GM'S REPORT

THE POWER OF A PENNY

Electricity has become such a fundamental part of our lives that it's easy to forget how often we actually use it. Think of the appliances in your kitchen, for example. Besides the standard refrigerator and stove, you may also have a single-serve coffee maker, food processor, air fryer, and several other small household gadgets. Add in televisions, computers, gaming consoles, smartphones, and entertainment systems, and the number of devices requiring electricity in your home increases significantly.

While all of these modern conveniences require electricity to operate, there is good news — electric power is still a bargain when compared to other items we buy on a regular basis.

Let's take a more in-depth look. Firelands Electric Cooperative's average residential cost for one kilowatthour (kWh) of electricity is 13.4 cents. Sixty minutes of using 1,000 watts of electricity costs a little over a dime, and the price of 80 watts of electricity equals just one penny. While 80 watts doesn't sound like much, it is enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb — the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb — for about 9 hours, all for just one penny.

The value of electricity is also evident when powering other things in your home. Take your smartphone, for instance. Using the same 13.4 cents per kWh price, you can fully charge an iPhone around 15 times for a penny. For less than a quarter, you can charge it once every day of the year!



Just a penny's worth of electricity gets Firelands Electric Cooperative members four and a half minutes of powering a 1,000-watt microwave on high; 20 minutes of running a 200-watt desktop computer; or 2 hours of watching your favorite shows on a 40-watt, 32-inch, LED television. The examples are endless.

Where else can you get that kind of value? For example, how much milk, bread, coffee, or gasoline will a penny buy? Not much in today's economy.

Dan McNaull GENERAL MANAGER

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index, the cost of electricity was 1.8 times higher in 2018 than it was in 1936. During this same eight-decade period, milk and bacon jumped 6.5 and 18.5 times, respectively. At around \$2.75 per gallon, today's gasoline costs roughly 9.5 times more than its price of 29 cents per gallon in 1955.

As consumers, we are fortunate that electricity is such an excellent value because we have such a large appetite for it. Electricity itself is not expensive. It's simply that we use it for so much more these days: lighting, heating, cooling, cooking, refrigeration, cleaning, washing, pumping, entertainment, communications, and even transportation. The average home now has ten Wi-Fi connected devices, and that amount continues to grow.

As the availability and use of electronic devices expands, Firelands Electric members will depend upon the cooperative for more than just power to keep the lights on. That's why your cooperative is always working to provide service that's reliable, affordable, and valuable to you, your family, and your neighbors.

IN THE COMMUNITY

***USO* *USO* Step Up for Soldiers annual drive**

Northern Ohio

It's challenging to be far from home during the holiday season, especially for members of the military.

Thousands of people in United Service Organizations (USO) centers around the globe work tirelessly to make the holiday season bright for American service members and their families — both those stationed abroad and those returning home from deployment.

Firelands Electric Cooperative is proud to once again join forces with local radio stations WLKR-FM and K96-FM to support the USO of Northern Ohio Step Up for Soldiers annual drive. Beginning on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, members of Firelands Electric and the community can bring care package items to the co-op office, located at 103 Industrial Drive in New London.

Donations such as health and wellness items, games, snacks, canned goods, household items, and many others will be accepted. All donated items will be packaged by volunteers and distributed to soldiers and their families from throughout northern Ohio.

A complete list of suggested donation items is available on Firelands Electric's website, www.firelandsec.com/ content/uso-northern-ohio, and on the cooperative's Facebook page.

"This is the cooperative's twelfth year collecting for the USO," says Director of Member Services and Communications Andrea Gravenhorst. "Firelands Electric is honored to be a part of this annual campaign and to support the brave men and women serving our country."



The USO of Northern Ohio serves military families throughout 31 counties and touches the lives of tens of thousands of active duty, guard, and reserve members. To learn other ways that you can help, visit https://northernohio.uso.org.

Care package items for the 2019 USO of Northern Ohio Step Up for Soldiers annual drive can be dropped off at the Firelands Electric Cooperative office from Nov. 11 through Dec. 11, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

POWER GENERATION

CREATING KILOWATTS

Firelands Electric Cooperative members visited their power plant on Oct. 3 to see how and where their electric power is generated.

Thirty-six cooperative members and guests, including ten New London Middle School students, traveled to the Cardinal Power Plant, located along the Ohio River in Brilliant, Ohio. Following an introductory presentation, attendees participated in an hour-long guided tour of the plant.

Highlights of the Cardinal tour included the state-ofthe-art control room and electrostatic precipitators that remove 99% of all fly ash particles. Also of interest was the 423-foot-high closed-cycle cooling tower, which keeps evaporation loss below 1.8%. These two features are just a portion of the more than \$1.2 billion in environmental measures that make Cardinal one of the cleanest coal-fired power plants in the world.

Owned by Ohio's 24 distribution cooperatives, Buckeye Power's Cardinal Plant has the capacity to produce 1,800 megawatts of electricity — that's over 1.8 million kilowatts. The plant provides power to over 380,000 cooperative homes and businesses in 77 of the state's 88 counties.

To produce electricity, the plant's pulverizers grind coal into a fine, talcum-powder-like consistency. The powdered coal is then burned at high temperatures, turning water into steam. This steam is directed into turbines, which drive the generator that produces electricity.

Cardinal generates electricity the instant a co-op member needs it. Electricity is produced at 23,000 to 25,000 volts. Transformers outside the plant then step up the voltage to 138,000 and 345,000 volts, so that it can be transmitted efficiently to cooperative members' homes and businesses throughout Ohio.

Further information about Firelands Electric Cooperative's power supply is available at www. firelandsec.com/content/ power-supply. Additional photos from the 2019 Cardinal Plant Tour can be viewed at www.flickr.com/ photos/firelandsec/ albums.



CO-OP NEWS

Making home improvements?

Your co-op has a rebate for that

Whether replacing an inefficient heat pump, adding attic insulation, or sealing up that leaky rim joist, fall is the perfect time to make upgrades to your home. Completing these types of energy efficient improvement projects before cold winter weather sets in will make your home more comfortable — and save money on your electric bills.

To help stretch those savings even further, Firelands Electric Cooperative offers members a variety of rebates for investing in energy-efficient updates:

- New or replacement heat pump or geothermal system: \$200-\$800
- Insulation upgrades: up to \$800
- Air-sealing improvements: up to \$400
- New or replacement water heater: \$150-\$300
- Replace appliances with ENERGY STAR-certified models: \$25-\$100

In order to qualify for rebates, all home improvement projects must meet energy efficiency and other program requirements as outlined in Firelands Electric Cooperative's guidelines, which are available at www.firelandsec.com/ content/member-programs.



in the **COMMUNITY**



Groundsman Chris Kent tosses baseball stress relievers from a Firelands Electric Cooperative truck during the parade at New London's 111th Firelands Labor Day Festival.



Line Superintendent Zach Collins gets a bird's eye view during the touch-a-truck event at the New London Reservoir Campground's Kids Carnival on Aug. 24.

CAPITAL CREDITS

NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED FUNDS

Official notice is given that the following current or former patrons 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, P.O. Box 32, New London, Ohio 44851, or by phone at 1-800-533-8658.

This is the second of two notices.

ABRAM, DAVID A ABSHER, LINDA ACKERMAN, WILLIAM H ADAMS, A K ADAMS, RICHARD H, JR ADAMS, EDNA ADKINS, ANTHONY R ADKINS, O ADKINS, CHARLES ALBRIGHT FAMILY TRUST ALCORN, MICHAEL E ALEXANDER, ARNOLD ALLEN, KATHERINE R ALSEPT, J R ALT. BERNARD J AMERICAN TOWERS INC AMOS. W M AMSTUTZ, RANDY A ANDERSON, FRANCES L ANDERSON, GARY L ANGRIST, A M APPLEGATE, HAROLD P AQUA GARDENS ARMSTRONG, JANE E ARMSTRONG UTILITIES INC ARTHUR, KIM AT&T COMPANY STORE #OH3440 ATKINS, DANIEL J ATKINSON, ROBERT T ATKINSON, GLENN F OR MARJORIE L ATKINSON AUSTIN, WILLIAM C **B BUILDERS**

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The Firelands Electric Cooperative office will be closed **Nov. 28 and 29**

so that our employees may enjoy the holiday with their families. As always, emergency service is available 24/7 by calling 1-800-533-8658.

Happy Thanksgivin

COOPERATIVE UPDATE

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BOARD MEETING highlights

Firelands Electric Cooperative's board of trustees met Aug. 27 and covered the following items:

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative received 37 membership applications for approval by the board.
- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the July financials and reported on recent accounting and billing department activities.
- The board reviewed and approved a report on a safety meeting held July 24.
- General Manager Dan McNaull reviewed the results of the 2019 ACSI Member Satisfaction Survey. McNaull noted that Firelands' score increased to 87, which is two points higher than the average score of Ohio's 24 electric cooperatives.
- McNaull also reviewed the results of the 2019 Member Questionnaire conducted at the annual meeting and through email.
- Trustee Kevin Reidy provided a recap of the Ohio's Electric Cooperatives meeting that he recently attended in Columbus.

- McNaull reviewed the cooperative's monthly outage report for August with the board and discussed the impact of lightning on the system.
- Director of Operations Don Englet reviewed recent activities and projects in the operations department, including rebuild work in New London and the completed upgrade project for Pleasant Hill Lake Park.
- McNaull reviewed the renewal of the cooperative's insurance plans.
- Director of Member Services and Communications Andrea Gravenhorst reported on recent activities involving the member services and IT departments.

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 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26, at Firelands Electric's facility, located at 103 Industrial Drive, New London.

FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

OUTAGE HOTLINE 1-800-533-8658

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HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION? Email your ideas to: members@firelandsec.com

