



Wishing you a
Merry
& *Bright*
Christmas season.

The employees and board members would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year!

We're returning more than \$2 million to our members this year

More than 20,000 members will see capital refunds applied to their bills this month

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) not only keeps your lights on but also helps run the co-op that powers more than 30,000 people in this community, and a portion of that financial contribution is returned to you each year as a benefit of membership!

Many cooperatives go through the year and decide what to retire in the end based on how the year went. At Northeastern, we have flipped this script, and we begin by planning how much we will retire and then base our plans and our budgets on that. The result? We have returned more patronage capital than any other cooperative in the state, over \$33M in total since 1980.

When asked why NREMC does things so differently, Eric Jung, our president and CEO, said, "We do things this way

because we wanted to make a commitment to our members. The way we go about capital retirement affects everything we do, from rate structure to budgeting. This member-first philosophy has allowed Northeastern to return more of our member's money than any other electric co-op in the state."

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

Go to the capital credits look-up tool by
scanning the code to the right.



Operation Round Up provides another round of funding for area nonprofits

Each month, more than 1,400 Northeastern members like you choose to **round up** their electric bills to the next whole dollar to help nonprofit organizations in northern Indiana as part of **Operation Round Up**. The third quarter recipients included a focus on area youth and their families.



Whitley County Night to Shine is a special needs prom for people with disabilities over the age of 14. This funding will help provide a night of dancing, dinner, photos, karaoke, and limo rides for a truly memorable night. Last year, more than 100 guests attended with the help of close to 400 volunteers.



Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana received funding to help provide groceries through the Farm Wagon, the pantry's mobile refrigerated trucks. These trucks allow them to distribute a substantial amount of fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and other available healthy foods to low-income residents in Allen, Huntington, Noble, and Whitley Counties.



Junior Achievement BizTown is an interactive simulation where students work in small groups to operate different businesses that include a wide range of job duties. Students learn to work together as a team, manage their time, satisfy their customers, pay off their business loans, and aim to have a profit by the end of their business day. Funding allows local schools to send students without any additional costs.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana, a youth mentoring program in our service area, received funding to help with recruiting, screening, and training adult volunteers who are paired with at-risk children through their School Buddies program. This program allows volunteers to spend the lunch period once a week one-on-one with a child at their elementary school during the school year and participate in a pen pal program over the summer.

Enroll in **Operation Round Up** today at nremc.com/roundup to help us make an even more significant impact right here in our community. The average monthly donation is only 50¢ per member. **Your small change can change lives!**

Start changing lives now for only 50¢ per month

The average monthly contribution is only 50¢ per member.

Cooperative CALENDAR of STUDENT ART

ART CONTEST

Enter now >>> Your child could **win \$200**

INDIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IEC

Do you have a little artist at home?

The Indiana Electric Cooperative's Calendar of Student Art Contest is open to all K-12 students in Indiana. Your child's artwork could be featured in a printed calendar circulated to thousands of people in Indiana! Plus, each grade level will have a first-place prize of \$200 and an honorable mention prize of \$75 each.

Learn how to enter at nremc.com/artcontest.

Backup generator safety for your home

A backup generator can be an excellent resource for homeowners, especially if an ice storm causes severe damage with prolonged power outages. But do you know the risks it can pose to you, your home, and those around you? We want to help you keep your family safe by reviewing the most common risks homeowners face with generators.



DO'S AND DON'TS

DO operate a generator outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation.

DO install alarms inside the home to provide an early warning of carbon monoxide.

DO turn the generator on before plugging in appliances.

DO NOT plug a generator into the wall without installing a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.

DO NOT use a generator as a permanent solution.

Risk #1: Carbon monoxide poisoning

Small generators use a combustion engine that usually burns gasoline or other liquid fuels. Like any gas-powered machine, these small engines produce carbon monoxide. Keep generators outdoors, away from doors, windows, and vents to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Position your generator's exhaust away from your home, and locate the generator downwind, if possible.

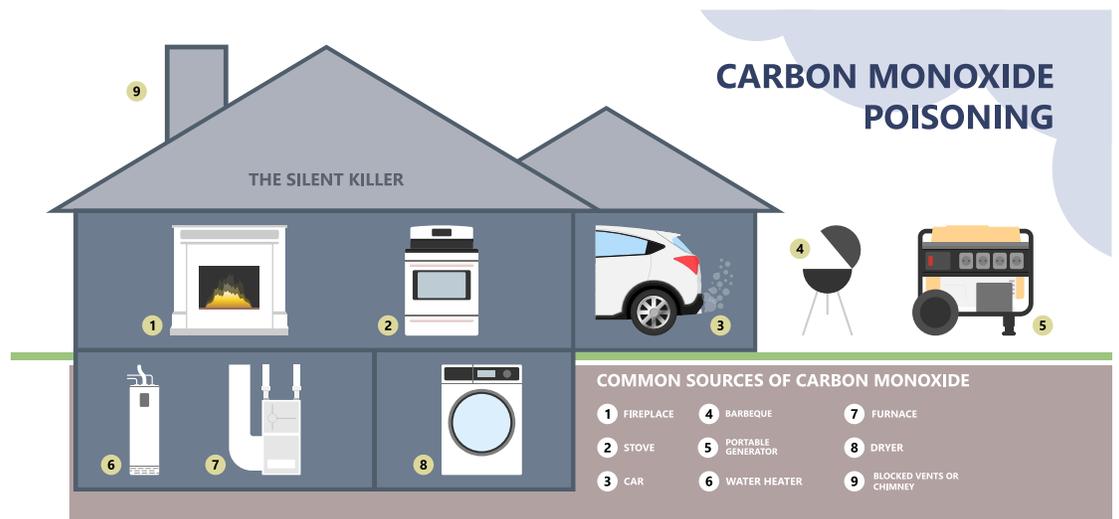
Risk #2: Backfeeding utility lines

To keep utility workers, neighbors, and those in your household safe from danger, never plug your generator directly into your home's wiring. When you send power from the generator throughout your house in reverse, also known as backfeeding, it can feed into your electric utility's power lines. As a result, workers attempting to restore power might unexpectedly encounter this high voltage, which could cause serious harm. To prevent creating a dangerous situation, have a professional install a transfer switch if you want your generator to run your home's electrical system during an outage.

Risk #3: Burns and fire

When using a generator, store extra fuel in an approved container in a cool, well-ventilated place away from fuel-burning appliances. Before refueling your generator, please turn it off and let it cool. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite. It's also important not to handle the generator with wet hands to avoid electric shock. Finally, be sure to avoid using a generator in rainy or wet conditions.

Source: Indiana Electric Cooperatives



Tips for an energy-wise home this Christmas season

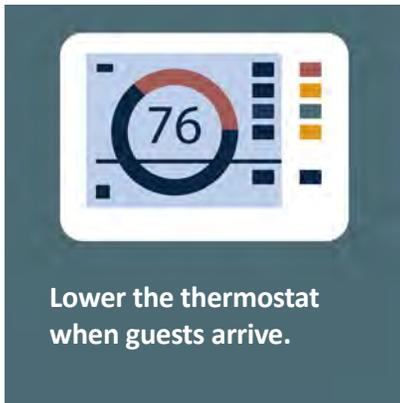
Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights yet, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights, and they're safer because they're not made of glass, making them more resistant to breaking.

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models are inexpensive and are available at any retail store. With a light timer or smart plug, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money, and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, be sure it's specifically intended for outdoor use.

However you decorate for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. **Check out the energy saving tips to the right, or visit our Facebook page for additional suggestions.**

Find more energy saving tips on our blog at nremc.com/blog.



Exclusive discounts for NREMC members

As a valued member of our electric cooperative, you have access to a FREE, exclusive membership that provides discounts and deals at stores and businesses where you're already shopping. Getting a bargain is simple—show or mention your Co-op Connections Discount Card to participating merchants and receive their advertised special. These include local restaurants, florists, entertainment venues, and services, like automobile repair, carpet cleaning, car rentals, hotels, and more! There are also plenty of offers for national chains around the country, so keep it handy if you're traveling during the holidays.

You'll find a complete listing of deals and offers at nremc.com/deals.



Raising walls and spirits at Habitat build

Hammers were swinging as we built the framework of a home in Allen County alongside Habitat for Humanity volunteers.

Every October, electric cooperatives across Indiana host Cooperative Community Day. This year, 28 co-ops completed more than 40 projects within their communities, including our project in Allen County.

We chose to partner with Habitat of Humanity of Greater Fort Wayne to utilize the handy skills of eight of our employees. This group of volunteers represented different departments at NREMC, including metering, operations, marketing, member services, and engineering.

Under the direction of crew leaders from Habitat of Humanity, we worked together to complete the house's framework. The group started their morning with an empty concrete slab, and by lunchtime all of the interior and exterior walls were standing.

"A co-op's reason for existing is to serve its community. Working with Habitat for Humanity is a great way to serve and make a direct impact on families in our area," said Eric Jung, CEO of Northeastern REMC. "Investing in the communities we serve is at the forefront of everything we do, and our employees take this responsibility seriously. We have no trouble getting volunteers for these types of projects," said Jung.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity or to get involved with a local build, visit habitatgfw.com.



NREMC employees from left to right: Brent Buckles, Derek Coyle, Doug Sauers, Heath Lortie, Pete Bauer, Taya Parks, and Chris Todd



Above: Taya Parks secures walls to foundation. Heath Lortie and Doug Sauers measure parts of the frame to make sure they fit.



QUICK INFO FOR MEMBERS

Holiday Closings

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

Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 25
Friday, November 26

Christmas
Thursday, December 23
Friday, December 24

New Year's Day (observed)
Friday, December 31

Don't forget that you can always manage your account and pay your bill at nremc.com even when our office is closed.

Let us help you during this busy season!

Automatic payment is the easiest way to make sure your electric bill is paid on time every month. Plus, it's one less thing to think about during these busy holiday months!

After enrollment, your bill will be paid on your due date each month using the checking, savings, or credit card account that you designate when you sign up.

Sign up now at nremc.com/autopay.

Contact Us

memberservices@nremc.com

888-413-6111
nremc.com

Call 811 before you dig!

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LIGHTPOST

Nov/Dec 2021

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