC is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Use these helpful tips to safeguard your home and your family.



attempt to repair damaged cords yourself.

- Avoid using extension cords on a long-term or permanent basis. For a permanent solution, have additional

receptacles installed by a professional.

Be prepared

- Have smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once per year. Alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- Talk to your family about an emergency escape plan.

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In the kitchen

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dangerous dirt buildup.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces.
- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils.

Light the way to safety

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should not exceed the wattage indicated on the light fixture.
- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition. Do not

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as a service to
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Back issues may be
viewed on our website or
obtained from the office.

Energy efficiency tip ... Keep cool this summer! ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators are about 9-10 percent more energy efficient than models that meet the federal minimum energy efficiency standard. And don't forget our refrigerator recycling program where you can get \$30 for your older, inefficient model. Visit <http://jcremc.com/rebates> or call 877-395-5535 for details. Source: energystar.gov

New water heater standards bring greater efficiency

New energy efficiency standards set by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) went into effect on April 16 that require higher Energy Factor (EF) ratings on residential water heaters manufactured after that date.

Generally you can find the EF of your water heater on the yellow energy guide tag located on the side of the unit. A rule of thumb when considering energy-efficient water heaters is that a higher EF rating equates to a more efficient unit.

The DOE estimates that the new standards will save Americans nearly \$63 billion over the next 30 years.

Standard water heaters will not change much. They will be wider and taller to accommodate more insulation. But residential water heaters that are 55 gallons or greater will be required to be heat pump water heaters, or hybrids.

Given the new regulations, and in the interest of promoting the latest energy-efficient options, Johnson County REMC provides incentives for



hybrid water heaters. This technology uses electricity to move heat from one place to another instead of generating heat directly with the heating elements, or resistance heating. In other words, it takes the heat from the surrounding air and transfers it to water in an enclosed tank. Therefore, electric resistance heating is limited strictly to periods of high use.

Incentives are available from Johnson County REMC on other products as well. A complete list may be viewed at www.jcremc.com/rebates.

Quick safety tip AFCI: Do you need one?

An Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter (AFCI) is a type of circuit breaker. It recognizes dangerous conditions not detected by standard circuit breakers. When a dangerous condition is present, the AFCI will interrupt power to the circuit. Ask a qualified electrician if your home could benefit from an AFCI.

Wholesale power expenses

Johnson County REMC purchases wholesale power from Hoosier Energy REC, Inc. The top three expenses totaling 67 percent of costs include coal and fuel oil, fixed costs such as interest payments, taxes and insurance, and power purchased on the energy market. Below are the expenses involved for wholesale power.

Environmental commodities 2%

Natural gas 3%

Regional transmission 3%

Operating margin 4%

Employee costs 10%

Operation & maintenance 11%

Energy market purchases 20%

Fixed costs 23%

Coal & fuel oil 24%

Our history of clean energy

Johnson County REMC, along with our wholesale power provider Hoosier Energy and its member systems, supports an all-of-the-above strategy for power supply. Coal, gas, energy efficiency and renewable generation are all needed.

The graphs below illustrate the significant strides Johnson County REMC, Hoosier Energy and its member systems have taken in the last two decades to further environmental sustainability.

In 2000

1,250 MW resource portfolio was 100% coal

100% Coal

Today

2,100 MW resource portfolio is diversified

64% Coal
33% Natural Gas
3% Renewable

SINCE 1983

CLEANING UP COAL

91%

reduction in nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions



2006

VOLUNTARILY ADOPTED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM

Target 10% of member requirements by 2025

Renewable resources include:
LANDFILL GAS
COALBED METHANE
HYDROPOWER
WIND
AND OTHERS

2008

VOLUNTARILY ADOPTED DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT/ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Energy savings in 2014 approximated

25,400 MWH or 0.3% of member sales

Cumulative program cost **OVER \$35 MILLION**

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