

NEWS & VIEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS
OF HENDRICKS POWER COOPERATIVE

MAY 2023
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AROUND TOWN

Calendar of Events

MAY 20

Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars

Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds
6-9 pm

Enjoy a night of dancing to support the Hendricks County Historical Museum.

Learn More:

<https://bit.ly/3JfUI4r>

MAY 31 - AUGUST 16

Summer Fun Run/Walk

Various Hendricks County Parks
4:30 - 6:30 pm

Visit new parks and trails throughout Hendricks Co. to support the Parks Foundation!

Learn More & Register:

<https://bit.ly/3JdvQoJ>

JULY 1-19

Online Board of Directors Voting

Login to SmartHub to cast your vote!

JULY 20

Annual Meeting & Member Appreciation

Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds
11 am - 8 pm

Join us for our board of directors election, live line safety and electrical vehicle demos, Silly Safaris animal shows, face painting, and balloon animals! Learn more online at: www.hendrickspower.com/annualmeeting



SMART HOME SAVINGS

Reduce Peak Usage with Smart Home Technology

New smart home tech can make saving energy easier with automation

Smart home technology has never been more accessible or affordable. The new time of use rate effective in April, and reflected in May's statements, makes home automation and energy conservation worth looking into.

With multiple options and tools, knowing which will help save energy most effectively can be tough. Here are a few of our Energy Advisor's recommendations on devices that offer the best return on energy savings.

- 1 Smart Thermostats**
Your HVAC unit is the largest single-user of energy in your home. Taking the time to install and program a smart thermostat is the most effective way to save energy. Our Advisors suggest installing a thermostat that is the same brand as your HVAC for best results.
- 2 Smart Appliances**
When it is time to upgrade your household appliances, take the guesswork out of the search and look for the ENERGY STAR rating. These appliances are the most energy efficient. Programmable and delay settings also come in handy!
- 3 Household Energy Monitors**
If you are curious to see what electronics in your home are using the most energy and when, consider a home energy monitor. These helpful gadgets are installed in your electrical panel and provide an in-depth look at your home's usage for a detailed understanding.

For personalized suggestions and assistance in implementing your smart home technology, reach out to our Energy Advisors at (317) 745-5473 or visit our website at www.hendrickspower.com. For more money-saving ideas and information about the rate update, please visit us online at www.hendrickspower.com/rate-update. As always, we are here to answer your questions and provide resources.

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HENDRICKS POWER
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Beautifying your Big Green Box

Many members have pad-mounted transformers in their yards. These "big green boxes" can usually be found in your front yard, especially in subdivisions or neighborhoods. These transformers play a big part in making sure everyone in your neighborhood has electricity.

Many people don't know that during outages and maintenance, our crews need to access the inside of the transformer. These boxes house dangerous high-voltage equipment that requires 8' clearance in the front and 4' around the sides.

We know transformer boxes can make landscaping and beautifying your front yard a bit of a challenge. Here are a few helpful suggestions that won't extend outages or interfere with maintenance.

DO:

- Plant a variety of colorful flowering ground-cover plants. Some of our favorite low-maintenance types include the **Creeping Phlox** or the **Lithodora**.
- Look for perennials that offer coverage and height, but don't block your transformer. Bushes or woody plants should be avoided as they will need to be transplanted. A few of our suggestions include classic **Tulips, Gladiolus, and Irises**. Try **Lily of the Valley** if you're looking for something longer-lasting.



Always allow 8' of clearance in the front of transformers.
Photos courtesy of Start at Home Decor, 99 Architects, and Fast Rocks

DON'T:

- Use **artificial boulders** to completely cover your transformer. Our crew needs to be able to locate transformers fast to provide reliable electricity.
- Plant bushes, trees, or any **woody plants with hard stems or stalks**. These plants will need to be transplanted and can result in extended outages.
- Place decorative **fences or gates**. Our crew needs to be able to locate and access your transformer whenever an outage arises.



TAKE CARE CHARGING YOUR ELECTRIC VEHICLE

ARE YOU AMONG THE GROWING NUMBER OF DRIVERS SLIDING IN BEHIND THE WHEEL OF AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE? KNOW THE SAFETY RULES FOR CHARGING YOUR EV.

- Before you plug into any electrical outlet, have a qualified electrician inspect and verify the electrical system (outlet, wiring, junctions and protection devices) for heavy-duty service according to your vehicle's owner's manual.
- Check the outlet and plug while charging and discontinue use if the outlet or plug is hot.
- Always use the charger provided by the vehicle's manufacturer.
- Do not use extension cords, multi-outlet power strips, surge protection strips or similar devices.
- Do not use an outlet that is worn or damaged, or one that will not hold the plug firmly in place.
- Do not use an outlet that is on a circuit with other electrical loads.
- Before using a public charger, always inspect it first to make sure it doesn't appear damaged.
- EV charging stations are designed so the cable remains de-energized until it's connected to the port on the vehicle. Once connected, the vehicle starts communication with the device, conducting measurements to determine everything is safe and working properly, and only then will it begin the flow of energy.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



Capital Credit Retirement

HPC Board of Directors will determine Capital Credit retirement

Hendricks Power's Board of Directors will determine the amount of capital credit retirements being distributed and for which years in its May board meeting. Stay tuned for additional notifications regarding your capital credits. As a reminder, be sure to keep your member record information up-to-date should your years be retired. Death, divorce, name changes, moving, and changing of telephone number are all life events that may impact the disbursement of your capital credits. To update your member record, please call us at (317) 745-5473.