

NEWS & VIEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS
OF HENDRICKS POWER COOPERATIVE

APRIL 2024
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AROUND TOWN

Calendar of Events

APRIL 15-19
Workzone Awareness Week
Slow down and stay focused when in work zones!

APRIL 18
National Lineworker Appreciation Day
Thank you to all of our dedicated lineworkers. We appreciate you!

MAY 4
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:
www.hendrickscountymuseum.org

JUNE 1
B&O Bicycle Tour
Cardinal Elementary, Brownsburg
7:30 am -3:00 pm
You may choose from 11-, 17-, 25-, 45- and 62-mile loops. After the ride, stick around for lunch and some live music.
Learn More:
www.tinyurl.com/botrail2024

JULY 18
Annual Meeting & Member Appreciation
Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds
11 am - 7 pm
Save the date & stay tuned for additional details!



LINeworker APPRECIATION

Lineworker Appreciation Day

Appreciating our hard-working linemen

You've likely noticed Hendricks Power crews working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions.

The work can be heavy in more ways than one. The equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds. That's the same as carrying six gallons of water! Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. Being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. Becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years). That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness.

Despite the many challenges, Hendricks Power lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later.

Hendricks Power has 21 lineworkers that are responsible for keeping your lights on 24/7, 365 days a year. They maintain nearly 2,000 miles of power lines across five counties. Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

THANK YOU
for powering our community



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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

A Note from our CEO



Greg Ternet, CEO

Hendricks Power Cooperative Members,

Many of you are aware of the Walnut Hills development driven by the Canadian based company Cordelio Power. As your local electric cooperative, and a trusted resource, Hendricks Power wants to ensure you have accurate information about the project.

Cordelio Power develops and operates renewable power facilities across North America. Walnut Hills is a proposed wind farm spanning 8,000 acres in Hendricks County's Eel River Township, with a projected output of up to 200 megawatts (MW) of power. While this location is within Hendricks Power's service territory, the co-op is not involved with this project and our distribution system will not be interconnected to the project.

Any power potentially produced from this wind farm would not provide a direct benefit to Hendricks Power, our members, or rate payers in Hendricks County. If it eventually advances, the power produced would be contracted and sold to other power providers or sold daily at market price on the transmission grid.

You may not realize it, but Hendricks Power does not generate electricity. The co-op purchases power from a generation and transmission cooperative, Wabash Valley Power, and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community. Through Wabash Valley Power we are increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that is available to our members whenever they need it, at an affordable price.

A key challenge facing wind and solar energy is variability. The output of solar and wind, for example, can vary significantly over different seasons and times in a day, like when the wind stops blowing or the sun goes behind a cloud. One way to deal with that issue is energy storage, an advancing battery storage technology that will equip electric co-ops to beat peak energy prices and save members money.

This battery storage technology is promising and will one day be a great complement to renewable generation but is still expensive and needs technological advancement to become an everyday component that we can comfortably depend on. For now, wind and solar are best deployed as components of a diverse energy portfolio that also includes traditional generating resources.

Winter Storm Elliott and Winter Storm Uri are good examples of why we cannot be dependent on renewable energy just yet. The unexpected winter blasts caused a huge demand for electricity and went beyond energy forecasts for those periods. All available generator and demand response programs were initiated. In one instance (Uri) the wind provided minimal aid, and in the other instance (Elliott) the wind production was significantly higher. As renewable generation replaces traditional generation, these risks could become more frequent and add to the potential for generation brownouts or blackouts.

Hendricks Power believes that a mix of energy sources acts as a safeguard, ensuring that the grid remains operational even in the face of unexpected challenges. We work to keep our employees educated and exposed to emerging technologies, including wind and solar power, battery storage, energy efficiency and programs to help manage electricity demand. We recently developed a 7 MW solar array south of Pittsboro. This installation features nearly 20,000 solar photovoltaic panels and can generate enough energy to power 300 homes. We are also studying battery technology and considering installing a system at one of our substations within the next year or so.

Hendricks Power strongly supports an all-of-the-above energy strategy that ensures an affordable, reliable, and safe supply of electricity.

Cooperatively yours,

Greg Ternet, CEO

2022 FUEL MIX

42%
COAL

26%
NATURAL GAS

21%
RENEWABLES

11%
NUCLEAR

Data provided by Wabash Valley Power Alliance

Operation Round Up Continues Community Giving

Youth programs across Hendricks County receive support

On behalf of Hendricks Power Cooperative and its members, donations were made to St. Malachy School, North Salem Elementary, and Project A.N.G.E.L. (Area Neighbors Giving Extra Love) of Hendricks County.

St. Malachy will be using its \$1,000 donation to install new soccer goals on its campus for various community youth teams and its students. St. Malachy serves students from preschool through eighth grade.

North Salem Elementary will use its donated funds of \$1,000 to purchase 24 balance bikes, converter kits, and helmets for its Bikes for Kids Program, which serves more than 70 students.

Project A.N.G.E.L. received a \$1,000 donation, which will sponsor children in its Christmas Assistance program. Through the program, eligible children receive three outfits, three toys, a winter coat, and a box of groceries for their families. In 2023, the organization saw a 20 percent increase in Christmas Assistance applications.

"We are thankful to our generous members who make these donations possible," said Heather Thompson, Director of Marketing and Member Engagement at Hendricks Power Cooperative. "Assisting children within our community by supporting their development is vital."



A \$1,000 donation was made to St. Malachy School to replace its soccer goals

ENERGY CASE STUDY

The Difference an Energy Audit Can Make

Member follows tips from energy audit & uses 49% less energy

Energy advisor Andrew Wray met member Vicki McLaughlin in July 2023 when he went to her home to perform an energy audit. During the audit, Wray reviewed detailed usage history from SmartHub with her and used specialized equipment, such as an infrared camera, as they walked through the home together and he examined the heating, air conditioning, water heating, appliances, doors, windows, insulation, and caulking.

"Andrew was so knowledgeable," said McLaughlin. "He took the time to explain areas of concern during the audit and provided me a list of ways to help save energy."

After the audit, McLaughlin quickly began tackling items on that checklist. She added insulation, sealed air leaks around ductwork and doors, and changed air filters. She also started looking for ways to change her habits, including using programmable appliances to shift energy use away from on peak hours when the cost is higher. These changes have made a significant difference. McLaughlin has used 49% less energy in the past eight months than in the same period a year before!

"This is such a wonderful service. Hendricks Power genuinely cares about helping its members," said McLaughlin. "I am so appreciative."

"Recommendations can vary significantly from house to house based on individual circumstances," said Wray. "But we go into every audit with the same goals - to be a trusted resource for our members and to find cost-effective ways to save energy."



Andrew Wray, Energy Advisor, discusses usage history and suggestions on energy savings with Vicki McLaughlin, Hendricks Power member



After her audit, McLaughlin made some changes and was able to use 49% less energy from last period.

Schedule your free energy audit by calling (317)745-5473