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To report a power outage, please call 800-933-7362. We are available to serve you 24 hours a day.

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The promotion of Noble REMC's recent broadband internet survey was hard to miss.

We sent a letter with each member's bill,

wrote about it here in this magazine and linked to it directly on our website, our mobile SmartHub app and social media.

We didn't want to miss any opportunities to hear from as many of our members as possible on your wants and needs regarding your current internet services, as well as what you'd like to see if new options were available.

Though the window has now closed to participate, I wanted to take the time to thank each and every member who took the time to provide feedback.

Our co-op is constantly listening to our community to learn new ways in which we might be able to help it thrive. Recently, we've recognized your interest — from phone calls to being approached in person — as to whether Noble REMC is going to provide much-needed high-speed internet to our service territory.

Inadequate internet services can adversely affect our members' quality of life by hampering your opportunities for telework and education, obstructing area economic

development and failing to offer service options at a fair cost.

Electric cooperatives are no strangers to being the go-to resource when it comes to helping our communities. It's the standard we set when we were created more than 80 years ago to provide electricity to rural areas that larger utilities wouldn't invest in.

The recent broadband survey, which was conducted in partnership with TWN Communications, was the very first step in determining what the needs of our community are and whether Noble REMC should further conduct research into potentially providing high-speed internet to our members.

This won't be a quick process, and the decision to potentially invest millions of dollars into such a project won't be taken or made lightly.

We will spend the next few months analyzing the feedback provided in the surveys to determine what our next step in the process is, whether that means continuing on with a feasibility study or deciding to go in another direction.

Once again, we appreciate your participation in this process and your patience as we make decisions the right way — with you, our members, in the forefront of our minds.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO



Noble REMC recently installed an EV charging station at the popular Country Heritage Winery in LaOtto.

Transportation goes electric

Electric vehicles are no longer a vision and hope for our future. They're our present.

Noble REMC is ready to help those who are hoping to join the EV revolution. More than 5 million EVs are estimated to be on the road by 2024.

Recently, the co-op worked with Country Heritage Winery in LaOtto to install a ChargePoint charger at the popular destination to help bridge the gap for EV drivers between Fort Wayne and rural northeast Indiana. The charger is capable of delivering 7.2 kilowatts to two vehicles simultaneously and provide a hassle-free experience through the ChargePoint app.

Have you been thinking about making the switch to an electric vehicle? It may help to ask yourself the following questions:

WHAT IS YOUR DAILY COMMUTE?

Most of today's electric vehicles have a driving range-per-charge between 50-330 miles. If your daily commute is under 250 miles per day, there is likely

an affordable EV model that will fit your needs.

BUYER TIP: When you're looking at EVs, be sure to check the "range-per-charge" for the vehicle. This is the number of miles the car can typically drive between full charges. For example, if the range-per-charge for an EV is 100 miles and your daily commute is 30 miles, you should be able to go about 3 days between charges.

DO YOU TAKE LONG ROAD TRIPS?

Long road trips can present challenges for today's electric vehicles. Public charging infrastructure and battery technology is continually improving, but planning is still required for long trips. There are many EV models available with a range-per-charge of 150-250 miles. There are some high-end EVs that can get over 330 miles on a single charge.

DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE MULTIPLE CARS?

If you live in a household with more than one car, an EV likely represents a big opportunity for your family to save a lot of money, while improving

the quality of our environment. Use an EV for commuting and use the other vehicle for long distance drives — it's just that easy!

DO YOU HAVE ADEQUATE PARKING?

Plug-in electric vehicles require charging. Charging can be done with a standard 120V outlet, or you can have a 240V charger installed in your garage or driveway. Known as "Level 2 EVSE equipment," 240V charging reduces charging time substantially, is more energy efficient and some EVSE models allow you to schedule charging times, which may allow you to take advantage of special electric rates.

WANT TO SAVE MONEY AND POLLUTE LESS?

EVs cost less to drive — less maintenance costs from fewer moving parts — and pollute less, period. An EV uses electricity that is typically generated from sources that are cleaner than burning gasoline or diesel in a vehicle.

If you're currently an EV owner and a Noble REMC member, we'd love to hear from you. Please give us a call at 800-933-7362 for more information.



Ask the energy advisor

What did I miss?

By **Brian Hawk**

As we wrap up the second year of this column, I found myself looking over past articles to see what “game changer” I may have missed when it comes to lowering your electric bill without breaking the bank.

Then it hit me! I completely forgot to write about heat pump water heaters.

A heat pump, also known as a hybrid water heater, utilizes two older technologies to create a new, efficient way to heat your domestic hot water.

The heat pump water heater, as the name implies, is a traditional electric water heater with a heat pump sitting on top. The heat pump takes heat from the air in the surrounding area, and through the refrigeration process, transfers that heat to the water via condensing coils wrapped around the tank.

The true beauty of this process is that it runs at 300% plus efficiency, while performing the same job of your old water heater, which is less than 94% efficient.

The heat pump sitting on top of the water heater operates at less than 600 watts, compared to your old electric water heater, which operates around 4,500 watts. As you can see, this can make a big difference on your electric bill.

Now that I've sung the praises of this water heater, let's talk about some of the considerations you need to know:

1. First, and arguably the most important factor for most of us, is the cost. This water heater costs about three times that of a traditional electric water heater. Fortunately, there is a \$400 POWER MOVES® rebate available to help offset this cost.
2. Next is location, location, location. A heat pump water heater requires 750 cubic feet of air to operate in heat pump mode, runs a fan during operation and the surrounding air must stay above 45 F. This makes an open basement the perfect place for installation. (An added bonus: Since you are using a

heat pump, it will also dehumidify the space it is in.) A basement would also meet the temperature requirement while keeping the noise — similar to a refrigerator — away from your common areas.

3. Finally, if you have a larger family, you may want to space out your showers to utilize the maximum efficiency of a heat pump water heater. Left in hybrid mode, it will sense when the heat pump cannot keep up and switch itself to electric mode. This gives you continuous hot water but at the same cost you would be paying for a traditional water heater.

If you would like to know more about heat pump water heaters, please give me a call, or check out the A.O. Smith product line we sell at cost at nobleremc.com, under “Energy Advisor.”

Brian Hawk is the energy advisor at Noble REMC.

HAWK EARNS CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to Brian Hawk for earning his certification from the Building Performance Institute!

Being a BPI-certified Professional means Hawk is at the top of his field with a wide breadth of knowledge in energy efficiency and comfort for homes and

businesses, meaning he can solve members' trickiest problems.

He'll maintain this certification for three years through continuing education courses, which are bolstered by his energy audits and assistance to our members.

Hawk's always been the go-to for problem solving issues, but now he's a certified know-it-all and Noble REMC couldn't be prouder.

Dreibelbis named 2020 Tom Taylor Award recipient

After nearly 30 years in the electric cooperative industry, Kevin Dreibelbis is not easily surprised.

That changed in September when he earned the 2020 Tom Taylor Award from Indiana Electric Cooperatives – a shock he didn't at all see coming but was thankful to receive.

"Receiving an award such as this from Indiana Electric Cooperatives, in an industry of such top-notch professionals, is flattering," Dreibelbis said. "Being nominated by my local peers and selected by my statewide co-op colleagues is an honor that I very much appreciate.

"Besides that, it was a complete surprise, and it's not often people can pull things over on me," he added with a smile.

Dreibelbis, the communications and marketing manager for Noble REMC and LaGrange County REMC, was presented the award during the Marketing, Member Services and Communicators professional section fall meeting Sept. 18, which was held virtually.

He began his career at Miami-Cass REMC, headquartered in Peru, Indiana, in 1992. But he made his way back to his hometown and Noble REMC – where he previously worked as a college intern – three years later. Then he easily transitioned into shared services when LaGrange County REMC and Noble REMC decided to bring their communications and marketing departments together.

"Kevin is an ambassador for the cooperatives," said Ron Raypole, Noble REMC CEO. "He is helpful, caring, resourceful and happy to offer service no matter the task. He has positively impacted many throughout the electric cooperative network, as well as the communities we serve. He readily gives of his skills and knowledge to help others."

The award is presented annually to an Indiana electric cooperative member services employee who has demonstrated excellence in leadership, attitude and commitment to electric cooperative principles. The award is named for the award's first recipient and longtime Boone REMC member services



representative, C. Tom Taylor, who lived by the philosophy of "non sibi, sed aliis" – "not for self, but for others."

It's a perfect description and reflection of Dreibelbis, said Mark Leu, CEO of LaGrange County REMC.

"Kevin has a heart for all those around him and is constantly juggling his schedule so he can accommodate the requests of those who need his help, support or guidance," said Leu. "I don't think he realizes how important these small gestures of service are to those around him. It is simply in his nature to be a servant to all those he is involved with."

Interested in 4-H? Let us cover the cost

The first 200 youth who enroll in area county 4-H programs for 2021, and whose families are Noble REMC members, will have their 4-H program fee reimbursed by us.

When you enroll your child and pay the \$15 program fee, contact

the Purdue Extension office to ask for a credit voucher, which you can then mail to the REMC to receive a \$15 bill credit.

You get to enjoy the benefits of a wonderful organization, and we get to help our community. It's as simple as that.



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THE COOL WAY TO GET HOT WATER

SAVE BIG MONEY — AND ENERGY — WITH A HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER.

Water heaters are the second highest source of energy use in most homes. But an ENERGY STAR-certified heat pump water heater is an energy efficient alternative to typical electric or gas water heaters — and Noble REMC is here to help you save big with rebates on installation costs. You can also save up to \$3,500 over the lifetime of the equipment — we think that's pretty cool.

Visit PowerMoves.com/water-heater to learn more.

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