



CONTACT US
Office: 800-933-7362

24/7 PAYMENT BY PHONE
833-410-0497

WEBSITE
www.nobleremc.com

EMAIL
remc@nobleremc.com

OFFICE HOURS
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

STREET ADDRESS
300 Weber Road
Albion, IN 46701

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 137, Albion, IN 46701

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UNDERSTANDING ELECTRICITY PRICING

In a recent discussion about the ever-rising daily cost of living, I was asked what impacts electricity prices.

Just as inflation has impacted everything from the price of gasoline to the price of eggs, costs for distributing power to your home have risen. Fortunately, Noble REMC electricity prices have increased only slightly compared to the cost of inflation over the last couple of years. Electricity still remains a great value, with the average member paying around \$5 a day.

So, what ultimately impacts electricity prices and, in turn, energy bills?

While there is no short answer, there are a few key elements that impact electricity prices and rates. Some of these factors Noble REMC can manage, some of them you can impact and other factors are beyond our control.

There are three primary parts to your monthly electric bill: a fixed monthly charge, an energy/kWh charge and a power cost adjustment (PCA). To understand your total energy costs and what impacts your bill, let's unpack one piece at a time.

The first is a fixed monthly charge, which covers a portion of the costs associated with providing electricity to your home. This includes equipment, materials, labor and operating costs necessary to serve each meter in Noble REMC's service territory, regardless of the amount of energy used. In order to ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local system, including power lines, substations and other necessary equipment. Like many other businesses, we've experienced supply chain issues and steep cost increases for some of our basic equipment. Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, some of these expenses must be passed on to our members. I should note that the fixed monthly charge is the same for all residential members, and the costs are shared equally across the membership.

Another component of your monthly bill is the energy/kWh charge, which covers how much energy you consume. You've likely noticed the amount of energy you use can vary from month to month and is typically impacted by extreme temperatures. When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling and heating equipment runs longer, which increases your home energy use. Regardless, energy consumption is an area that you have some control over, and you can lower your monthly bill by actively reducing energy use. To help keep energy costs down, we encourage you to delay using appliances, such as washers and dryers, dishwashers and pool pumps, until after our peak and most expensive times of the week, from 5-8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Wholesale energy prices soar during this three-hour window – a cost we have to pass on to you, the consumer.

The last component of your bill is the PCA, which is the same amount for all co-op members. The PCA changes based on increases in wholesale energy prices, which means the power that Noble REMC purchases from our power provider is more expensive. The PCA covers these energy cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates.

I hope this information sheds light on some of the factors that impact electricity prices. While we can't control the weather or the rising costs of wholesale energy and materials, please know Noble REMC is doing everything possible to keep internal costs down.

We're here to help you, too. Contact us if you have questions about your energy bill or for advice on how to save energy.



RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO

Supporting our youth

NOBLE REMC SPONSORS THREE YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES THIS SUMMER

FROM CO-OP TO CAMP

Cooperative, community and camp came together June 7-10, when Noble REMC was fortunate to sponsor three local students to attend Camp Kilowatt in Brookston.

Students entering seventh grade this fall were eligible to attend. The camp combines traditional outdoor camp activities with environmental education, electrical safety practices and cooperative business education.

So what did our student representatives think about camp?

LAUREL GERARD: "The camp is so beautiful. The nature of it all is wonderful and peaceful. If I had another opportunity to do this again, I would! We got to do a lot of things like archery, canoeing, zip lining, riflery and horseback riding. When you first get there, you will meet your chaperones and your cabin mates.

Everyone is so kind and very friendly. It is a great opportunity to meet new

friends and learn about electricity. I would highly recommend it to any sixth grader going into seventh grade. I'm very grateful and thankful for this opportunity."

MAX LOWER: "I had loads of fun and made so many new friends at Camp Kilowatt. It was by far the best summer camp I've ever been to. We did so many different things, and every day was filled to the brim with fun. My favorite part was either the slides at the lake or the Sky Trail. I still can't decide. The lunches were delicious, and everything there would make anyone smile. The whole camp experience was just amazing. I loved every minute I was there."

ALLISON SHEARER: "My experience at Camp Kilowatt was great! I had tons of fun and got to zip line for the first time. It was pretty scary when I got up there, but once I took off, it was a lot of fun! I almost didn't make it up the hill! They had so many fun activities



planned for us, we were never bored. The lake was pretty awesome, too. They have cool inflatables out on the lake, so each cabin can go play on them. I would recommend it to any going-to-be 7th grader without hesitation. I wish I could go again!"

Camp Kilowatt was developed by a committee of Indiana electric cooperative employees. The camp is funded in part by Indiana REMCs, Hoosier Energy, Wabash Valley Power Alliance, Indiana Electric Cooperatives and other industry partners.

Above photo (from left): Laurel Gerard, Max Lower and Allison Shearer enjoyed their experience at Camp Kilowatt.

NOBLE REMC HOSTS 4-H ELECTRIC WORKSHOP

In addition to our annual 4-H voucher program — which provides a bill credit for members who register their children in 4-H — Noble REMC continues to support the program throughout the year with our 4-H Electric Workshop, as well as judging at area 4-H fairs.

We held our workshop in June this year, where 4-H'ers were given a tour of our facility and completed the task of wiring a light with

modeling dough. Our energy advisor, Brian Hawk, also spoke about electric vehicles and included a tour of (and ride in) our electric Mustang Mach-E.

Then, a month later, we were at the Noble County Community 4-H Fair to judge the electric projects, which ranged from circuit boards and trouble lights to even more advanced projects.

Seeing such enthusiasm for our industry throughout the year

through this partnership makes us eager to see what these students will accomplish in the future!



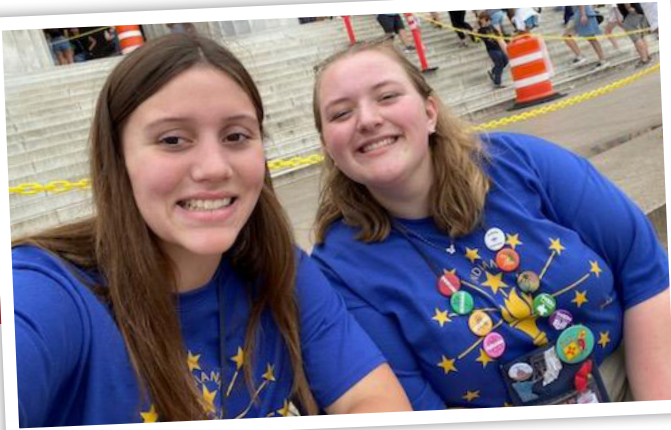
4-H Electric students work on wiring a light with modeling dough during the workshop.

YOUTH TOUR TO D.C.

Two area students participate

Left: Noble REMC delegates Alayna DeLong, left, and Libby Dreibelbis snap a selfie on the Lincoln Memorial steps.

Below: The Indiana Youth Tour delegation on the steps of Capitol Hill with U.S. Sen. Mike Braun.



Indiana Youth Tour is described by our delegates as a once-in-a-lifetime experience for high school juniors from our cooperative family, where students travel to Washington, D.C., to learn about public service, our nation's history and the electric co-op story.

Noble REMC had the opportunity to sponsor two students on the Indiana Youth Tour June 11-18: **ALAYNA DELONG** and **LIBBY DREIBELBIS**.

A delegation of Indiana students represented our state's electric cooperatives, alongside thousands of students from across the country. Students visited the Flight 93 Memorial, the Gettysburg battlefield, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian museums and the National Mall memorials.

The Indiana Youth Tour students also participated in a youth rally hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and spent a day on Capitol Hill, where they had an opportunity to meet with Indiana's congressional delegation to ask questions and share their thoughts on a variety of timely issues.

But to get the best picture, let's hear directly from this year's delegates:

ALAYNA DELONG,
WEST NOBLE HIGH SCHOOL

"I would like to thank you for sending me on this trip. It was truly a trip of a

lifetime. I enjoyed the many memorials and museums we got to see.

"My favorite memorial was the Lincoln Memorial because it was so surreal, and you could see so many monuments from the memorial. My favorite memory from this trip was meeting all kinds of new people. I made so many friendships that will last a lifetime from my state and other states.

"This trip was truly one of a kind and cannot be described in a short paragraph. It was a trip I will always remember, and I am forever thankful that I got the opportunity to go."

LIBBY DREIBELBIS,
CHURUBUSCO HIGH SCHOOL

"I was so lucky to be able to attend this trip; it was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I was able to see the Flight 93 Memorial, Gettysburg, the Library of Congress and countless other landmarks. We were able to experience so many different things in D.C.; I made amazing friends and amazing memories.

"I think my favorite place we visited was the Library of Congress. I was

amazed by all the books, architecture and photographs that we were fortunate enough to see. I also loved being able to tour Capitol Hill, and we had the opportunity to watch the House of Representatives vote. It was awesome to be able to see our government in action. I was also able to spend time with Rep. Jim Banks, and we were able to talk about what was important to him, along with what was important to us.

"I think that every junior should apply for this trip. It was truly one of my favorite things I have ever done. There was never a dull moment; everything, even down to the bus rides, was incredible. I was able to meet many people from around our state and country. Thank you Noble REMC for selecting me to go on this trip. It will stick with me my entire life."

Meter Supervisor Dan Cochard has dedicated more than three decades of service to Noble REMC.



LIGHTING *the Way*

COCHARD CHAMPIONS THE CO-OP AND HISTORY

It's no wonder history fascinates Noble REMC's Meter Supervisor Dan Cochard.

Growing up on a golf course west of Albion, he's immersed himself in the history of Noble County, from reading his favorite book — “Alvord's History of Noble County, Indiana” (the 1895 edition, of course) — to searching for Native American artifacts to learning his great-granddad was a Noble REMC board member who signed up original co-op members.

Now, he's leaving his own legacy and passing on his family's history to his five children and three grandchildren (with one on the way), while celebrating more than 35 years at Noble REMC, where he began as a meter reader before transitioning to a lineman and serviceman and eventually earning his role as meter supervisor.

Let's learn about Dan:

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

“Knowing that I had something to do with this co-op through the past 35 years and trying to do right by the customer.”

WHAT DOES AN AVERAGE DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

“It depends. If a storm is going to come in, that creates a lot of things, but my average days are just making sure there's a clean sheet — that

there are no tampers, no high voltages, low voltages or blinks that are an issue for the customer.

“On the billing side, I make sure that all the meter readings come in or, if not all, the overwhelming majority. I like to get that number as close to 100% as I can. Throughout the day, I'll download manually to see if I can gather up a few more.”

WHAT IS A MISCONCEPTION ABOUT YOUR WORK?

“That the meter is reading more information into our system than is actually being retrieved. We're only collecting what the meter provides, and that's your use. We just want to know the total kilowatt use, and before, we knew the same thing, we just had to get a manual reading. Now we get it over the airwaves.”

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO OUTSIDE OF THE CO-OP?

“Oh, I used to have lots of hobbies. I've gotten less and less, but I've stayed busy doing things my entire life.

“I play golf, and I enjoy playing with my 81-year-old dad on Tuesday nights and my 27-year-old son on Thursday nights. I get to have the best of both worlds.

“We live at the lake, so lake life comes into play, which is most always a good thing.”

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

“There's so much and there's so many different ways you could go with it, but my final answer is my family and their accomplishments.”

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT?

“Jalapeños in Auburn. I just like a good margarita and Mexican food.”

WHAT'S SOMETHING PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

“I've got a pretty extensive knowledge of Native American artifacts in Noble County.

“When I was about 19, I found some arrowheads on our property. One day, it struck me. How many could I find if I go look for them? So, I did. I went out for about four or five hours in our fields, walking back and forth.

“I came back in with nine — and I was hooked. I said to myself, ‘I want to find every arrowhead and Indian artifact that I can find for the rest of my life,’ and I still feel that way. Through the years, with my father-in-law, we kind of mapped out sites all over Noble County, and we'd go back every year and see what we could find. Between the two of us, we probably have around 15,000 artifacts and got to see a lot of really cool things.”