



Round up your electric bill to help non-profit organizations right in our local communities.

Enroll now!



NORTHEASTERN REMC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative
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Published for members of
Northeastern Rural Electric
Membership Corporation

November/December 2020

nremc.com

Help us partner with local non-profits to make a bigger impact in our local communities when it's needed most.

Because of the financial challenges created by COVID-19 this year, many of the local non-profit organizations in our area have struggled with funding. More people are using these services due to the hardships they're facing, but the donations to these organizations have decreased.

"Individual giving is lower this year, and I know we're not the only non-profit who has had to cancel fundraising events," says Laura Tucker, Executive Director of BABE of Whitley County, one of the organizations NREMC supports. She continued, "It's been a tough year for everyone, but creative funding opportunities like this helps us meet the needs of those we serve."

On top of funding challenges, most organizations also had to change the way they provide these vital programs to the community because of occupancy rules.

"When the pandemic hit, Junior Achievement of Whitley County (JA) was able to pivot our programs into virtual programs so the educators are still able to provide this program to students," says Maureen Shippy, Director of Development for JA of Whitley County. "The support from NREMC's Operation Round Up® has helped us continue these programs." said Shippy.

To help these organizations, Northeastern is encouraging members to join Operation Round Up®. This program allows members to round up their electric bill to the next whole

dollar each month. These funds are donated quarterly to those non-profit organizations who apply for assistance. The average donation is only \$6.00 per member per year, but it can make a huge impact when we all come together.

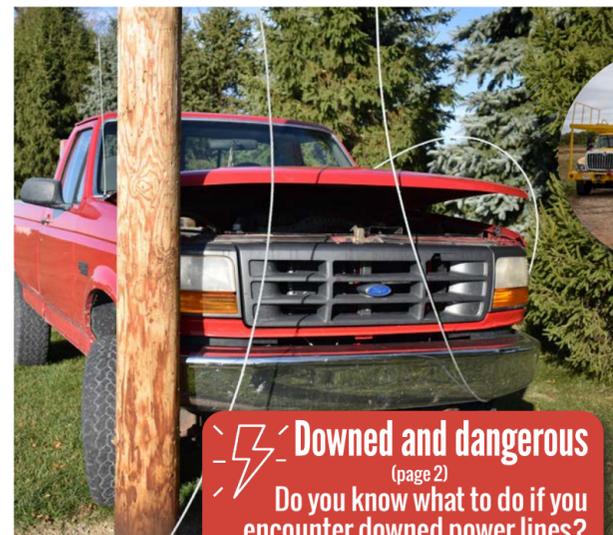
Members can also make a lump sum donation as often as they would like on our website or choose to add an additional amount to their "round up" amount each month to make an even greater impact.

To enroll in this program, go to nremc.com/roundup or log into your online account and click on "round up". As always, you can have a member service representative walk you through this by calling 1-888-413-6111.

The deadline for local organizations to apply for funding in the fourth quarter of this year has already expired, but to apply for funding for the first quarter of 2021 visit nremc.com/roundup today!

If all of us rounded up our electric bill each month, that would mean **\$162,000** COULD BE DONATED EACH YEAR
Based on the average yearly contribution of \$6.00 per member

In this issue:



Plus...

- 8 Safety Tips for hanging Christmas lights (cover)
- How to get the whole family involved in saving energy (page 3)
- Enter the Cooperative Student Art Contest (page 4)

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888-413-6111 nremc.com



Wishing your family a safe and wonderful Christmas

Even if your Christmas looks a little different this year, we hope your holiday season is filled with all of the people you love. Wishing you a very merry and bright Christmas from all of us at Northeastern REMC.

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8 Safety Tips for Hanging Christmas Lights on Your House

Whether you're trying to have the best Christmas decorations on the block or just putting an inflatable Rudolph on your roof, please keep in mind these safety tips.

Check your lights before you begin. Frayed, exposed or damaged cords should never be used.

Choose an extension cord that is labeled for outdoor use.

Always look up and around before raising a ladder and keep it 10 to 20 feet away from any overhead power lines.

If you're close to the power line that runs into your home, do not touch it. Touching live lines can cause serious injury or death.

If it's rainy or your roof has snow on it, pick another day to hang your lights.

If you're purchasing new lights, choose LED lights to do your energy bill a favor. Plus, LED lights are less likely to overheat.

Use plastic light clips or hooks when hanging lights. Never use

staples, nails or screws because you can pierce the light cable.

Connect your lights to a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupting (GFCI) outlet. The GFCI outlet will trip before the breaker in your house if there is a short or surge. This is also an extra layer of protection against fires.

Keep your home and loved ones safe this Christmas by being careful when hanging your outdoor lights. We'd love to see your lighted decorations! Post them on our Facebook page.



Post your outdoor Christmas lights at [facebook.com/nremc](https://www.facebook.com/nremc)



What is a transformer?

You've seen those cylinder shaped containers on a lot of poles, but do you know what they are? These are transformers, and they convert the voltage from several thousands of volts down to 240 volts, which is what your house needs to be fully powered.

- These transformers weigh almost 300 pounds each!
- Each one holds close to 15 gallons of mineral oil. This helps keep the transformer cool and works as insulation so that the transformer case isn't energized.
- There are also bigger sizes of transformers that are used with commercial and industrial sites. Some are almost as tall as a person.



Above: Journeyman lineman, Todd Myers, shows the size reference of how large a transformer really is compared to how small it looks on the pole pictured on the right.

Downed and dangerous. Do you know what to do if you encounter downed power lines?

Last month, one of our line crews responded to a vehicle accident that resulted in downed power lines. Thankfully, the driver of this vehicle knew to stay in their car until help arrived. Please follow the safety tips below to keep yourself and anyone else involved in an accident safe.



Even if the downed lines are not touching your vehicle directly, the ground will still be energized. This is why you should stay in your car until help arrives.

Stay put! Stepping outside your vehicle can be deadly.

In all power line-related emergencies, call for help immediately by dialing 911. The only time you should attempt to exit your vehicle is if it's on fire.

If your vehicle is on fire:

- Jump out of the vehicle with both feet together to avoid contacting both the car and the ground. Then, use small shuffling steps to get away from the car. This way, you reduce the risk of becoming part of the path of electricity.
- Do not try to help someone else from the car while you are standing on the ground.

How to get the whole family involved in energy saving



Saving energy can be everyone's responsibility. Since we're all still spending a lot of time at home, now is a great time for parents to teach their children about saving energy.

First, educate your children on why it's important to save energy. Reducing your home's energy consumption not only helps with the household budget, but it can preserve our national resources, reduce pollution, and helps create a healthier living environment for everyone and everything on the planet.

Next, start with small things your kids can do as part of their daily routine. A few examples are:

- Take shorter showers
- Remember to close exterior doors
- Avoid frequently opening the refrigerator
- Turn off the light when you leave the room
- Turn off the faucet while you're brushing your teeth

Once they have those down or, if your kids are a little older, you can move on to:

- On hot days, keep the curtains and drapes closed to block out heat
- Try using a ceiling fan instead of turning down the air conditioner if it feels stuffy
- Unplug chargers when not in use
- Teach your children how to use the thermostat in your home to make adjustments during the day
- Teach them to know when they should open windows instead of using the air conditioner

These are just a few ways to get started with teaching your children about saving energy.

Learn more energy saving tips at nremc.com/blog



Your child could win \$200 and be featured in next year's calendar!

Cooperative Calendar of Student Art Contest is open now

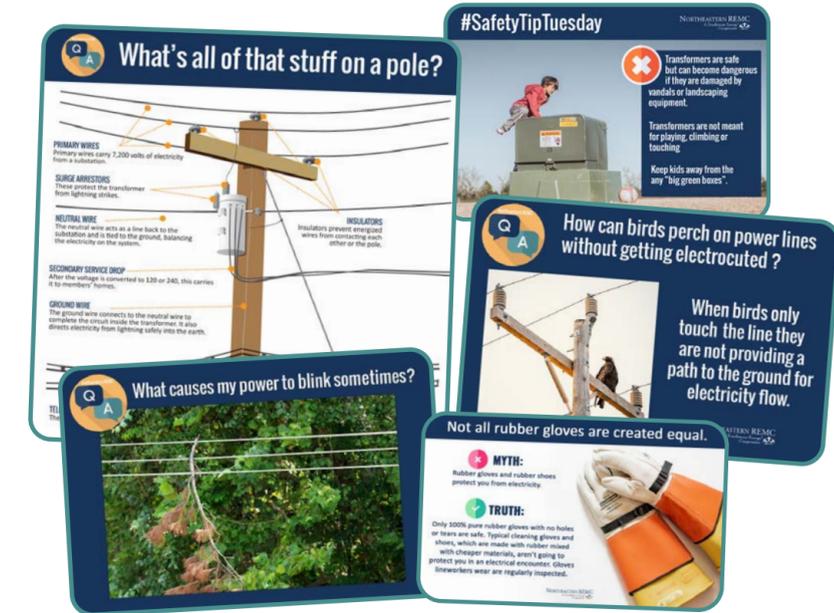
Do you have a little artist at home? Encourage them to create something for the Indiana Electric Cooperative's Calendar of Student Art. This annual contest is open to all K-12 students in Indiana. Your child's artwork could be featured in a printed calendar circulated to thousands of people in Indiana! Plus, each grade level will have a first place prize of \$200 and an honorable mention prize of \$75 each.

Learn more and download an entry form at nremc.com/artcontest

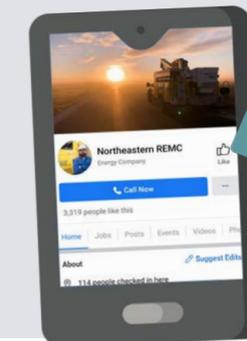
Curious about electricity?

Follow us on Facebook to learn more and have your questions answered.

If you haven't been following Northeastern REMC on Facebook, you're missing a lot of interesting and helpful information! In addition to alerting members of power outages, we've been giving members an inside look at how their homes and businesses are powered, answering common questions and sharing safety tips.



Get started by scanning this QR code or go to Facebook.com/NREMC



and click the "like" button.

SPOTLIGHT

Holiday Closings

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

Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 26
Friday, November 27

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25

New Year's Day
Friday, January 1

You can always pay your bill and manage your account online at nremc.com even when our office is closed.

Use your Co-Op Connections Discount Card for shopping deals

As a member of Northeastern REMC, you are eligible to receive discounts on products and services from participating businesses around the area, the state and the whole country!

Plus, you can save on prescriptions, eye and hearing care, lab work, dental savings, equipment rental and so much more. This free membership card also gives you discounts on everyday expenses. Browse deals or sign up for a card at nremc.com/deals

Contact Us

Email: memberservices@nremc.com

1-888-413-6111
nremc.com

Call 811 before you dig