HENDRICKS POWER Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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OCTOBER 2020

News & Views

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS
OF HENDRICKS POWER COOPERATIVE

OCTOBER 2020
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What's Inside:

HENDRICKS POWER Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

AROUND TOWN

Calendar of Events

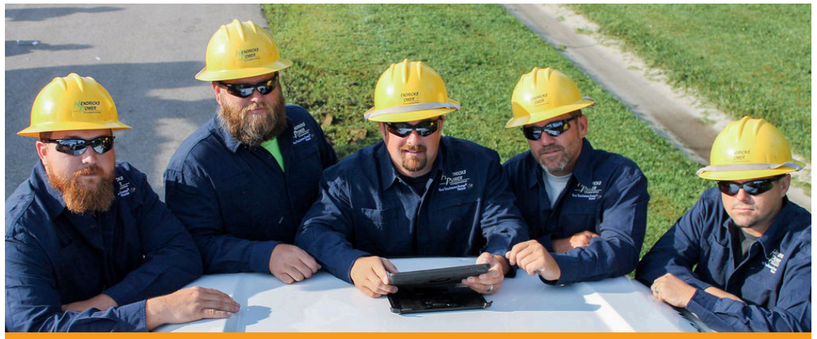
OCTOBER 1 - 31
Endeavor Virtual Monster Dash
Join Endeavor Communications for its annual 5K walk/run. All proceeds will be donated to local hospitals for cancer research.
Learn More & Register:
https://bit.ly/31JuGwI

OCTOBER 2
Youth Power and Hope Application Deadline
Do you know a middle school student making a difference in their community? Encourage them to apply.
Learn More & Apply:
https://bit.ly/33Kmwp7

OCTOBER 5
Voter Registration Ends
Make sure your voice is heard and register to vote!
Register Online:
www.IndianaVoters.com

OCTOBER 9
Who Powers You Nominations Close
Do you know someone making a positive change in Hendricks County? Nominate them for the Touchstone Energy Who Powers You Contest!
Learn More & Nominate:
www.WhoPowersYou.com

OCTOBER 24
Ghosts & Goblins
3-6 PM | Washington Township Park
Don't miss this fun drive-thru trick or treat event!
Learn More:
http://www.washingtontwpparks.org/ghosts-and-goblins.html



NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

October is National Co-op Month

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Our mission is to enrich our members' lives and serve our local community's long-term interests--and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is "concern for community." At Hendricks Power, this principle is the essential DNA, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we "Power On." Keeping this theme in mind, Hendricks Power recognizes the essential role we play in serving a remarkable community like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March, that the COVID-19 virus would test our community and our nation? Over the past several months, we've all been challenged to operate differently, and we have stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors. As an essential service, and to ensure your power supply's reliability, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and employees began working staggered schedules and remotely to maintain separation in addition to social distancing. We closed our lobby to ensure our members' safety. In addition, we distributed 3.3 million dollars in capital credits early, hosted a no-contact annual meeting, and partnered with and made donations to multiple organizations to create grants to support those most in need throughout our community. For the health and safety of everyone, we think these measures were the prudent course of action for the times.

We've seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time because that's what communities do. While the difficulties caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, we are heartened to see everyone pulling together.

In 1936, Hendricks Power was built by the community to serve the community, and that's what we'll continue to do – Power On.

#POWERON

Our Commitment to Renewable Energy Sources

Hendricks Power's power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Alliance, has made a commitment over the past decade to dramatically change the way electricity is generated for its 23 member electric cooperatives and the nearly 35,000 member-owners of our co-op. Advances in technology have made sustainable energy sources like wind and solar power good for the environment and more affordable.

"Renewables like wind and solar were not the most economical choice for the first part of the last ten years," said Lee Wilmes, vice president of risk and resource portfolio at the Wabash Valley Power Alliance. "But with more efficient, taller wind turbines and less expensive solar panel production, we expect that cost trend to continue."

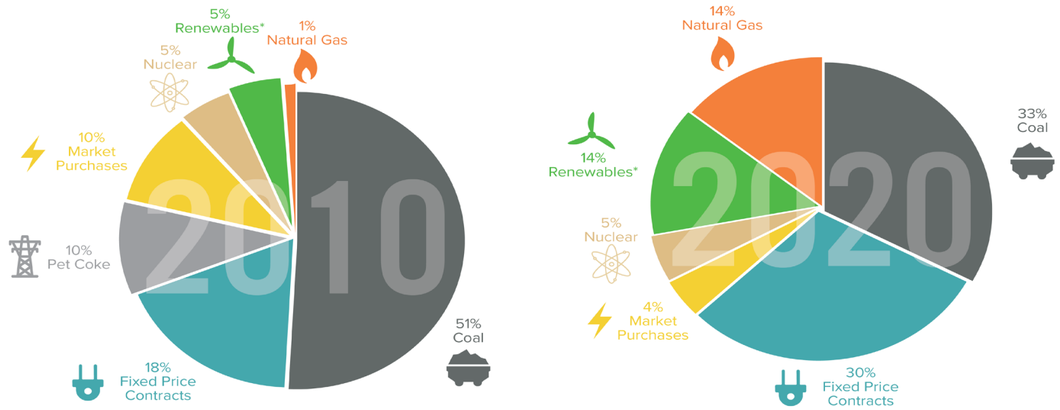
That's why Wabash Valley Power has taken a different approach to energy generation: a more balanced approach that incorporates a variety of fuel sources. "We've always said it's not a smart idea to put all your eggs in one basket," stated Wilmes. "We believe an approach that includes a variety of fuels and multiple sources of supply helps to cut down on electric market volatility and overall supply risk." And that approach now includes less reliance on coal, the incorporation of more renewables and energy efficiency programs that help ensure affordable, reliable electricity not just now, but for decades to come.

Wabash Valley Power Alliance purchases electricity from several wind farms and utility-scale solar arrays throughout Indiana and Illinois to support this diversification strategy. It has developed smaller, community solar arrays in all three states that it serves: Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. Just last month, the newly constructed Harvest Ridge Wind Farm in Douglas County, Illinois, began production, and Wabash Valley Power and its member electric cooperatives will take 100 megawatts of the project.

As early as 2006, Wabash Valley has been capturing the methane gas from regional landfills and using that gas to power small turbines to make electricity. In fact, with 15 different sites throughout the Midwest, Wabash Valley Power Alliance's landfill gas-to-electricity program is one of the largest in the region.

"Alternative energy is no longer an alternative," Wilmes said. "It's a big part of keeping energy costs lower, now and in the future."

THEN & NOW



***Renewables:** Wabash Valley Power supports renewable energy by owning landfill gas and solar generation and purchasing the output from wind, solar and biogas facilities. Wabash Valley Power sells, separately, the environmental attributes associated with this generation to third parties, and therefore does not claim the generation as renewable within our own supply portfolio.

Electrical Fire Safety: Prepare & Prevent

Home fires started by malfunctioning electric appliances and faulty wiring kill nearly 500 Americans each year and cause $1.3 billion in property damage. But many electrical fires can be prevented simply by following basic safety practices and being aware. Electrical wiring consists of metal wires that conduct, or move electricity from place to place and materials like rubber, that insulate the conductors and keep electricity from escaping its intended path.

Electrical fires can start when its protective insulator or connections are compromised and electricity escapes. Among them:

- Improperly installed or outdated wiring
- Faulty outlets
- Exposed wires on cords, including extension cords and device cords
- Problems with light fixtures, lamps and outdated appliances
- Misuse of electrical cords, such as overloading circuits and outlets

An "arcing fault" is formed when a conductor's insulation is compromised. This creates a discharge of electricity between two or more conductors and creates heat, further breaking down a wire's insulation, triggering an electrical fire. Arc faults can occur when older wires become frayed or cracked, when a nail or screw damages wiring in a wall, or when outlets or circuits are overloaded. If you experience dimming or flickering lights, unusual burning odors, unusual buzzing or sizzling sounds, or circuit breakers that trip repeatedly, contact a qualified electrician immediately.

Installing smoke detectors is the number one way to keep your home and family safe proactively. Smoke detectors should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of a home. They should be tested monthly and have their batteries replaced annually or according to the manufacturer's instructions.

A fire escape plan should also be in place and practiced regularly. Make sure any fire extinguishers you have are labeled for Class C, or electrical fires. Multipurpose extinguishers can be used on different types of fires and will be labeled with more than one class, like A-B-C.

Right tree, right place.

PLUG into SAFETY

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING WHEN SELECTING A TREE:

HEIGHT. Will it come within 10 feet of power lines when it's fully grown?

CANOPY SPREAD. How wide will the tree grow?

GROWTH RATE. A slow-growing species is typically stronger and lives longer than fast-growing species.

SHAPE. A columnar tree grows in less space. Round or V-shaped trees provide more shade.

WHEN PLANTING TREES, FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES TO AVOID POTENTIAL PROBLEMS.