



GM'S REPORT

THE POWER OF *gratitude*

As Thanksgiving approaches, many of us reflect on the people, blessings, and opportunities that enrich our lives. November, after all, is a season of gratitude. Although gratitude is often associated with the grander things in life, I find much to be thankful for in the small, steady reminders that surround me every day.

We're blessed to live in a nation where we enjoy freedoms, opportunities, modern conveniences, meaningful work, and the comfort of a safe place to call home. Here in our rural communities, we are surrounded by hardworking people who care deeply about their neighbors and take pride in supporting one another.

At Firelands Electric, gratitude is woven into everything we do.

First and foremost, I am grateful for you, our members. You are the reason this cooperative exists. Your trust and support allow us to fulfill our mission of providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity while investing in the communities we serve. Without you, there is no cooperative.

I am also thankful for our dedicated employees. Every day, they work to keep the cooperative running smoothly and serve our members with professionalism and care. Whether it's a member service representative answering a question, a technician maintaining equipment, or a lineworker restoring power during a storm, their commitment makes a difference.

This season, I also want to recognize the families of our employees. The men and women who serve our members often work long hours, respond to emergencies, and spend time away from home when

duty calls. Their loved ones make sacrifices as well, and their support helps make our work possible.

I'm grateful for our board of trustees, who provide thoughtful leadership and oversight. They help ensure that your cooperative remains focused on its mission, operates responsibly, and continues planning for a strong future on behalf of the members they represent.

Beyond the cooperative, I'm thankful for the farmers, businesses, educators, veterans, first responders, public servants, and countless volunteers who strengthen our communities. I'm grateful for neighbors helping neighbors, whether after a storm, at a local event, or through charitable efforts like Operation Round Up that improve lives close to home.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage each of us to pause and appreciate the blessings around us. Gratitude doesn't require perfection. Sometimes it's found in a helping hand, the dedication of someone working through the night, or the simple comfort of a warm home on a cold evening.

On behalf of all of us at Firelands, thank you for the privilege of serving you.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with gratitude, peace, joy, and the company of those you cherish most.



Don Englet
GENERAL MANAGER



IN THE COMMUNITY



STEP UP FOR SOLDIERS DRIVE

Firelands Electric Cooperative is once again joining forces with local radio stations WLKR-FM and K96-FM to collect items for USO Ohio's annual Step Up for Soldiers drive.

Since 2007, the co-op has proudly supported U.S. military personnel by serving as a collection location for donated care package items. Starting Tuesday, Nov. 11, and running through Friday, Dec. 18, members of Firelands Electric and the surrounding communities can deliver donated items to the co-op's office, located at 103 Industrial Drive in New London. Items may be dropped off in the collection boxes located inside the front entryway during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

USO Ohio delivers donated toiletry and snack items to National Guard members throughout the state, including Military Entrance Processing Stations, airport USOs, Camp Garfield, Camp Grayling, and Camp Perry. In 2026, items were also provided to Ohio guard members deployed to areas that experienced significant damage and flooding following a series of strong storms.

While all donations are appreciated, USO Ohio does ask that items be limited to travel-sized hygiene items and individual, single-serve-sized snacks.

SUGGESTED DONATION ITEMS:

- lip balm
- deodorant
- body wash
- shampoo
- dental floss
- toothbrushes
- razors
- tissues
- sanitizer
- fruit snacks
- chewing gum
- cookies
- crackers
- granola
- trail mix
- protein bars
- chips
- fruit pouches
- beef jerky
- noodle cups
- mints

Learn other ways you can help or make a tax-deductible monetary donation at <https://ohio.uso.org>.



Salute TO VETS

Firelands Electric is planning a special social media feature of the co-op's current and former military personnel. To submit a member of your household to be included in this Thanksgiving weekend salute to veterans, please send us a photo of your veteran, along with name, rank, branch, and years of service before Nov. 23. For more details, visit www.firelandsec.com/community.

LIGHT UP SOMEONE'S HOLIDAYS WITH A

Perfect for that hard-to-buy-for person on your gift list, a H.U.G. (Home Utility Gift) allows anyone to give the gift of electricity.

H.U.G.s are available in any amount, and they may be purchased by both co-op members and non-members. Recipients must be Firelands Electric members, and the gift-giver must have the first and last name of the intended recipient, as well as the member's service address, to ensure the gift is applied to the correct account.

A H.U.G. may be bought in person at the co-op's office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Firelands Electric Co-op. *Due to privacy regulations, Firelands CANNOT accept payments for a H.U.G. over the phone, and payment by credit card is available ONLY at our lobby window.* Please note that Firelands Electric's employees also cannot provide a member's account number to anyone who is not listed on the account.



You can also purchase a H.U.G. by completing the form below and sending it, along with a check or money order made out to the cooperative, to: Firelands Electric Co-op, H.U.G. Program, 103 Industrial Drive, New London, OH 44851-9112. Additional copies of the form are also available on our website at www.firelandsec.com/hug and at the office.

H.U.G.s will appear as a credit on the recipient's next monthly bill and may remain anonymous. If you wish to let the receiver know about your gift, simply ask office staff to send the recipient a "You've received a H.U.G." notice when purchasing. We'll take care of the rest!

If you're stumped what to get someone for the holidays this year, consider buying them a H.U.G.!

GIVE THE GIFT OF A H.U.G.!

Your first and last name

Recipient/member first and last name

Your address

Recipient/member address

Your city and ZIP code

Recipient/member city and ZIP code

Your phone number

- ☐ YES! I would like Firelands to notify the recipient of my gift.
- ☐ I will notify the recipient myself.

Make checks out to Firelands Electric and return completed form and payment to:
H.U.G. Program, Firelands Electric Cooperative, 103 Industrial Drive, New London, OH 44851-9112.
For questions regarding the H.U.G. program, contact our billing department at 1-800-533-8658.



TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

GET IN THE GAME

Co-ops aren't a spectator sport

As a member-owned and -governed cooperative, Firelands Electric relies on members like you to bring their leadership skills to the boardroom. This fall, we're looking for members with a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve. Step off the sidelines and run as a candidate for the 2027 board of trustees elections.

Traditional companies answer to outside corporate investors. Our electric cooperative answers to you. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by nine trustees, whose mission it is to look out for the future of the co-op and our community.

In spring 2027, trustees will be elected by the co-op's membership to represent districts 2, 7, and 9. (A map of the board districts is available at www.firelandsec.com/board-trustees.) Detailed information on how to become a candidate for board trustee will be mailed and emailed to members living in these districts in November. Beginning Monday, Dec. 7, 2026, those interested in joining the roster of candidates on the ballot may pick up a nomination petition at the Firelands Electric office. Potential candidates are required to submit an election application and collect a minimum of 20 member signatures from within their respective districts by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2027.

All Firelands Electric members in good standing may cast their votes during trustee elections, which will take place by mail and online ballot from Monday, March 1, through Sunday, April 11. Results will be announced during the cooperative's virtual annual meeting, which will premier online at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 1, 2027.

If you want to get in the game by serving on the cooperative's board, or if you have questions about the election process, please contact the Firelands Electric office at 1-800-533-8658.

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE FIELD?

If you live in districts 2, 7, or 9 and want to represent your family, friends, and neighbors on the cooperative's board, it's time to make your move.

- **Grab the playbook:** Pick up a candidate petition packet.
- **Rally the team:** It only takes 20 signatures from your neighbors to become a candidate on the ballot.
- **Call the plays:** If elected, you can bring your unique perspective to the boardroom table.

Petitions to become a candidate for Firelands Electric's board of trustees are available at the co-op office starting Dec. 7. For more information, visit www.firelandsec.com/cooperative-elections or contact the Firelands Electric office at 1-800-533-8658.

Huron County Fair

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS
OF OUR 2026 PRIZE DRAWING!

Firelands Electric's Director of Communications and IT Andrea Gravenhorst (left) recently presented Barney Bacon of Greenwich (right) with the OSU grilling grand prize package (valued at \$300). Co-op member Candy Charville of New London (not pictured) was selected as the winner of a \$90 bill credit.

The co-op also provided giveaways for young co-op members, and line crews provided live power line safety demonstrations on select days of the fair.



ARE YOU ON OUR LIST?

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS REFUNDS

Firelands Electric is trying to locate current and former members who may be entitled to unclaimed capital credits. A list of individuals and businesses can be found on the co-op's website at www.firelandsec.com/capital-credits-and-unclaimed-funds.

If you recognize a name on the list, please let that person know to contact us. For listed members who are deceased, let one of their relatives know about the unclaimed check. The person named or their relative must contact our office in order for the check to be re-issued.

Official notice is given that the current or former patrons on this list have cash retirements of capital credits or other payments from Firelands Electric Cooperative that have gone unclaimed for more than four years. According to Article VIII, Section 3, of the Code of Regulations, unless claim is made within 60 days of the second publication of this list, such funds will become an irrevocable gift and assignment by such patron to the cooperative. Inquiries should be directed to Firelands Electric Cooperative, 103 Industrial Drive, New London, Ohio 44851, by phone at 1-800-533-8658, or by email at accounting@firelandsec.com.

THIS IS THE SECOND OF TWO NOTICES.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

SCOTT'S ENERGY SPOT: CLAIMING YOUR "FREE LUNCH"

Book a no-cost energy efficiency consult with your co-op

Our commitment to you

There's no such thing as a free lunch.

Most of us have heard this saying many times. For the most part, it may be true — but not always. At Firelands Electric Cooperative, we firmly advocate for zero-cost education, training, and information that benefits our members. In fact, this concept is the fifth cooperative principle in the list of seven that guide us in our day-to-day operations.

The team at Firelands Electric strongly believes in helping our members save energy and make energy-efficient decisions, whether they are considering building upgrades, changing to a new HVAC system, or looking at renewable energy options.

As we settle into fall, ensuring your home is energy efficient is an essential first step toward curbing cold weather bills. Fortunately, Firelands Electric offers three great, no-cost tools to help you start your own energy-saving journey.

Log on to SmartHub

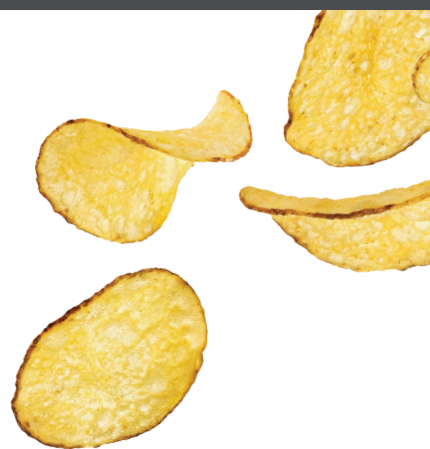
When members want to look deeper into their home's monthly electric usage, we always recommend taking the first step by logging into your account through the cooperative's Smart Hub application. Available in mobile and desktop versions, SmartHub allows you to view your home's energy use history and corresponding temperature information. Monthly, daily, and hourly electric use going back several years is available, and you can even compare your use to previous months. Armed with this information, it's possible to look for a specific period when your home's electric use increased or decreased. Did the use noticeably increase after adding a space heater? Or did daily use rise when the outside temperatures plummeted, indicating that the HVAC system may be struggling and needs a checkup?

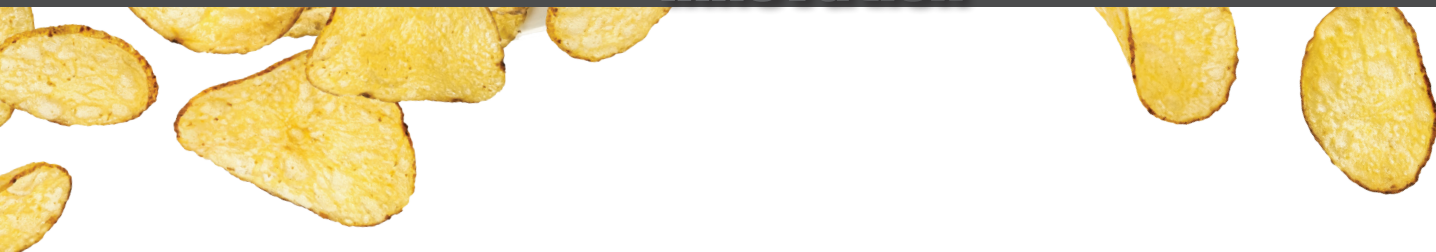


Scott Carbary
ENERGY ADVISOR

While the graphs and other information found on SmartHub may seem overwhelming at first, don't be intimidated!

Periodically viewing the readings after major changes in weather or daily household patterns will help you learn to interpret the information. In addition, there are several helpful guides for using SmartHub available on the co-op's website at www.firelandsec.com/smarthub-app.





Give us a call

Firelands Electric members looking for information about the energy efficiency of their home have additional no-cost choices. The first is to request a phone call from a cooperative energy advisor. Our member services staff has a combined 60-plus years of training and experience evaluating kilowatt use and energy patterns, and they excel at guiding members in their search for areas of their home that may need attention.

Schedule a free energy consultation

The final option, and my personal favorite, is scheduling an in-home visit for a free energy-efficiency walk-through. Depending on your specific concerns, we can investigate the amount of electricity used by a specific appliance, check the insulation levels in your walls, and complete other diagnostics using various testing tools and data loggers.

To wrap up an energy consultation, we will sit down to review your home's individual electric use, suggested repairs, and potential improvements. We'll help identify underlying sources that may be driving up your high electric use. Plus, we can help you determine what steps to take next if you do have an issue, such as a pump that doesn't shut off, malfunctioning thermostats on baseboard heaters, or an air conditioner that is clogged and struggling to maintain the home's temperature. If you want to make energy improvements, I can also provide recommendations, estimate your return on investment, and find available co-op rebates to help you save money.

While there may be no such thing as a free lunch, as a member of Firelands Electric you can take advantage of a free energy efficiency consultation. Schedule your appointment today by contacting the cooperative's member services department at 1-800-533-8658 or members@firelandsec.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Co-op members and one guest are invited to join us for a

FREE ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY, NOV. 14
9 AM - 12 PM**

at the cooperative's
office located at
103 Industrial Dr., New London

Topics include: insulation, air sealing,
HVAC maintenance, thermostats, rebate
programs, and many others

**Seating is limited, so visit
www.firelandsec.com
or call 1-800-533-8658
to reserve your seat today.**

HAPPY
Thanksgiving!

The Firelands Electric office will be closed Nov. 26 and 27.
Emergency service is available 24/7 by calling 1-800-533-8658.



COOPERATIVE UPDATE

BOARD MEETING *highlights*

Firelands Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees met Aug. 25 and covered the following items:

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative received 43 membership applications for approval by the board.
- General Manager Don Englet reviewed the monthly safety and training, tree-trimming, outage, and personnel reports.
- Director of Operations Rick Bowers reported on activities in the operations department. Updates were provided on the Coulter, Fitchville, and Hillsdale substation projects.
- Englet reviewed the current status of projects being completed by First Energy and AEP, which will have a positive impact on Firelands' system.
- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the July financial reports and provided an update on recent accounting and billing department activities.
- The trustees discussed the OEC Winter Conference.

- Englet reviewed the results of the co-op's recent RESAP on-site evaluation.
- Director of Communications and IT Andrea Gravenhorst reported on recent activities in the member services and IT departments.
- Englet briefly highlighted next spring's 2027 virtual annual, a member appreciation event planned for Oct. 2027. He also reviewed the 2026 Rate Comparison report and the 2027 R&S Plan Billing Rate.
- Schloemer recapped the OREC Board meeting he recently attended.

Firelands Electric Co-op is democratically controlled and governed by local people committed to policies that result in a safe and reliable electric system, fair rates, financial responsibility, and superior member service.

The cooperative's next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 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
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

Kevin Reidy
Vice President, District 6

Tom Lucha
Secretary/Treasurer, District 3

Joe Williams
District 2

Lon Burton
District 4

Evan Hahn
District 5

Greg Hess
District 7

Adrian Finlay
District 8

Brian Cucco
District 9

GENERAL MANAGER

Don Englet

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
members@firelandsec.com

Firelands
Electric
COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 