



GM'S REPORT

A Powerful VALUE



Don Englet
GENERAL MANAGER

Like most people, I have certain aspects of my life that have become part of a daily routine. When I get up in the morning, I let out the dog, get ready for work, and drive to the office. At lunchtime, I grab something at a fast-food restaurant or maybe make a quick trip home for some brief downtime. Once I finally return home at the end of the day, I spend some quiet time watching my favorite shows with my wife, Sara, while relaxing in my favorite chair.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, I think about the average person's daily routine and how much value it provides compared to the money spent. A fast-food combo with a burger, fries, and a drink sets you back at least \$10, and most streaming subscriptions are about \$10 to \$15 a month. Some people also spend more than \$6 on the coffee or latte they grab on the way to work every morning. All these routine expenses can add up — sometimes totaling more than \$300 a month.

This got me thinking: What is the real value of these purchases, besides short-term satisfaction? And more importantly, is this the best value for the price we pay?

The average daily cost of electricity is about \$6.33, or \$190 a month, for members of Firelands Electric Cooperative. In other words, you can power your entire home every day for the price of a specialty coffee. A person could brew their own coffee, cook their own meals, binge a series, and run on a treadmill for less than the cost of that drink. Now to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. These benefits go well beyond short-term satisfaction. They allow us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in the comfort of our perfectly temperature-controlled home. The cost of electricity has also remained more stable compared to other services — even amidst rising inflation. For instance, stores that previously offered all of their products for \$1 raised their prices to \$1.25 a couple of years ago. Today, many of these same items are sold for \$1.50 or more. Also consider the classic \$1, or value, menu at your favorite fast-food restaurant. It's rare for any of them to list any menu items as low as \$1.

You can still get some great bargains for a single dollar's worth of electricity, however. For this low price, you can make coffee or toast for around seven hours or watch TV for more than eight hours per day, six days straight (50 hours). One dollar covers the cost of washing 14 loads of laundry. And it can power your laptop for more than 140 hours!

As a member-owned cooperative, Firelands Electric does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value. It's not always easy, as there are numerous factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity, some of which are beyond our control. The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance, and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme

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FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES


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conditions leading to increased energy use, disruptions, or even unexpected repairs. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op carefully considers all these aspects when reviewing our rates. And adjustments are never made lightly because, as a cooperative, we consider how those costs will affect our members.

As our community's reliance on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses continues to grow, we need it to be reliable




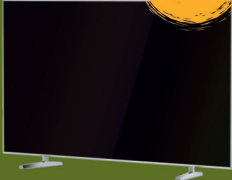




and affordable. You can be assured, Firelands Electric Cooperative always puts you first and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money. (Check out our value "menu" below for additional ways to power your life for just \$1.)

The bottom line: Electricity brings everyday value. Considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, I'm very proud of our track record and our goal to continue improving reliability, while also controlling costs wherever possible.



ELECTRICITY VALUE MENU

OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY

 <p>OVEN 2-3 hours</p>	 <p>TOASTER 7 hours</p>	 <p>COFFEE MAKER 7 hours</p>	 <p>TV 50 hours</p>
 <p>VACUUM CLEANER 9 hours</p>	 <p>CLOTHES WASHER 7 hours</p>	 <p>LAPTOP COMPUTER 140 hours</p>	 <p>GAME CONSOLE 35 hours</p>

Note: The number of hours listed are approximations. Actual length of usage will depend on the wattage of your specific appliance.

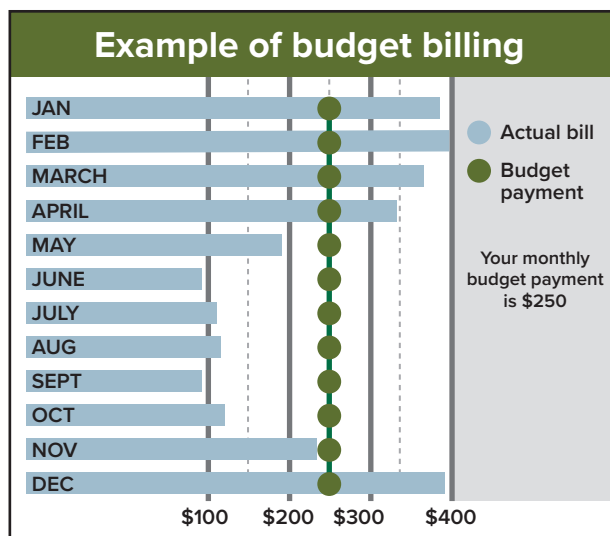
PAYMENT OPTIONS

BALANCING YOUR BUDGET

Co-op program provides set monthly payments for qualifying members

Keeping your household budget in check is hard. Having bills that are different amounts every month can make it even more difficult. If this sounds familiar, Firelands Electric's budget billing plan could be just what you need to better manage your energy bills.

Utility bills are generally highest during cold winter months and hot summer months, often resulting in much larger balances being due. Budget billing is a free service that makes managing your cash flow — and paying these bills — easier. The program avoids drastic changes in the balance due by leveling your bill and setting up a consistent amount to be paid each month.



THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR FIRELANDS ELECTRIC'S NEXT BUDGET PLAN YEAR IS MONDAY, AUG. 18.

Your budget amount is based on an estimated average of your home's past 12 months of electric use. In short, a year's worth of electric bills is spread out into even payments over the year. Since the amount is based on previous use, members **MUST HAVE** at least one year of residency listed in their name at their current address to be eligible for the program.

Firelands Electric's budget plan has an annual "catch-up" month at the end of the 12-month period. Any unpaid balance remaining on your electric account is due by Aug. 14. If you have a credit, this will be reflected on your August bill and you will not owe a payment for the month. (Please note: This is for the month of August only.) Members' accounts are reviewed quarterly and the monthly budget payment amount adjusted, if necessary, based on actual electric consumption. This helps members avoid having a significant balance or credit at the end of the budget year in August. Members can also view their running balance in the "Current Account Balance" line of their monthly billing statements.

The cooperative's budget billing option is available at no extra cost. You can also participate in automatic budget payments, where you can sign up for both auto pay and

budget billing. When enrolled in both programs, the same amount is automatically paid electronically from your bank account, debit card, or credit card every month.

In addition to budget billing, Firelands Electric has numerous other convenient options for paying your electric bill. Members can make payments by mail, at the drive-up window, or in our night drop box. You can also pay by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling our Automated Payment System at 1-855-940-3960. Other convenient payment options include:

- **AUTO PAY** — This service allows you to have your Firelands Electric payment automatically deducted from your checking, savings, debit card, or credit card each month.
- **SMARTHUB APP** — Firelands' online payment system gives members the ability to schedule future payments, save payment methods, report outages, and receive important notifications regarding their accounts.

For more information on billing options, please visit www.firelandsec.com/payment-options, contact Firelands Electric Cooperative at 1-800-533-8658, or email us at billing@firelandsec.com.



INDUSTRY NEWS

ENERGIZING OHIO

State's electric co-ops powered by diverse lineup of generation facilities

Established in 1959, Buckeye Power is the generation and transmission cooperative that provides power to Firelands Electric and 23 other electric cooperatives based in Ohio. Owned and governed by the co-ops it serves, Buckeye is dedicated to supplying reliable, affordable electricity to nearly 400,00 homes and businesses throughout the state.

Buckeye Power owns a diverse portfolio of baseload and peaking facilities, outfitted with best-in-class environmental controls. They are also committed to researching and investing in economically sustainable sources of renewable power. For more information, www.ohioec.org/about-buckeye-power.



Baseload facilities

Buckeye Power's baseload generation assets serve the day-to-day needs of Ohio's cooperative members.

Cardinal Power Plant | Coal-fired power plant
Brilliant, Ohio | 1,230 MW capacity

Ohio Valley Electric Corporation:
Clifty Creek Station, Madison, Indiana
Kyger Creek Station, Cheshire, Ohio
Coal-fired power plants | 434 MW combined capacity

Peaking facilities

Natural gas-fueled peaking facilities serve Ohio cooperative members on the coldest and hottest days of the year.

Robert P. Mone Plant
Convoy, Ohio | 510 MW capacity

Greenville Generating Station
Greenville, Ohio | 200 MW capacity



Renewable energy

Ohio's co-ops take a balanced approach to renewable energy. While we continue to support and utilize affordable coal-fired generation, Buckeye Power has made significant investments in renewable energy on behalf of Ohio co-op families.



OurSolar

Up to 4.76 MW from 24 solar arrays across Ohio

Bridgewater Dairy, Williams County
Wenning Poultry, Mercer County
Hancock County and Perry County landfills
Up to 12.6 MW from methane gas

New York Power Authority Hydropower
55 MW entitlement, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers

CO-OP NEWS

Sign up to tour the **CARDINAL POWER PLANT**

Located on the Ohio River in Brilliant, Ohio, Buckeye Power's Cardinal Power Plant provides electricity to Firelands Electric and the 23 other electric co-ops in Ohio. The plant has invested millions of dollars in environmental upgrades — making it one of the cleanest coal-fired power plants in the world.

This scenic day trip is free and available to cooperative members who have not previously toured the plant. Attendees will participate in a short presentation and guided tour of Cardinal, as well as be treated to an early dinner on the trip back to Ashland and New London.

The bus will depart from Firelands' office in New London and will include an additional pick-up/drop-off point at the Ashland County Career Center on State Route 60.

Since the power plant can be a potentially hazardous area, Cardinal requires tour participants to be at least 12 years old. There will be a considerable amount of walking, climbing several flights of stairs, and going through some hot and dusty areas. Members with health concerns, those who require assistance walking, or those who cannot walk more than a half mile without resting should not take the tour.

Space is limited and reservations are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating for this popular tour fills up quickly, so be sure to sign up early.

If you are interested in attending this year's tour and would like to request seats for you and a guest on the Cardinal tour bus, please visit www.firelandsec.com/power-supply. Members may also sign up by contacting the member services department at members@firelandsec.com or by calling 1-800-533-8658.

**The 2025 Cardinal
Power Plant tour will
take place on
Wednesday, Oct. 1.**





ENERGY EFFICIENCY

SCOTT'S ENERGY SPOT: **AIR INFILTRATION**

Efficiency tips from Firelands Electric's energy advisor



Scott Carbary
ENERGY ADVISOR

Like most of you, I enjoy spending time outdoors on a sunny July day. But when the dog days of summer arrive, sometimes the heat and humidity make me retreat to my cool, air-conditioned home. However, when warm, moist summer air enters your home through unwanted air

infiltration (i.e., air leaks), it can make your living space pretty unpleasant. More importantly, it can cause your air-conditioning system or heat pump to struggle with maintaining a comfortable indoor environment — wasting both energy and money.

Now, you may be scratching your head and wondering: "But what is air infiltration and why should I be concerned about it?" The condensed definition of air infiltration is the unintentional or accidental entry of outside air into a home or building. It typically occurs because of gaps around doors or windows, cracks in attic or basement spaces, or poorly sealed ductwork and plumbing. Any situation that allows unwanted outside air to enter your home can significantly impact summer comfort and cooling bills.

Just how does air infiltration affect your comfort and pocketbook? Unwanted hot summer air increases the cooling load, or the amount of heat that needs to be removed from a space to maintain the temperature set on your thermostat. Removing this extra heat causes your air conditioner to work harder and longer, increasing energy use

and cost. Studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy, along with independent organizations such as the Building Performance Institute and Green Building Advisor, reported that air infiltration can increase the energy needed to cool your home by as much as 30%. Plus, since the summer air leaking into your home is typically loaded with humidity, it will make your living space feel warmer, making it tempting to bump the thermostat down a few degrees to feel comfortable.

The most accurate way to determine how much air is leaking into a home or building involves an in-depth test using a blower door, often used in conjunction with an infrared camera. A blower door depressurizes the inside of a building, causing positive air pressure outside to easily find its way inside through hidden cracks and gaps in a building's exterior. The infrared camera allows you to visually pinpoint any pockets of hot air in the home.

A less intrusive method, and perfect for those who prefer DIY projects, is to inspect the insulation in your basement and attic. Marks or discoloration on your insulation are a sign that air is leaking into your home. The infiltrating air blows across the insulation, leaving a trail of dirt. The visible movement of dust or cobwebs is another sure sign of an air leak.

So, what are the next steps if you find an air leak? Reducing air infiltration around your home can be as simple as sealing obvious gaps and cracks around windows, doors, the foundation, and other areas of your home with caulk or spray foam. Another weekend project to stop air leaks involves sealing and insulating ductwork with duct mastic or aluminum tape. You can also find additional tips online www.energy.gov/energysaver/detecting-air-leaks.

As always, members are also welcome to call Firelands Electric at 1-800-533-8658 to schedule a free energy consultation, during which we will be happy help assess your home and look for the steps you should take next.





THE RIGHT SPIN

5 things you should know about ceiling fans

Ceiling fans can be a nice addition to your home. Not only do they make you more comfortable, but they can also help save on your energy bills. While that all sounds cool, there are some things about ceiling fans that you may not know — things that can help you choose the right model and get the most benefit from it.

1. Ceiling fans cool people, not the air. Airflow from the fan doesn't lower the temperature of the room. Instead, it creates a windchill effect that makes your skin feel cooler. This can reduce the need for air conditioning, which saves energy. Ceiling fans spinning in an empty room, though, are a waste of energy and money. Turn them off when you leave.
2. Fan efficiency is listed on the label. All new fans sold in the U.S. are labeled for "airflow efficiency" on the yellow Energy Guide. This rating is determined by the amount of airflow you get — measured in cubic feet per minute (cfm) — compared to the amount of energy used — measured in watts. The higher the airflow per watt rating, the more efficient the ceiling fan. For instance, a fan with an airflow efficiency of 170 cfm per watt uses less energy than one rated at 110 cfm per watt.
3. Bigger is usually better. Larger ceiling fans are more efficient in terms of airflow per watt than smaller units. While larger ceiling fans use more energy overall, they do their jobs more efficiently in terms of moving air for the amount of power used.
4. Ceiling fans can help you feel warmer in the winter. Hot air rises, including the warm air coming out of your furnace. Most ceiling fans include a reverse switch that changes the direction of the blades and pushes the air upward. This helps move the warm air back down into the living space, making it more comfortable.
5. Location matters. If you're looking for more than just a decoration, you have to do more than just place your fan right above the dining room table. For optimal performance, ceiling fans should be 7 to 9 feet above the floor and 10 to 12 inches from the ceiling. It's also best to locate ceiling fans as close to the center of the room as possible.

Bonus tip: When you're shopping for a new ceiling fan, look for models that are ENERGY STAR certified. Like any other ENERGY STAR appliance, ceiling fans that have been certified use less energy than standard products.

With just a bit of planning and reading labels, installing a ceiling fan can be an effective tool for maintaining maximum comfort in your home year around. And it can help you do so for a minimal investment.

Happy
INDEPENDENCE DAY!

The Firelands Electric Cooperative office will be closed on

Friday, July 4

As always, emergency service is available 24/7 by calling 1-800-533-8658.



OUTAGE RESTORATION

10 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT

OUTAGE RESTORATION

Given everyone's reliance on electricity these days, there's simply never a good time to be without it — and power outage restoration can take time. In one instance, a tree that has fallen on a power line can be a fairly quick fix. In another, circumstances such as how the tree fell or the terrain where the utility pole is located can drastically increase the time it takes to get the lights back on. Each and every power outage is unique.

To shed some light on Firelands Electric Cooperative's restoration process, here are ten things you might not know about restoration that happen behind the scenes:

- 1. WE NEED YOU.** When your power goes out, it might be only at your home or maybe just a few houses. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out. Members can report outages 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 1-800-533-8658 or through our SmartHub app.
- 2. OUR EMPLOYEES MIGHT BE AFFECTED TOO.** Because Firelands is a local electric, our employees are local too. They are your neighbors and friends. When you're without power, our people might be too.
- 3. IT'S A TEAM EFFORT.** Every one of Firelands Electric's employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our call center is taking your calls, line crews and operations staff are surveying damage and clearing hazards, dispatchers are organizing crews, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get your life back to normal.
- 4. WE ASSESS THE SITUATION FIRST.** Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and make a plan for how to fix the problem without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.
- 5. REPAIRS ARE DONE IN A SPECIFIC ORDER.** Our crews focus on responding to public safety issues and restoring critical services first. Then restoration is prioritized so that we can get the largest number of members back on in the shortest amount of time.

6. OUR EMPLOYEES FACE MANY DANGERS.

Besides working around high voltage electricity, our crews need to be on alert for changing weather conditions, falling trees, and fast-moving cars.

7. FLICKERING LIGHTS CAN BE A GOOD THING.

Flickering lights or “blinks” related to an outage can be important. They indicate our equipment worked correctly and prevented a possible full-scale outage caused by an animal or stray tree limb on the lines.

8. YOU NEED A BACKUP PLAN. We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a backup plan — remember, we don’t always know how long restoration efforts will take.

9. OUR EMPLOYEES HAVE TO PLAN, AND EAT. If you ever see our trucks in a parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, public area to map out their plan

for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long, hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.

10. SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO WAIT ON OTHERS.

Our portion of the power grid is connected to larger transmission utilities, and we maintain close relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we typically must let them do their repairs before we can address our own.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but unfortunately, they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. If you experience an outage, please let us know by reporting it through the SmartHub app or by calling 1-800-533-8658.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCAVENGER HUNT

Through October, Firelands Electric Cooperative will be holding a monthly efficiency scavenger hunt for our members.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

1. Look for the month’s efficiency photo theme in *Ohio Cooperative Living* and on the co-op’s website and Facebook pages.
2. Search for something in your home, garage, barn, or business that fits the month’s theme.
3. Snap a photo and submit it to us before the 25th of each month. The next deadline is July 25.
4. Entries can be submitted by:
 - Posting your photo on your Facebook page and tagging the co-op
 - Emailing your photo to members@firelandsec.com
 - Mailing a printed photo to 103 Industrail Drive, New London, OH 44851
5. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, and email address (if applicable).
6. Your name will then be entered into our monthly drawing for the chance to win a \$25 bill credit.

Note: Contest is open to Firelands Electric Cooperative members only and entries are limited to one per month. Members may only win one \$25 bill credit during the six-month game.



WIN A
\$25
bill credit

July’s theme is CEILING AND BOX FANS



IN THE COMMUNITY

A POWERFUL COMMUNITY PRESENCE



Back in May, Firelands Electric's Stephanie Schmidt, April Hicks (left), and Tracy Gibb joined 120 New London High School juniors and seniors for the school's third-annual Renew the Village Community Service Day. Participants spent the day cleaning, painting, mulching, and performing other tasks around the village.



To view additional photos from Firelands Electric Cooperative's recent events, visit www.flickr.com/photos/firelandsec/albums.



Firelands Electric linemen Evan Clemons (above left) and Jake Willbond (above right) gave the New London Local Schools preschool students an opportunity to check out one of the co-op's bucket trucks during the school's annual touch-a-truck event, held on April 25.



In mid-May, cooperative linemen Phil Pickering (far left) and Jared Galloway (above) spent time talking with students from Crestview Middle School about the career of an electric lineman.





COOPERATIVE UPDATE

BOARD MEETING *highlights*

Firelands Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees met April 22 and covered the following items:

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative received 33 membership applications for approval by the board.
- General Manager Don Englet reviewed the monthly safety and training, tree-trimming, outage, and personnel reports.
- The board elected officers for the upcoming year. Dan Schloemer was re-elected as president, Kevin Reidy was selected as vice president and assistant secretary/assistant treasurer, and Carl Ayers was re-elected as secretary/treasurer.
- Englet reviewed the recent Buckeye Rate Report, which outlines the current rates for all of Ohio's electric cooperatives.
- Director of Operations Rick Bowers reported on activities in the operations department.
- Englet provided a recap of March's annual meeting, including member attendance and overall expenses for the event.
- Englet reviewed the recent orientation he attended in Virginia through NRECA for new CEOs and general managers.
- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the March financial reports and provided an update on recent accounting and billing department activities.
- The board reviewed information regarding recent mutual aid provided to Great Lakes Energy Cooperative in Michigan following an ice storm.
- Schloemer reviewed the OREC report, which included lobbying efforts regarding SB 2 and HB 15.
- Director of Communications and IT Andrea Gravenhorst reported on recent activities involving the member services and IT departments.

The cooperative's next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22. If you would like to attend the next scheduled meeting, please contact the Firelands Electric office at 1-800-533-8658.

FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

OUTAGE HOTLINE

1-800-533-8658

OFFICE

103 Industrial Drive
New London, OH 44851
1-800-533-8658

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
www.firelandsec.com



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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GENERAL MANAGER

Don Englet

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
members@firelandsec.com

Firelands
Electric
COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 