

NEWS



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For Immediate Release:

EXTREME WEATHER CAUSES PEAK DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY



NEW LONDON, OH, July 19, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. — Firelands Electric Co-op's power supplier, Buckeye Power, is forecasting high power loads this afternoon and again throughout the rest of this week.

Ohio is part of the [PJM Interconnection](#) region, the nation's largest electric transmission grid operator. Areas within the PJM territory are expecting temperatures to reach and exceed 90-degrees for the remainder of this week. This extreme heat will likely result in peak power loads and demand for electric consumers in 13 states and the District of Columbia.

As a result of the extreme temperatures and high humidity [forecasts](#) across the PJM region, **Firelands Electric Co-op expects to implement load management of electric water heaters and central air-conditioning systems enrolled in the co-op's PeakBusters program starting this afternoon, between the hours of 2 and 7 p.m.** Implementing load management efforts is necessary to reduce power loads across the Buckeye state's transmission grid, and hours may start early or last longer than the hours noted depending upon conditions.

"Firelands Electric Co-op's load management system is designed to help keep power costs as low as possible for our cooperative members and all consumers in the PJM group," says Firelands' Director of Communications & IT Andrea Gravenhorst. "Higher demand for electricity and peak demand electric loads means higher costs for everyone. When a new peak is set, each of the 24 distribution electric cooperatives in Ohio, including Firelands Electric, is assigned a new demand charge on their bill from their power supplier, Buckeye Power," Gravenhorst added.

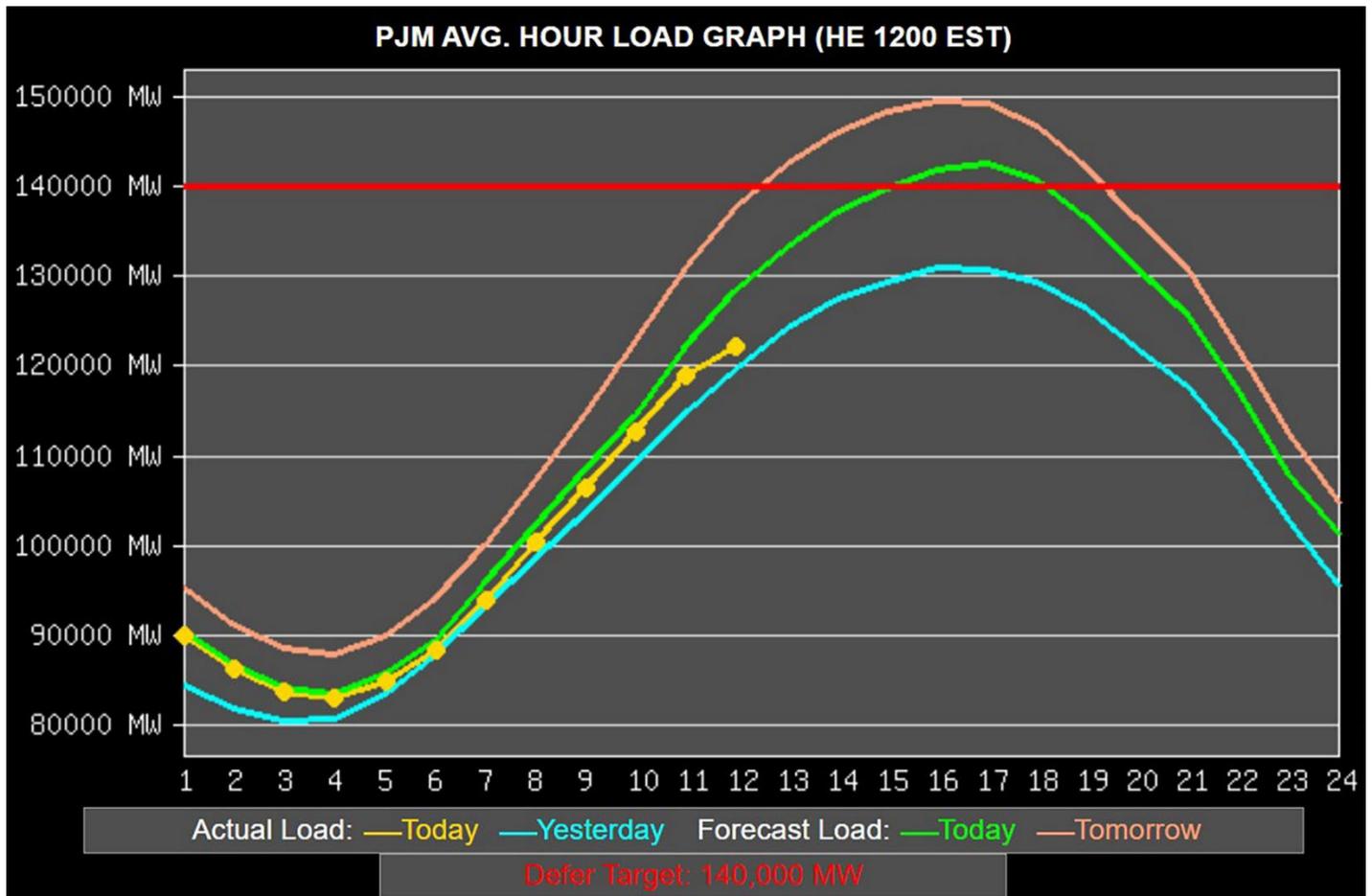
Load management efforts help the electric co-op beat the peak, which helps to keep electric rates affordable. When peak energy conservation is critical, particularly between the hours of 2 and 7 p.m. Everyone, whether an electric cooperative member or not, homeowners and local businesses can help reduce energy use by practicing a few simple conservation measures:

- **RAISE** your cooling thermostat four degrees.
- Use ceiling and portable fans to enhance the cooling ability of your air conditioner. Even mild air movement can make you feel cooler.
- Avoid using major appliances during high demand times. Delay household chores requiring electrical use, such as running the dishwasher and doing laundry, until after 7 p.m.
- Draw shades or blinds to prevent the sun from adding more heat to the room.
- Be sure your air conditioner filters are clean for peak efficiency.

Firelands Electric Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility serving more than 9,100 homes and businesses in rural areas of Ashland, Huron, Lorain, and Richland counties that ranks among the highest energy utilities in the country for customer satisfaction. Visit the cooperative's website, www.FirelandsEC.com, [Facebook](#) page, [Twitter](#) feed, to learn more about reliable and affordable power.

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PHOTO CAPTION: As of 7/19/2022 at 12:20 p.m., PJM’s forecasted load chart shows peak power loads for today and tomorrow, between 2 and 7 p.m. When loads exceed the defer target of 140,000-megawatt (MW) load management efforts are implemented by Firelands Electric Cooperative and many other electric utilities.



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