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MARCH 2021

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

NEWS & VIEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS
OF HENDRICKS POWER COOPERATIVE

MARCH 2021
VOL 14 | ISSUE 3

AROUND TOWN

Calendar of Events

MARCH 5

Commitment to Community Scholarship Applications Due
Hendricks Power is awarding six \$1,500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Learn more and apply at: www.hendrickspower.com

MARCH 9

College & Career Fair
Enjoy this free virtual event hosted by Hendricks College Network! More than 90 vendors will be available to teach you about different careers and trades. Learn More: www.hendrickscollegenetwork.org

MARCH 11 - 13

Misty Eyes Rummage Sale
Friends Church Danville
9 am - 5 pm
Do a little shopping for a good cause! Located near the Hendricks Co. 4-H Fairgrounds. Donations will be accepted March 8-10. Learn More: www.mistyeyes.org

MARCH 14

Daylight Saving Time
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour!

MARCH 17

St. Patrick's Day
Hendricks Power wishes all of our members a St. Patrick's Day full of luck!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Four Ways to Save Energy in the Kitchen

Quick ways to save electricity while creating your next dish with minimal effort

1. **Cook with smaller appliances.** Using appliances like air fryers, slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

2. **Unplug appliances that draw energy when not in use.** Be sure to unplug items like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

3. **Help large appliances work less.** For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

4. **Use your dishwasher efficiently.** Only run full loads, and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings. Contact us to learn about additional ways you can save energy and money at home.

Exploring WHAT THE COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES MEAN TO YOU

THESE SEVEN PRINCIPLES HELP GUIDE
THE OPERATIONS OF ALL CO-OPS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

- **Voluntary and Open Membership:** Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can use its services and are willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.
- **Democratic Member Control:** Cooperative consumers, also known as cooperative “members,” own their cooperative and, therefore, can help set policies and make decisions regarding the cooperative.
- **Members’ Economic Participation:** Once expenses are paid and some is saved for contingencies, what remains – known as margins – is returned or credited to the consumers. This return is called a capital credit, and the amount consumers receive is proportional to the electricity consumed.
- **Autonomy and Independence:** Your cooperative is owned by you and other consumers who receive its services, following democratic processes.
- **Education, Training and Information:** Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, help boost cooperative understanding.
- **Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** By working together through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.
- **Concern for Community:** Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold!

The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.



Source: www.energy.gov

THE IMPORTANCE OF Tree Trimming & Your Service

Trimming and removal of trees can be dangerous work. Right-of-way maintenance helps assure safe and reliable electricity to our members.

To provide safe, reliable electrical service from overhead power lines, Hendricks Power starts on the ground: in the right-of-way under and around the co-op's 2,540 miles of power lines. Maintenance activities involve mowing, cutting dangerous trees, pruning, applying herbicide and removing trees.

"Great electric service is a delicate balancing act between a safe and reliable power grid and the wishes of property owners when it comes to trees and other vegetation," said Israel Kemp, Vegetation Management Supervisor at Hendricks Power. "Fortunately, most consumers are cooperative when trimming crews come around every few years to maintain the power line right-of-way that crosses their property. They understand untrimmed trees and overgrown vegetation can affect their electric service and prolong outages after storms."

A **right-of-way** is a type of easement

agreement with property owners that grants the electric cooperative the right to manage small portions of that property for the purpose of maintaining power lines that bring the electricity to your home, farm and/or business, and those of your neighbors. Having right-of-way means utilities can access the area to fix a utility-related problem or to perform maintenance.

Generally, the most common cause for power outages and for blinking lights is trees that make contact with power lines. Limbs that touch power lines can become energized or even break and fall, bringing the lines down with them. Trees too close to power lines can also be deadly to you and your children.

Right-of-way programs trim, control and, if necessary, remove trees and other vegetation around 10 to 15 feet on either side of the center line of electric lines. Branches growing through or around utility lines are also

trimmed away or removed. Utilities also remove branches growing above lines, where snow or ice could cause branches to sag or fall onto live lines. It is sometimes necessary to target and remove entire trees. These include trees that might be off the easement that are weak, diseased, dead, dying, severely leaning or growing in a direction that could damage the power line should they fall.

Electric cooperatives serve the most rural, wooded and challenging stretches of terrain in Indiana that are also the most green. A good right-of-way maintenance plan by the co-op helps ensure less damage and shorter outages when Mother Nature brings strong winds and ice.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your right-of-way, visit our website at www.hendrickspower.com.

DON'T LET THE CRY OF 'TIMBER' SHIVER OR SPLINTER YOUR timbers

Trimming and removal of trees can be dangerous work. Consider these common dangers before attempting a project on your own.

- **ELECTROCUTION:** If there's a chance power lines might be involved at all, always call your electric utility first. Even when you think there's room, if the wind blows a limb into a power line as you're trimming it, you can be electrocuted.
- **FALLING:** Always make sure you are using appropriate safety harnesses and ropes. Before climbing, inspect the tree to make sure no power lines run through or near the tree.
- **BEING STRUCK:** Improper cutting can cause the tree to fall where you hadn't planned. Always have two escape routes planned in case the tree starts going the wrong way.
- **OVERESTIMATING:** You can be seriously injured or killed if you overestimate your abilities.