

# Michigan COUNTRY LINES

CLEAR CHOICE:

**VOTE NO**

on

**25 x 2025**

P. 11



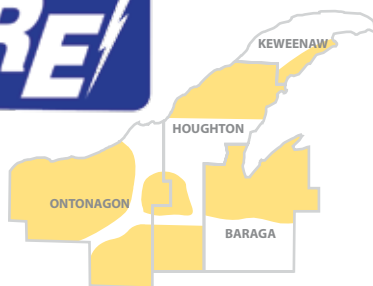
## **Mud, Sweat & Tears**

*Extreme Sports  
Are Big*

**4** Co-op Board Approves  
Member Regulation

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**25** Heating & Cooling  
Buying Tips



**500 J.K. Paul Street  
Ontonagon, MI 49953  
Phone: 906-884-4151  
Toll-free: 800-562-7128  
After hours: 866-639-6098**

### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

**Frances Wiideman**, President  
Lake Mine/Toivola District

**Calvin Koski**, Vice-President  
Aura/Skanee District

**Randy Myhren**, Secretary/Treasurer  
Green/Firesteel District

**Wayne Heikkinen**, Director  
Pelkie/Keweenaw Bay/Herman District

**Paul Koski**, Director  
Ewen/Trout Creek District

**George Rajala**, Director  
Chassell District

**David Anderson**, Director  
Boston/Lake Linden District

### PERSONNEL

**Debbie Miles**, General Manager

**Bill Lundberg**, Line Supervisor

**Donna Siren**, Billing Clerk

**Wendy Mladenoff**, Receptionist/Work  
Order Clerk

### OTHER INFORMATION

**Date of Incorporation:** Sept. 30, 1937

**Fiscal year-end:** Dec. 31

[countrylines.com/coops/ontonagon](http://countrylines.com/coops/ontonagon)

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

# Ontonagon Board Approves Member Regulation

**A**t a special meeting on Aug. 6, 2012, the board of directors unanimously approved a proposal that will make Ontonagon County REA a member-regulated cooperative by the end of November (see minutes of the meeting on p. 5).

Member regulation was made possible by Public Act 167 of 2008, giving electric cooperatives the authority to make changes regarding rates and charges, billing practices, and accounting standards. Michigan electric cooperatives had actually been member-regulated until the 1960s, when they agreed to become regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission in exchange for territorial protection of their service areas.

The Ontonagon board of directors will now have the responsibility of making decisions regarding issues that will directly impact you, as a co-op member and owner. The board will give at least 10 days notice to all co-op members of the time and place of any board meeting at which an increase in rates affecting at least 5 percent of the members or substantive changes in billing practices

and service rules, terms or conditions are to be discussed and voted on. Notice can also be sent by first-class mail to all members or may be published in *Michigan Country Lines*.

Any proposed changes in rates, charges, billing practices and accounting standards will also be published in accordance with the procedures established by P.A. 167, at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the change.

The co-op will save about \$30,000 annually in legal and public utility assessment fees upon becoming member-regulated.

Member regulation will also allow the board of directors, elected by you as a co-op member, to make decisions regarding rates and fees that will also affect the price they pay for electricity. The directors will approve rates and fees that reflect the actual cost of providing service. And, because we are a cooperative, any margins (profits) are allocated back to the members. There is no incentive to authorize rates that will generate more revenue than is needed to cover our expenses. That is the co-op way.



**Debbie Miles**  
General Manager

## Co-op Requests Rate Increase

**A** co-op's financial health is measured by its Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER), and in 1981 the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) formed a TIER mechanism for determining electric rates. This mechanism is used to periodically review a co-op's revenues and decide whether revisions are necessary to maintain designated TIER levels. As refined and revised in subsequent MPSC rate making orders, if the calculated TIER is between 1.7 and 2.3, there need be no adjustment in rates. If the calculated TIER is below 1.7, we must determine what revenue increase is necessary to bring the TIER back to 2.0. Based on our TIER for year-ended Dec. 31, 2011, we will need a \$353,000 increase in revenues to obtain a 2.00 TIER. Therefore, on April 27, 2012, we filed a petition with the MPSC asking for a 7 percent rate increase (a public comment notice appeared in the July-August *Country Lines*, p. 8).

The 7 percent increase equals an increase of \$14.09 monthly for 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity usage.

The largest impact on our 2011 TIER was the weather. We experienced several severe snow and wind storms resulting in increased labor costs. To put this in perspective, the Cooperative Response Center, which is our after-hours call center, released 2011 statistics stating that their busy season (April-August) call volumes were up 37 percent from the all-time record highs for each of those months. Ontonagon's average outage hours more than doubled in 2011.

The rate increase will not be effective until after the MPSC audits our expenses and purchased power costs and gives final approval.

This rate increase request was based on keeping your co-op financially strong for its members. The co-op way of doing business is an important way to keep costs more manageable because we operate at cost.



## Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING

August 6, 2012

On Monday, August 6, 2012, a special meeting of the Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association board of directors was held at the cooperative's offices at 500 J. K. Paul Street, Ontonagon, Michigan at 7:00 P.M. The purpose of the special meeting was to seek member input prior to board consideration of member regulation as authorized under 2008 Public Act 167 (P.A. 167).

The meeting was called to order by President Wiideman. In attendance were the following members of the board of directors: Myrhen, Calvin Koski, Heikkinen, Paul Koski, Rajala and Wiideman, constituting a quorum. Also in attendance was the General Manager Deborah Miles.

### MEMBER REGULATION

General Manager Miles presented information on Public Act 167 of 2008: The Electric Cooperative Member Regulation Act (P.A. 167).

For the record, there were no guests/members in attendance.

Per motion by Calvin Koski, seconded by Myhren, the board approved the proposal for the Cooperative to become member regulated. Following discussion, a roll call vote is required with 2/3 of the directors voting in support of the proposal. A roll call vote was taken with 6 votes in the affirmative. Motion carried.

### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Myhren and seconded by Rajala to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business to come before the board, President Wiideman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

– Randy Myhren, Secretary

## Filling Up on VALUE

Electricity continues to be a bargain, especially when compared to other consumer goods. Imagine if your electric bill fluctuated as much as prices at the pump. On average, over the past decade gas prices have risen almost 11 percent annually, while electricity prices rose less than 4 percent.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Mainstream Graphics

# STATE OF MICHIGAN

## BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

### NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF CLOVERLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE, ONTONAGON COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION, PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP, and THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CASES NUMBERS U-16744, U-16746, U-16747, U-16748 and U-16749

- Cloverland Electric Cooperative, Midwest Energy Cooperative, Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-Op, and Thumb Electric Cooperative (the Cooperatives) request Michigan Public Service Commission approval to reconcile their individual Energy Optimization (EO) plan expenditures and revenues collected for their EO plans, for the period ended December 31, 2011.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write the Cooperatives' attorney, Mr. Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933, Phone: 517.374.9100 for a free copy of the application. Any person may review the application at Dykema's offices or at the respective offices of the Cooperatives.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

**DATE/TIME:** September 26, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

**BEFORE:** Administrative Law Judge Theresa A. Sheets

**LOCATION:** Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan, Lansing, Michigan

**PARTICIPATION:** Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 241-6160 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider the Cooperatives July 2, 2012, joint application for Commission approval to reconcile their individual EO plans for the period ended December 31, 2011. The Cooperatives are requesting authorization to reconcile their EO expenditures and revenues for the period ended December 31, 2011.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets). Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov). If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 241-6180 or by email at: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov).

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by September 19, 2012. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon the Cooperatives' attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter will become public information: available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 241-6060.

A copy of the Cooperatives' request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets), and at the office of Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, MI; or at the respective Cooperatives' offices. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 241-6180.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6h et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq., and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999 AC, R 460.17101 et seq.

July 27, 2012

# What Causes Blinking Lights?

A blink is an outage that usually lasts 1 to 2 seconds. Ontonagon County REA members may experience more than one blink in a short period of time, depending on weather conditions and other factors.

Your lights may blink for several reasons. The power line device that causes the lights to blink is an oil circuit recloser (OCR), designed to automatically shut the power off for 1 or 2 seconds when a problem exists. OCRs help shorten outage times because most blinks are the result of temporary problems, including the following:

**Trees** – A tree branch brushes the line. The branch may only make contact when the wind blows from a certain direction, or it may be growing into the line.

**Lightning** – Lightning injects a large amount of current into the lines that normally lasts a very short time. When lightning strikes a line, a surge arrester typically “takes the charge” and the OCR blinks.

**Animals** – Squirrels and birds are the usual culprits. They sometimes touch the energized lines and cause a short circuit, which may

cause the OCR to blink.

**Failing Equipment** – Infrequently, equipment on the power line distribution system will begin to malfunction, but will not completely fail. These are the most difficult problems to track down and remedy. An example would be a cracked or damaged insulator that may only cause problems when damp or wet conditions exist.

**Distribution Automation Equipment** – Automated equipment restores power quickly, preventing many members from experiencing a much longer outage. Power may be off for only seconds while the equipment is operating. Located within a substation, a distribution automation device can detect and confirm an outage and radio commands to switching equipment. Smart grid-enabled devices open and close on the main lines and redirect power from a neighboring substation to the outage area. This automated switching technology saves time during an outage because it limits the need for crews to travel to various locations on our system and perform the switching operations themselves.



**Actual Outages** – Normally, a full outage at one location will cause the lights to blink for a larger group of members in neighboring areas. This usually occurs when a tree falls on the line. The OCR likely will blink several times before the fuse protecting the line blows. The blinks generally affect a larger group of members than those subsequently affected by the outage.

## How many blinks are normal?

It's normal to experience up to three or four blinks a month. If there is one every other day, that is not normal. If you do experience frequent, non-weather related blinks, please contact the Ontonagon office at 906-884-4151. We will log the information and relay it to our line crew.

Please remember that blinking often can be expected when lightning, major winds, ice storms and other severe weather conditions exist.



Photo - iStockphoto.com

*Staying safe  
around power tools  
is a must!*

## Treat Power Tools with Care

Before you fire up that power tool for your next do-it-yourself home project, remember that these electrical devices must be treated with care. Even though many tools are equipped with safety mechanisms, it's still important to heed precautions. Keep in mind these tips from the U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) when using power tools:

- ▶ Do not carry tools by their cords.
- ▶ Pull the cord out of the outlet by the plug, not by pulling on the cord.
- ▶ Do not use in wet or damp job sites, unless the tool is specifically approved for those conditions. Store them in a dry place when not being used.
- ▶ While carrying a tool, do not touch the switch or trigger that operates it to avoid accidental starts.
- ▶ Ensure your work area is well-lit.
- ▶ Unplug tools when cleaning or fixing, while changing other parts of the tool such as blades or bits, and when not in use.
- ▶ Ensure that all extension cords are not worn or frayed.
- ▶ Wear proper clothing—no ties, jewelry, or other loose items that could get caught.

Whether you're on the job or working at home, staying safe around power tools is a must. Following a few rules could mean the difference between a successful project and an accident.

*Source: U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration*

# STATE OF MICHIGAN

## BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

### NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE, ONTONAGON COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION, PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP, AND THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CASES NUMBERS. U-16665, U-16666, U-16667, and U-16668

- Midwest Energy Cooperative, Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, and Thumb Electric Cooperative (the Cooperatives) request Michigan Public Service Commission approval to reconcile their respective Renewable Energy Plan (REP) revenues and expenditures for their respective REP plans for the period ended December 31, 2011.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write the Cooperatives' attorney, Mr. Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933, Phone: 517-374-9100 for a free copy of the applications. Any person may review the applications at Dykema's offices or at the respective offices of the Cooperatives.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

- DATE/TIME:** September 26, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.
- BEFORE:** Administrative Law Judge Dennis W. Mack
- LOCATION:** Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan, Lansing, Michigan
- PARTICIPATION:** Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 241-6160 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider the Cooperatives' July 30, 2012 and July 31, 2012 respective applications for Commission approval to reconcile their respective REP plans for the period ended December 31, 2011. The Cooperatives' represent that their REP filings included no request for a renewable energy surcharge, no surcharge was approved and none was charged to their member-customers in 2011. The Cooperatives further represent that there are neither revenues nor expenditures to reconcile.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets). Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov). If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 241-6180 or by email at: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov).

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the cases shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by September 19, 2012. (Petitions to intervene may also be filed using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon the Cooperatives' attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to appear at the public hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the cases may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter will become public information: available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 241-6060.

A copy of the Cooperatives' requests may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets), and at the office of Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, MI; or at the respective Cooperatives' offices. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 241-6180.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6h et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq., and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999 AC, R 460.17101 et seq.

August 23, 2012



### Fuel Mix Report

The environmental characteristics of Ontonagon County REA as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/12.

#### COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

##### Regional average fuel mix used

##### Your co-op's fuel mix

FUEL SOURCE	Your co-op's fuel mix	Regional average fuel mix used
Coal	62.2%	64.7%
Oil	0.1%	0.4%
Gas	5.1%	7.1%
Hydroelectric	4.6%	0.7%
Nuclear	25.2%	24.0%
Renewable Fuels	2.9%	3.1%
Biofuel	0.0%	0.1%
Biomass	0.1%	0.4%
Solar	0.0%	0.0%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.2%	0.4%
Wind	2.5%	1.7%
Wood	0.1%	0.4%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas.

#### Your Co-op's Fuel Mix



#### Regional Avg. Fuel Mix



#### EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	1.9	8.2
Carbon Dioxide	1,585	2,186
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.1	2.0
High-level nuclear waste	0.0000	0.0083

\*Regional average fuel mix data was compiled from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Figures for Ontonagon County REA are based on those of its principle power suppliers, WPS and We Energies.



### Energy Efficiency

#### Tip of the Month

Water heating ranks as one of the top three energy-related expenses in your home. Save energy and money by installing a water heater blanket, using low-flow showerheads and faucets, and lowering the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



### Public Act 295: The Clean Renewable and Energy Efficient Act

Annual Energy Optimization Report  
 Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association  
 MPSC Case Number U-15819

Ontonagon County REA contracted with the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) to administer Energy Optimization efforts in order to comply with P.A. 295. MECA filed a 2½-year Energy Optimization plan with the MPSC on Feb. 18, 2009, as required by P.A. 295. This EO plan was approved by the MPSC on May 12, 2009, and we began launching Energy Optimization programs in June 2009. CLEAResult Consulting, Great Lakes LLC, was selected to implement the Residential, Commercial Industrial Programs, and the Energy Optimization (EO) website michigan-energy.org. CLEAResult has sub-contracted with Franklin Energy, JACO, Enercom, and the Michigan Community Action Agency Association to assist with EO program delivery.

In 2011, Ontonagon County REA collected \$56,515 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$52,892, resulting in an over-collection of \$3,623 which will be applied towards 2012 EO Program delivery expenses and goal achievement. Ontonagon County REA achieved 211.8 MWh of energy savings in 2011. The full report can be obtained at michigan-energy.org or at michigan.gov/mpsc.

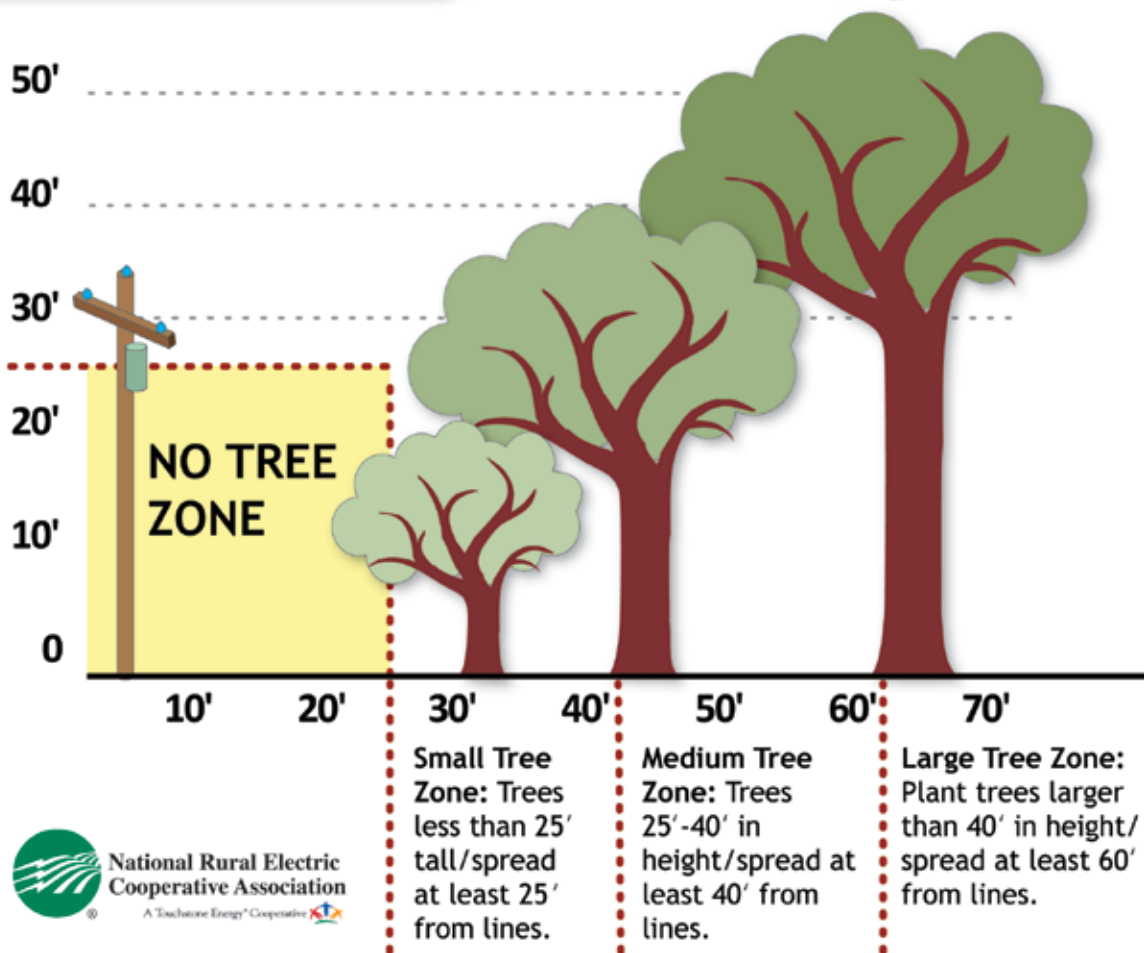
### Notice of Member Access To Rules And Rates

This notice of *Access to Rules and Rates* is published pursuant to the rules established by the Michigan Public Service Commission as set forth in the Consumer Standards and Billing Practices for Electric and Gas Residential Service, R460-2146.

As a member-customer (member) of Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association, please be advised that the following information is available to you from the cooperative, upon request:

- 1.) Complete rate schedules;
- 2.) Clear and concise explanation of all rates the member may be eligible to receive; and
- 3.) Assistance from the cooperative in determining the most appropriate rate for a member when the member is eligible to receive service under more than one rate.

## Tree Planting Guide



## The Right Tree in the Right Place

**T**he Arbor Day Foundation encourages thoughtful practices that help preserve community trees while also benefiting electric co-op consumers.

Trees can help cool your home and neighborhood, break cold winds to lower heating costs, and provide food for wildlife. Properly placed trees can lower line clearance costs for utility companies, reduce tree mortality, and result in healthier community forests.

Tall trees surrounding your home, such as maple, oak, pine and spruce, provide summer shade to lower cooling costs and keep out cold winter winds. Medium trees, 40 feet or less in mature height, might include Washington hawthorne and golden raintree, while smaller trees suitable for planting near utility lines might include redbud, dogwood and crabapple. When planting near utility lines, consider a 25-foot maximum mature height and a 20-foot spread.

To learn more about which trees work best in your yard, visit [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).



# Heat It Up, Cool It Down

In Michigan, you can expect 70 percent of your home's energy use to come from heating & cooling.  
*— U.S. Department of Energy*

**H**ow do you know if it's time to replace your heating, ventilation or air conditioning (HVAC) system? Answer the following questions to find out.

1. Does your furnace or air conditioner struggle to keep your home comfortable?.....**Yes / No**
2. Is your HVAC system more than 15 years old?.....**Yes / No**
3. In the last two years, has your equipment required frequent repairs?.....**Yes / No**
4. Have you noticed significantly higher energy bills?.....**Yes / No**
5. Are these systems loud or annoying?.....**Yes / No**

## Priority 1: Energy Efficiency

If you answered yes to any of these questions, it's time to look for a new HVAC system. Even if your system passes this test, it doesn't hurt to explore your options now so that you're ready if it acts up in the future.

One of the most important things to look for in a new system is energy efficiency.

ENERGY STAR® furnaces are up to 16 percent more efficient than standard models and can save you as much as \$94 per year. An ENERGY STAR-qualified central air conditioner can cut cooling costs by 30 percent. These savings add up year after year, helping to offset the purchase price.

## Buying Tips:

- ◆ Ask a reputable HVAC contractor if installing an electronically commutated motor (ECM) in your furnace would deliver decent energy savings.

- ◆ Replace your heating and cooling equipment at the same time. The two pieces work together, so it makes sense for them to be equal in performance and model year.

- ◆ Get a deal (see rebates, right).

- ◆ Opt for the highest annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) rating

you can find—some furnaces now have a 97 percent AFUE.

**Rebates** Through the Energy Optimization (EO) program, your electric co-op provides rebates on energy efficient equipment, including HVAC components.

Manufacturers and retailers may also offer other rebates and discounts on qualifying energy efficient products. Ask a sales representative for details.

**It Pays To Save** The bottom line is, when you buy a new HVAC system make sure it's energy efficient. For more ways to save, check Ontonagon REA's other EO programs (see ad below for website, phone). Visit the Michigan Saves program ([michigansaves.org](http://michigansaves.org)) for potential financing.



SAMPLE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRODUCTS	REBATE
Room Air Conditioner .....	\$20
Programmable Thermostat .....	\$20
ECM Furnace Blower Motor .....	\$150
Electric Water Heater (.93 efficiency factor (EF) or higher) .....	\$50
Pipe Wrap Insulation (installed on electric water heater outlet).....	\$4
Heat Pump Water Heater (2.0 EF or higher) .....	\$100

## Need a new furnace? Get a \$150 Rebate!

Expect the unexpected. Your older furnace, thermostat or water heater could fail at any time. Ontonagon County REA helps you plan for the unexpected with Energy Optimization rebates on qualified energy efficient heating and cooling equipment.

**ENERGY TIP: Heating and cooling accounts for 70% of your home's energy use. Be sure to choose energy efficient equipment.**

Online: [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) Phone: 877.296.4319

Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).



Ontonagon County Rural  
Electrification Association



# Can You Keep a Secret?

With long distance from Ontonagon County REA, you can share all your secrets without the worries of spending a lot of money. You get affordable rates and reliable service. So, pick up the phone, and start talking!

Get these great benefits:

- Great Rates - long distance as low as 9.3\* cents per minute!
- Reliability - no dropped calls!
- Trustworthy - backed by a name you know!
- Convenient billing options!
- Tell your friends and family - you don't have to be an Ontonagon County REA member to sign up!

**ONTONAGON COUNTY  
REA**

**Call Today!**  
**888-963-4732**

\*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Certain restrictions and early termination fees may apply. Rates stated are for Michigan. Please call for details. In partnership with TransWorld Network. No monthly service fees although subject to taxes and regulatory charges.