



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partners



www.harrisonrea.com

## We have the power to serve you best

As you might know, Harrison Rural Electrification Association (HREA) is not alone in its mission to bring reliable supplies of electricity to rural residents.

There currently are three electric distribution Cooperatives like HREA serving West Virginia, however, there are more than 850 nationwide. Despite our obvious similarities, each business is different because the areas we serve are unique. Each Co-op has its own individual history and serves a distinctive mix of residential, industrial, commercial and agricultural members. Each makes its own business decisions independently. That's what Cooperative Principle No. 4, Autonomy and Independence, is all about. It's one of the seven principles all coopera-

tive forms of business are based upon.

Electric Cooperatives are subject to less regulation by federal and state governments because of the healthy way in which our members regulate us. Our independence from distant, outside regulators also is based on our historical commitment to the communities we serve. To be autonomous and independent is crucial for our Cooperative to be able to best serve the needs of you, the members. That's because what might be a sound decision for one Co-op, say, with a relatively small number of members spread out in an extremely rural area, might not for another that has a larger number of members, some living in a more urban setting. Local service and attention to your unique needs is why having local control is best for the Co-op.

Although HREA sails its own ship, so to speak, we are not sailing alone. Our Co-op belongs to the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives statewide association, as well as the national group, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and Touchstone Energy®, a national alliance of more than 640 electric Cooperatives nationwide. Touchstone Energy gives us access to online energy audits and marketing campaigns. Its

### Manager's Corner

By  
Gary Jackson,  
CEO/General  
Manager



utility supply and service division allows us to purchase equipment and materials at significantly less expense, because of the power of aggregation, than if we tried to buy them on our own. However, none of these groups tells us what we must do. The decisions about how to bring you electricity at the best possible cost are left to our employees and to our board of directors, which is elected by you, the members.

On occasion, when HREA needs a large amount of capital to pay for expansions, we can borrow from a number of sources, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service or the Cooperative Finance Corporation, a bank that is itself a cooperative.

Finally, the leaders of our Co-op, who also are members, know this area and its needs well. Our independence and autonomy to make our decisions allows us to serve you in the most efficient way possible, and that's the way it should be.

### Board of Directors

Michael Cross, Dist. 7 .....President  
Greg Robertson, Dist. 2 .....Vice President  
Darrell Powell, Dist. 6 .....Secy.-Treas.  
C.B. Sharp .....Dist. 1  
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Ron Watson .....Dist. 5

Gary L. Jackson, General Manager  
Terry Stout .....Office Manager  
Alan Cox .....Operations Manager  
Richard L. Fox .....Staking Engineer  
Nada McNemar .....Editor

#### Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. - Fri.

## Avoid electrical hazards around water

Keep outlets near hot tubs, spas and pools covered and dry between uses. New outlet covers are available that offer weather protection while a plug is inserted into the outlet.

Keep cords and plugs away from hot tubs, spas, pools and puddles from wet bathers. Never handle electrical items, plugs or outlets when wet. If an electrical product falls into water, do not reach into the water for it. Make sure you are dry and not in contact with water or metal surfaces, and unplug it immediately or shut off the circuit powering the item.

Outlets on or near hot tubs, spas and pools should be protected by a ground-fault circuit inter-

rupter (GFCI). Many older swimming pools that pre-date the introduction of GFCIs in the 1970s should be upgraded to add GFCI protection for branch circuits supplying power to underwater pool lights operating above 15 volts, and outlets within 20 feet of the pool.

Note, however, that when a person gets immersed in an isolated body of water, like a hot tub, the water could become electrified without involving a ground-fault as the electric current passes through water (and perhaps a person) from one electrical pole to the opposite pole. In this case, the GFCI may not provide shock or electrocution protection.

## Easy summer cooling tips

by CHRIS DORSI

If your home is too hot in the summer, there are many ways you can help keep heat out of your house. Planting trees, for instance, is one of the best ways to diffuse the hot summer sun before it enters your home. But a surprising amount of heat comes from inside your home.


The biggest sources of internal heat gain are lights and appliances. Reducing their use will save electricity and keep your home cooler. In humid climates, moisture that is released by cooking, bathing and other activities also will make it harder for air conditioners to cool your home. A drier home feels more comfortable.

Here are some easy ways to keep cool in the summer:

- Replace standard incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs. The electricity used by standard bulbs produces 10 percent light and 90 percent heat. Also, compact fluorescent lights are cheaper to operate.

- Schedule heat-producing chores like baking or doing the laundry after the hottest part of the day.
- Install an insulating jacket on your water heater.
- Use kitchen and bathroom fans to remove heat and moisture during and after cooking and bathing.
- When replacing appliances, buy those with the Energy Star® label. These appliances conserve energy and release less unwanted heat.
- If you are home during the day, use a room fan to create a cooling breeze.
- If you live in an area where evenings are cool, don't forget about the cheapest cooling method of all. Open your doors and windows, or run window fans. This will move cool evening air through your home for almost no cost.

*Chris Dorsi is a nationally recognized expert on energy efficiency. For more free energy-saving tips, visit the Saturn Resource Management Web site at [www.srmi.biz](http://www.srmi.biz)*



**Energy Efficiency**  
*Tip of the Month*

**Install occupancy sensors in bathrooms, utility closets, and other less-used spaces to control lighting in response to movement. Occupancy sensors may also be suitable for spaces such as offices that are not regularly staffed.**

Source: E Source

## Wear that helmet

Thousands of cyclists will be racing through the French countryside this month as part of the Tour de France. And all of them will be wearing helmets.

Every year, approximately a half million kids are injured riding their bikes, and 250 die from the injuries. Estimates show that 75 percent of the injuries could be averted if helmets were worn — only about 20 percent of U.S. children wear one.

While it's important children own a helmet, it's important for parents to make sure they're wearing them.

*Source: kidshealth.org*

# Reduce your air conditioner cost

The trick to reducing your summer air conditioning costs is to reduce the amount of time that your air conditioner runs.

There are three basic ways to reduce operating hours. The first is to make sure your system is running properly with good maintenance and service.

The second is to increase your thermostat setting either manually or automatically. And the third is to employ low-cost cooling methods.

Your system's filters and coils should be cleaned periodically. A dirty system deteriorates air conditioning performance and increases operating time. Ask your service technician how to

change filters and how to clean your outdoor coil. The filters should be changed every one to three months and the outdoor coil should be cleaned every year.

If your home is vacant for part of the day, use a programmable thermostat to turn the temperature up before you leave and down before you return. You will need to experiment with different time settings to test how long it takes the system to recover from

the higher temperature.

By the way, closing registers in unused rooms doesn't usually help to reduce operating hours and may reduce your system's efficiency.

For low-cost cooling methods, try these effective improvements to reduce air conditioning operating

hours:

- Set your thermostat up 4 degrees and run room fans to move the air and cool your family by the wind chill effect. Fans can counteract the higher thermostat setting.
- Install shades, blinds, awnings, sun screens or window films on your sunny-side windows.
- Insulate your attic to the maximum practical



Lennox International Inc.

depth of insulation.

- Line-dry your clothes if possible.
- Don't use your oven on hot days.
- Install compact fluorescent lamps in the fixtures you use the most. Old-fashioned incandescent lamps produce 10 percent light and 90 percent heat.

Source: John Krigger, Saturn Resource Management ([www.srmi.biz](http://www.srmi.biz))

## Saluting 'Old Glory'

As people celebrate our nation's independence and salute the flag passing by in numerous parades, there inevitably will be references to "Old Glory."

The unofficial nickname for the American flag, it was coined in 1831 by Capt. William Driver, a shipmaster from Salem, Mass., according to the U.S. Flag Day Foundation.

As he was leaving port on one of his many voyages aboard the *Charles Doggett*, friends presented him with a flag of 24 stars. Unfurling the banner for the first time, he reportedly exclaimed, "Old Glory!"

The 24-star flag was adopted as the official American flag on July 4, 1822, and served as the nation's banner for 14 years.

*Harrison Rural  
Electrification  
Association will be  
closed July 4th  
to celebrate  
Independence Day!*

# Enjoy summer fun while staying safe

It's hard to think of summer without also thinking of fun. Harrison REA and the Electrical Safety Foundation are here to remind you that whether enjoying outdoor activities, hitting the road on vacation or relaxing with a good book, take a little time to review summer safety with your family and friends.

Top electrical hazards during the summer often are related to storms. Lightning strikes, power outages and electrical hazards in the aftermath of storms often are the causes of death and injury during summer months. Let's all keep the following in mind:

## Water + Electricity = Danger

Water and electricity don't mix. To reduce electrical hazards, here's some safety advice for folks who love swimming and boating:

Sailboats often have masts of 30 feet or more, which are dangerous when they come into contact with overhead power lines. Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

Use outlet covers on outdoor receptacles near swimming pools. Keep cords and electrical devices away from pools. Never handle electrical items when you are wet.

Use a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

Electrical devices such as circuit breakers, fuses, GFCIs, receptacles, plugs and switches can malfunction when water and silt get inside. Replace those that have been submerged.

Do not allow power cord connections to become wet.

Outdoors, dangers such as power lines in contact with water can pose electrical hazards.

Indoors, submerged outlets or electrical cords may be energizing the water — a potential lethal trap.

When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electric shock.

## Safety during and after storms

Take care when stepping into a flooded area, and be aware that submerged outlets or electrical cords may prove deadly.

Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers. Electrical parts can become grounded and pose an electric shock hazard, or overheat and cause a fire. A qualified service repair dealer should recondition electrical equipment that has been wet. Certain equipment will require complete replacement, while a trained professional can recondition other devices.

Downed power lines can carry an electric current

strong enough to cause serious injury or death. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone — and it could do that through your body. The following tips can help you stay safe around downed lines:

If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it.

The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.

If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.

Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.

Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.

Do not drive over downed lines.

If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed line, stay in your car. Honk your horn for help and tell others to stay away from your vehicle.

If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet

together and avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffle away from the car.



## Portable generators

Take special care with portable electric generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated can become deadly.

Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can backfeed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs. A qualified, licensed electrician should install your generator to ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

Other tips include:

Make sure your generator is properly grounded.

Keep the generator dry.

Plug appliances directly into the generator.

Make sure extension cords used with generators are rated for the load, and are free of cuts, worn insulation, and have three-pronged plugs.

Do not overload the generator.

Do not operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces.

Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide very quickly, which can be deadly.

Use a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries.

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation*