



More than 2,400 people attend Member Appreciation Night at Kuehnert Dairy Farm in northwest Allen County

Last month, we had our fourth member appreciation event of 2022 at Kuehnert Dairy Farm. Northeastern members had the entire fall festival to themselves for this special members-only event. Kids of all ages enjoyed the huge corn maze, obstacle courses, climbing walls, corn pit, giant haystack, and more! For adults, the highlights were the farm's hayride tour and learning more about the dairy cows that call Kuehnert Dairy Farm home. We hope you were able to join us for this overwhelmingly successful event.

We want to extend a huge thank-you to the staff at Kuehnert Dairy Farm for opening early and staying open late to accommodate the massive crowd. We hope you, our members, had as much fun as we did at this fun family event.



Be sure to follow NREMC on Facebook to be the first to know about upcoming events for members.

Go to facebook.com/nremc.



KITCHEN SAFETY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Keep safety on your mind as we prepare to spend more time indoors this fall.

The last two months of the year involve plenty of time in the kitchen for many families. It's important to keep safety in mind whether you're preparing Thanksgiving dinner, baking Christmas cookies, or just spending time with one another in the most frequented room in the house.

On the right, we've put together some kitchen safety tips to keep your family safe.

In addition to these tips, be sure to take advantage of all the ways technology can make a busy kitchen less chaotic. For example, ask Alexa to set timers or create lists for you.

Use smart outlets to turn off kitchen appliances so you don't forget. Your smart thermostat can also take care of the room temperature while you're cooking.

We hope these tips give you peace of mind and allow you to enjoy time with your loved ones this holiday season.

- **Never leave cooking equipment unattended.** Turn off burners if you leave the room, or have someone else take over.
- **Keep the cooking area around the stove and oven clear of combustibles,** such as towels, napkins, and potholders.
- **Position all appliances away from the sink.**
- **Plug countertop appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets.**
- **Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the range or toaster.**
- **Turn off and unplug all appliances when cooking is complete.**

**THE MOST IMPORTANT
INGREDIENT WHEN
COOKING IS SAFETY.**





Largest energy storage project gains attention from local legislators

Northeastern REMC's battery storage project completes second phase, saving consumers from rate hikes.

In December 2020, we announced a revolutionary new energy-storage system that would save members more than \$35 million over the next 20 years; two years later, it is complete and well on its way to those total savings.

Recently, Congressman Banks, Representative Judy, Senator Holdman, and Senator Zay attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of one of our five new utility-scale battery storage systems equal to 31MW for three hours or approximately 108MWh, which is the largest of its kind in the region. These sites have successfully reduced our summer critical peak load by nearly 20%. This reduction has allowed us to significantly reduce rate impacts on members, while double-digit rate hikes are common across the Midwest.

"Our commitment to innovation at Northeastern is second to none among electric cooperatives," says Eric Jung, chief executive officer. "We have long provided affordable and

reliable electric service but now more than ever, needed to evolve to meet our members' future energy needs. With these battery sites now fully operational, we are providing a great hedge against rising costs for our members, adding another highly effective tool to help even out power cost instability."

Peak and transmission costs on the power grid account for a significant portion of members' costs. During off-peak times, the battery systems will charge when power rates and demand are lower and discharge during peak demand when infrastructure is most stressed. Jung added that with all the new intermittent generating resources, like wind and solar, battery storage systems like these will aid in keeping the grid stable.

For more information about recent project, please visit the news page at nremc.com/news.



NREMC used the battery storage system during June's historic straight-line windstorm. We deployed stored power to a weakened grid keeping thousands from losing power.

Battery Storage Basics

What is it?

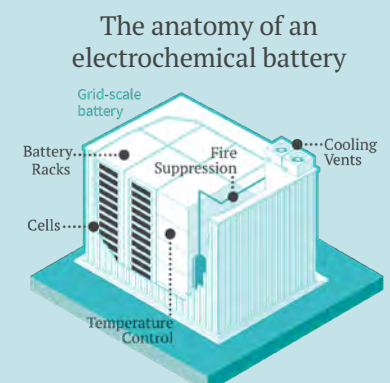
Battery storage allows us the ability to "warehouse" large quantities of energy over long periods of time.

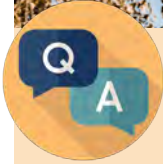
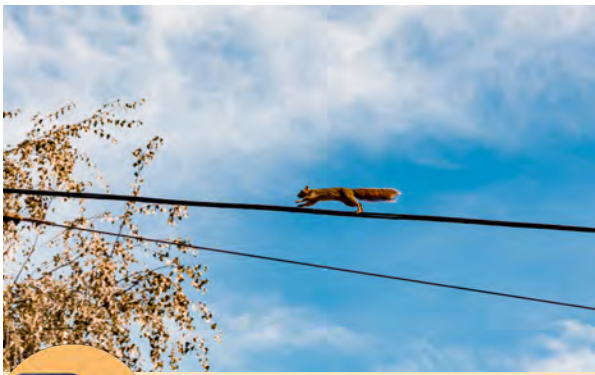
Why does it matter?

Energy storage helps improve grid operation and boosts reliability.

What is the impact?

Energy storage involves devices and methods that absorb power when it's less expensive and save it for when it's most needed.





How can squirrels run across power lines without getting hurt?

When squirrels only touch the line, they are not providing a path to the ground for electricity to flow.

However, if they start to climb down the pole, that's where they can get into trouble. If a squirrel still has one of its rear feet or tail in contact with the wire while stepping down to the transformer or pole with its front paw, it will complete a short circuit and allow electricity to flow. This is often how power outages begin and why we use squirrel guards to protect animals.

Learn more about electricity or ask a question at fb.com/nremc.

Reasons for power outages in snowy weather

We were all surprised by the snow that fell in mid-October, making it one of the earliest snow accumulations in Northern Indiana. Unfortunately, this caused a few power outages in our service area, with many members asking how this could happen. Here are some of the ways winter weather can affect your power.



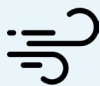
Heavy, wet snow on top of leaves that haven't fallen yet, can weigh down nearby tree branches or trees, causing them to come into contact with power lines.



The heavy weight of significant ice buildup directly on power lines can sometimes cause the lines to fall or sag.



Snow and ice can cause hazardous road conditions and vehicle accidents involving poles.



Wind may cause power lines to swing together, resulting in a fault or short circuit that interrupts service. Strong wind can blow tree limbs or entire trees into power lines.



Tis the season for capital credits

It's that time of year again when being part of an electrical co-op pays off, literally. One of the best things about being a co-op member is that you are not simply a customer but rather a member-owner. Your financial contribution (paying the bill) keeps your lights on but also helps run the co-op that powers more than 30,000 people in this community. A portion of that financial contribution is returned to you each year in the form of capital credits.

Each member will receive a different amount based on how long you've been part of the co-op and how much energy you have used. Go to the capital credits look up tool at nremc.com/credits or scan the QR code below to check and see how much being a member pays you back! You can find the credit on your December bill.

How much will your bill credit be?



Learn more at nremc.com/credits

Powering our community through volunteer work

Our focus on the community is just one of the ways cooperatives differ from other power companies. Our employees have been busy with various community projects in the last couple of months.



On the United Way Day of Caring, NREMC volunteers completed much-needed projects for Mission25, including building a new wheelchair ramp, cleaning gutters, landscaping, painting, and completing some electrical work.



Watch our video about the project here:



A crew headed to Crooked Lake's osprey nest to help install new cameras on the nest. These famous birds have quite a following on YouTube where their nest activities are streamed each spring.

The nest platform was built using a NREMC pole a few years ago, and we continue to help with maintenance each fall.

Electric co-ops across the state participated in Indiana's Co-Op Community Day last month.

An employee group from NREMC spent the day on the mountain bike trails at Morsches Park in Columbia City. They trimmed branches and low-hanging trees so the six-mile trail could be easily passed through again after the summer storms.

Clearing the trail was one of Indiana's 40 unique service projects completed that day by electric co-ops.



Do you know of a need in the community?
Submit a community project at
nremc.com/communityday.



Holiday Closings

Please note that NREMC will be closed on the following days:

Thanksgiving
Thursday, Nov. 24
Friday, Nov. 25

Christmas
Friday, Dec. 23
Monday, Dec. 26

New Year's
Monday, Jan. 2

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Have you deleted expired payment methods lately?

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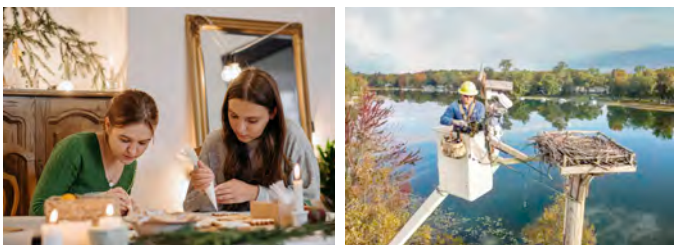
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LIGHTPOST

November/December 2022

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