



GM'S REPORT

DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

A UNIQUE BENEFIT OF YOUR CO-OP MEMBERSHIP



Dan McNaull
GENERAL MANAGER

Like many businesses, Firelands Electric Cooperative is governed by a board of trustees. These nine men and women are tasked with setting policies and providing guidance to help the cooperative meet its needs, while also ensuring that members are supplied with safe, reliable, and affordable electric power. What makes Firelands unique is that this board is made up of the very people it serves. These trustees are not only fellow co-op members, but also your

neighbors and friends who live and work in Firelands Electric's service territory.

This is significant when compared to other electricity providers. Unlike investor-owned utilities (IOUs), Firelands' board members are not appointed by stockholders whose primary focus is growing profits and shareholder dividends. The co-op's trustees are democratically elected by you, our members, who are directly affected by the decisions they make. As a co-op member, you have the ability, and the responsibility, to help set the direction for Firelands Electric. Whether serving as a board member or simply voting for one, your involvement guides how your cooperative operates.

Every Firelands Electric member has this right to vote, giving them a say in the governance of the cooperative. It can be easy to forget how precious this right truly is and can often be taken for granted. Through active

engagement and participation, you can make sure that the co-op is heading in a direction that is in the best interest of our members and our community.

The board of trustees is committed to providing solutions that maintain the strength of the co-op. To continue to innovate and more effectively serve the community, we rely on our members to provide guidance. Because of this, Firelands values the perspective of our members — we cannot operate successfully and help our community thrive without you.

We ask you to please consider serving on your co-op's board of trustees. Board members for districts 1, 3, and 6 will be elected this spring, and nomination petitions will be available starting Feb. 1.

Potential candidates are required to collect 20 member signatures from within their district and submit an election application by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 24. Any co-op member who is in good standing and resides in a district with an open spot on the board is welcome to run for that position. Visit www.firelandsec.com/service-territory for a map of the cooperative's board districts.

For more information on how your cooperative is governed, visit www.firelandsec.com/your-cooperative. Additional details on how to become a candidate for the board of trustees will also be available at the end of January.

One of the greatest resources at Firelands Electric Cooperative is our members. Let your voice be heard by voting in your co-op's elections or serving as a member on your co-op's board of trustees. You can feel good knowing that you had a voice in the decisions that impact your family and your community.





YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Graduating seniors who live in a home served by Firelands Electric Cooperative are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must have a cumulative grade-point average of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for the Career Scholarship.
- A grade-point average of 3.5 or above is required for all other scholarships.
- Selected finalists will be interviewed at the Firelands Electric Cooperative office on Monday, Feb. 20, 2023.
- Applicants will be judged on scholastic record, school and community activities, cooperative knowledge, and a personal interview.

Complete rules and applications will be available by Dec. 1 at www.firelandsec.com/children-members-scholarship, by contacting Firelands Electric's member services department at 1-800-533-8658, or by visiting your high school guidance department.

Scholarships will be awarded as follows:

CAREER SCHOLARSHIP

This \$750 scholarship (formerly named the Technical-Trade Scholarship) is for students planning to enroll in a career-based education program following graduation. Examples include, but are not limited to, dental hygienist, phlebotomy, nurse, vet tech, electrician, HVAC, plumbing, auto mechanic, or welder.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

- First place: \$1,800
- Second place: \$1,600
- Third place: \$1,400
- Fourth place: \$1,200
- Fifth place: \$1,000
- Sixth place: \$750
- Two Honorable Mentions: \$500 each
- Two Judges' Choice awards: \$500 each

The first-place college scholarship winner will also be eligible to compete at the statewide competition in Columbus on April 12, 2023, where he or she can win up to \$4,100 in additional scholarship awards from Ohio's Electric Cooperatives.

CLASS OF 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS



Application deadline is Jan. 20, 2023

Visit www.firelandsec.com/children-members-scholarship for complete rules and applications.

High school sophomores and juniors!

Apply for a life-changing leadership
experience in Washington, D.C.

What is Youth Tour?

The Ohio's Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour is an annual leadership program sponsored by Firelands Electric. A weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., Youth Tour gives outstanding high school students the opportunity to meet with their congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, make new friends from across the state and country, and see many of the famous Washington, D.C., sights. During this one-of-a-kind tour, participants also gain a better understanding of American history and their role as a citizen.

Electric cooperatives from 43 states send nearly 2,000 delegates on the tour each year, including approximately 40 students from co-ops throughout Ohio. Firelands Electric Cooperative will choose up to two delegates to attend the 2023 Youth Tour.

**Application deadline:
Jan. 20, 2023**



June 17–23, 2023

Successful applicants:

- Must be a current high school sophomore or junior.
- Reside in a home receiving power from Firelands Electric Cooperative.
- Submit a completed application, including portion completed by a school official.
- Include a letter of recommendation from a guidance counselor, principal, teacher, or community or organization advisor.

Complete rules and application materials will be available by Dec. 1 at www.firelandsec.com/youth-tour-experience.

**For more information and to apply, visit
www.firelandsec.com/youth-tour-experience.**



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

INSULATION AND AIR SEALING DELIVER A ONE-TWO PUNCH

Insulation and air sealing provide some of the biggest bang for your buck when it comes to energy efficiency improvements. When installed together, they not only save you money, but also make a big difference in your home's comfort level and energy use.

Insulation rating

Insulation is rated in R-value. The R stands for resistance to heat transfer. The higher your R-value, the slower the heat transfer, and the less wasted energy. There are several different types of insulation, including fiberglass batts, blown fiberglass, cellulose, and foam. Each has its own R-value listed on the packaging. To determine the R-value of your existing insulation, multiply the number of inches by the R-value per inch for the type of insulation (see chart below).

Insulation Material	Estimated R-Value*
Fiberglass batts	3.7
Blown-in fiberglass	2.4
Blown-in cellulose	3.6
Closed cell spray foam	7.0
Open cell spray foam	3.8

*per inch

Where to insulate

Typical locations for insulation are the attic, walls, and floor. If you have a forced-air heating or cooling system, your ductwork should be insulated also.

Attic insulation minimizes energy waste and can help maintain a more consistent temperature throughout your home. Combined with air sealing, it can also prevent ice dams from forming on your roof in colder climates.

Attics can be insulated using batts or blown-in insulation. Recommended R-values in Ohio are from R-49 to R-60. If you use your attic for storage, you can build a raised platform with room for insulation underneath. Also add insulation or weatherstripping to access doors or hatches.

Exterior walls and walls separating heated and unheated areas of the home — such as garages or enclosed porches — should be insulated to an R-value ranging from R-13 to R-21. Wall insulation can be installed during construction or a remodel. If your home wasn't well-insulated when it was built, you can have the insulation blown in by a contractor. Blown-in options include cellulose, fiberglass, and foam.

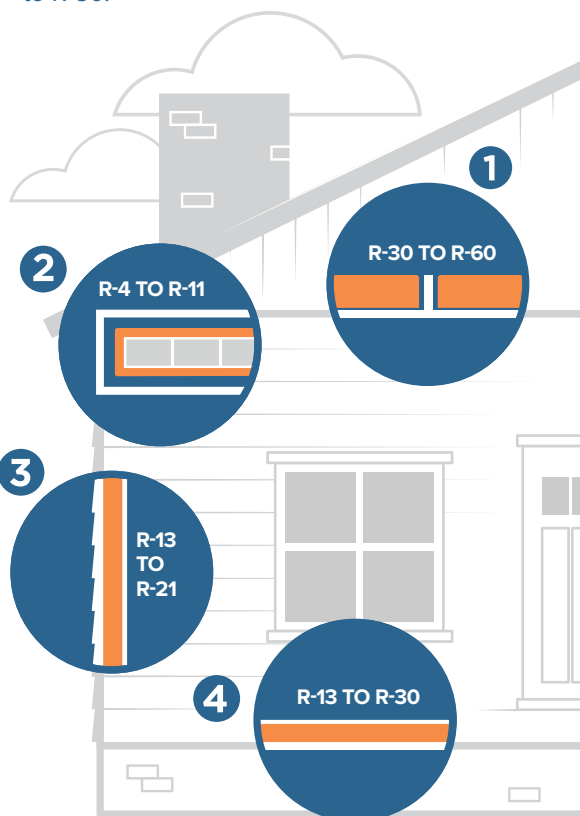
Your home should also be insulated between the floor and the crawlspace or unheated basement, including installing insulation in the box sills, which is the space between the floor joists of the home's main level and the basement wall (see photo below). Recommended R-values for floor insulation are R-25 to R-30. To prevent costly energy waste, also insulate heating and cooling ductwork located in unconditioned spaces.



Box sills, the area between the main floor and the basement wall, can be the site of significant energy loss if they're not properly insulated.

Insulation 101

- 1 ATTIC**
Attic insulation can improve your home's comfort and energy savings. Recommended R-value ranges from R-30 in warm climates to R-60 in cold climates.
- 2 DUCTWORK**
Protect the air you paid to heat or cool by insulating your ductwork from R-4 to R-11 where it travels through unconditioned spaces.
- 3 EXTERIOR WALLS**
Exterior walls should be insulated between R-13 and R-21, depending on wall construction and your location.
- 4 CRAWLSPACE**
Increase comfort and energy savings in your home by insulating the floors to the right R-value for your location, ranging from R-13 to R-30.



Importance of air sealing

While insulation keeps warmed air from escaping your home, air sealing prevents cold winter air from making its way in from the outside. (The exact opposite is true in the summer: Insulation keeps the heat out, and air sealing stops cool, conditioned air from escaping.) Air sealing can also improve efficiency, comfort, and indoor air quality.

Typically, air sealing is completed by using spray foam or caulk around areas where plumbing and electrical components enter your home. If using spray foam around gas appliances, temporarily turn off pilot lights. Spray foam is extremely flammable. Sheet metal and high-temperature, heat-resistant caulk should be used to seal gaps between framing, chimneys, and metal flues.

Making insulation and air sealing improvements a priority adds comfort and efficiency to your home, providing a two-way savings in energy and in money.

CELEBRATING YOU!

Our members are at the heart of what we do. To thank you, Firelands Electric celebrated National Co-op Month by holding a special drawing in October. Members who entered had the opportunity to win one of ten \$50 bill credits.

Congratulations to the following winners:

James Henry of Willard
Corey Grennell of Willard
Russell Walker of Ashland
Peek-a-Boo Farm of Polk
Bill Emery of Ashland
GT Huff of Mansfield
Debra Dickerson of Willard
Stephen Supeck of Wakeman
Karen Fillmore of New London
Mildred Bisel of Mansfield

NATIONAL
CO-OP
MONTH
WINNERS



REBATE PROGRAMS

Ring in the new year with rebates

Is saving money part of your New Year's resolution? Firelands Electric Cooperative offers rebates specifically designed to help members save energy and money. Incentives are available on everything from heat pumps and water heaters to kitchen appliances and much more.

Check out the chart below for a quick peek at some of the co-op's most popular rebates. A complete listing of all current rebate programs, as well as their specific eligibility requirements, is available on Firelands Electric's website at www.firelandsec.com/member-programs.

PROGRAM TYPE	AMOUNT	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
HVAC SYSTEM & LOAD MANAGEMENT REBATES		
All-electric geothermal systems	\$800* rebate	Installation of a new or replacement all-electric geothermal or heat pump system with a Cool Returns load management device installed . Communicating systems that are incompatible with the load management device will receive the rebate, less \$100.*
All-electric heat pump systems	\$500* rebate	
Dual-fuel geothermal & air-source heat pump systems	\$300* rebate	New or replacement geothermal or air-source heat pump unit added to any fossil-fuel furnace. Communicating systems that are incompatible with the load management device will receive a \$200* rebate.
All-electric ductless or mini-split heat pumps	\$300* rebate	New or replacement all-electric ductless or mini-split heat pump system. Limit of 3 outdoor unit installs/program year.
SMART THERMOSTAT REBATES		
Smart thermostat (NEW)	\$150* rebate	Installation of any new, ENERGY STAR®-certified smart thermostat with a Wi-Fi connection. Residential installations only and limit of 2 rebates per home/program year. Limited number of rebates available.
LOAD MANAGEMENT INCENTIVES		
Central air-conditioning systems	\$100* bill credit	Installation of a Cool Returns load management device on a new or existing central cooling unit that does <u>not</u> qualify for other member program incentives.
ELECTRIC WATER HEATER INCENTIVES		
New standard electric water heaters (no existing switch)	\$300* bill credit	Installation of a new or replacement electric water heater that has a 50-gallon or larger tank capacity, with an EF of 0.91 or higher that <u>does not already have a load switch</u> .
Replacement electric water heaters (existing switch)	\$150* bill credit	Same as above, except tank has an existing load management switch installed.
Electric heat pump or communicating water heaters	\$150* bill credit	Installation of a new or replacement electric heat pump or communicating water heater that meets the energy efficiency standards above that is incompatible with RCS switch.
Electric water heater other than those listed above	\$50* bill credit	Installation of load management device on an electric water heater that doesn't meet the cooperative's energy efficiency standards. Solar and on-demand/tankless water heaters do not qualify for this incentive.
ENERGY STAR APPLIANCE REBATES		
Refrigerator & freezer	\$100* bill credit	Purchase of an ENERGY STAR®-certified electric appliance to replace an existing appliance. Purchase receipt, proof of removal of old appliance, and proof of ENERGY STAR certification required.
Clothes washer, dishwasher, stove, & dryer (NEW)	\$50* bill credit	
Dehumidifier	\$25* bill credit	Installation of an ENERGY STAR®-certified dehumidifier with a minimum capacity of 50 pints/day. Purchase receipt for the new appliance and proof of ENERGY STAR certification required.

*A complete listing of specific eligibility requirements for all incentives is available on Firelands Electric Cooperative's website at www.firelandsec.com.

CO-OP NEWS

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

James Miller — System Right-of-Way Coordinator

This month, System Right-of-Way Coordinator James Miller celebrates 20 years with Firelands Electric. Originally a tree trimmer with the cooperative, Miller was promoted to his current position in November 2007.



James Miller
SYSTEM RIGHT-OF-
WAY COORDINATOR

As the right-of-way coordinator, Miller oversees Firelands' annual vegetation management program, organizing several contract companies that trim and remove trees, brush hog, and spray as needed to help maintain reliability for Firelands members. He also serves as the liaison between members and contractors.

With over 990 miles of power lines, the co-op operates on a four-year rotation to keep vegetation under control to reduce the frequency and

length of power outages. "Well-managed maintenance can prevent limbs, vines, and other foliage from making contact with power lines during severe weather events, which is one of the leading causes of outages," says Miller.

Miller enjoys working with his fellow employees and likes consulting with co-op members to create the best plan to maintain both reliable electricity and the aesthetics of a member's landscaping. "Firelands wants our community to enjoy their backyards without the risk of a tree-related power interruption whenever possible," states Miller.

Miller and his wife, Michelle, live in rural Wakeman. In their free time, the couple enjoys spending time with friends, family, and neighbors, especially their two daughters and four grandchildren. They also like motorcycle riding and traveling. Miller serves as the Clarksfield Township representative on the Huron County Fair Board, is involved in farming, and joins other family members to plow snow every winter in New London and Hartland townships, in Huron County.

Dan McNaul — General Manager

Five years ago this month, Dan McNaul took on the role of Firelands Electric Cooperative general manager following the retirement of April Bordas. Prior to taking this position, McNaul spent more than 26 years as an elected member of Firelands' board of trustees, where he served as president.

As general manager, McNaul partners with the board of trustees to create policies and maintain a workforce that both meet the co-op's daily operational needs. He also works with Firelands' trustees, members, and employees to remove obstacles that could hinder the delivery of safe, reliable, and affordable power.

"Without hesitation, my favorite part of the job is the people — fellow Firelands employees, the board of trustees, and the members," says McNaul. Collaborating with members and staff to find solutions to problems or ways to improve the co-op's operations is also high on his list.

A strong advocate and proponent of supporting local businesses and schools, McNaul is very active within his church, serves as chairman of his township's zoning commission, and is a member of Ashland's Young Men's Business Club. "I firmly believe that having a variety of people involved in our communities gives us a stronger economy and better communities," states McNaul.

McNaul has been married to his wife, Debbie, for 41 years, and the couple resides in rural Ashland. They enjoy spending time with their family, including daughters Christy and Kelly; their spouses, Scott and Dale; and grandchildren Owen and Clara. In his spare time, McNaul also likes maintaining his lawn and farmstead, pontoon boating, fishing, and making maple syrup.



Dan McNaul
GENERAL MANAGER

5 YEARS

20 YEARS



COOPERATIVE UPDATE

BOARD MEETING *highlights*

Firelands Electric Cooperative's board of trustees met Oct. 25 and covered the following items:

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative received 46 membership applications for approval by the board.
- General Manager Dan McNaull reviewed the report for a recent safety and training event.
- Director of Operations Don Englet reported on recent activities and projects in the operations department.
- The board reviewed, discussed, and approved the 2023 budget.
- McNaull requested the formation of an audit committee to meet with the in-field auditors from BHM CPA Group, Inc. Following discussion, Schloemer and Trustee Bruce Leimbach were selected to meet with the auditors.
- The board discussed appointments to the People Fund Board. Mary Rees, Donna Woodworth, and Mike Walter will all serve for another term.
- McNaull reviewed options for the 2023 annual meeting of members. Following discussion, the board decided to hold the meeting at Ashland University on June 24, starting at 9 a.m.

- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the September financials and reported on recent accounting and billing department activities.
- McNaull reviewed the monthly tree-trimming and outage reports.
- Schloemer reported on Buckeye and OEC meetings he recently attended. McNaull presented information from recent events he participated in, including the Ohio Managers Association and Buckeye Board meetings.
- McNaull reviewed the public meeting held Oct. 5 regarding AEP's New London 69-kV line project, as well as reported on its progress.
- Director of Communications and Technology Andrea Gravenhorst reviewed recent activities involving the member services and IT department, including her recent appointment to Buckeye Power's Load Management Committee and the upcoming USO Step Up for Soldiers annual donation drive.

The cooperative's next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 24. 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
P.O. Box 32
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

Dan Schloemer
President, District 1

Bruce Leimbach
Vice President, District 4

Carl Ayers
Secretary/Treasurer, District 5

Elaine Oswald
District 8

Tom Lucha
District 3

Gene Lamoreaux
District 2

John Martin
District 9

Kevin Reidy
District 6

Rob Turk
District 7

GENERAL MANAGER

Dan McNaull

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
members@firelandsec.com

Firelands
Electric
COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

