

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



## Backyard Beekeeping:

What's the Buzz About?

### Plus!

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- 8 Midwest in the Community
- 9 Top 5 Reasons to Join Another Committee

If the only thing bigger than your utility bill is the noise from your air conditioner...



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Casey Clark

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Gail Knudtson

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**Change of Address:** Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.



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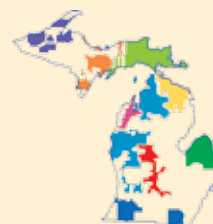
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## ON THE COVER\*

Josh and Jodie Kieliszewski and their boys have made beekeeping a fun, family affair and started a buzzing business, but honeybees are also an important, and endangered, part of our food supply.

Photo Courtesy—David Trumpie/[trumpiephotography.com](http://trumpiephotography.com)

\*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



Michigan's Electric  
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## PRESIDENT & CEO

Robert Hance

## CASSOPOLIS OFFICE

P.O. Box 127 (901 E. State Street)

Cassopolis, MI 49031-0127

M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Drive-up window: M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

## TELEPHONE

269-445-1000 or 800-492-5989

Fax: 269-445-3792

## PAW PAW OFFICE

59825 S. LaGrave

Paw Paw, MI 49079

M–F, 8 a.m.–1 p.m. and 1:30–4:30 p.m.

## ADRIAN OFFICE

1610 E. Maumee St.

Adrian, MI 49221

M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

## TELEPHONE

517-263-1808 or 800-492-5989

**INTERNET** TeamMidwest.com

**E-MAIL** info@teammidwest.com

## EDITOR

Patty Nowlin

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# Prepaid Metering Puts the Power in Your Hands



**Robert Hance**  
President/CEO

I was thumbing through a magazine as the clerk rang up my groceries. After scanning the final item, she smiled and politely informed me my total was \$238.14. I quietly gulped as I looked from her to the small-ish pile of groceries at the end of the conveyor belt.

Grocery store sticker shock!

The nice thing about grocery shopping, or most any retail experience, is that as the consumer, you have the power to choose. If the gas light comes on and you only have \$10, you can pump accordingly.

If food is running low and there's a few days before payday, you can pick up a few basics and get by.

At Midwest Energy, our customer care representatives talk with a lot of members about electric consumption and bills. Unlike a typical retail experience, it's harder to recognize what you receive for the dollars charged when the bill is rendered 30 days after the fact. I can look at my pile of groceries and the connection between the cost and benefit is immediate. Electricity is a very different story.

We tend to evaluate purchases before shelling out cash, and our behavior is guided by the perceived value of the purchase.

Most would argue that the value of electricity is very high in terms of what it provides in our daily home and work life, but that sense of value becomes lost 30 to 60 days later.

What if we could buy electricity *before* we use it? Would we value it more and manage our usage differently if we paid for the kilowatts before flipping the switch?

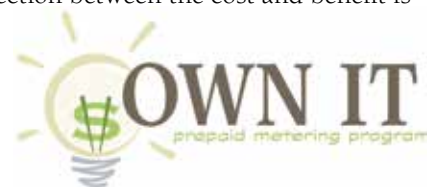
Studies say "yes."

Prepaid electricity is a common practice in many countries. We've been slower to adopt it in the United States, although utilities that offer it report remarkable changes. Customers tend to change their behavior to better manage consumption when using a prepaid program. They make more conscious choices about how they use energy when they can more readily attach usage to cost.

Last year, Midwest Energy rolled out our OWN IT Prepaid Metering Program. It allows you to manage energy costs by choosing when, how and what you pay for electricity. We alert you when you hit a low balance, and electricity is disconnected if you run out of funds. Make a payment, and the service is restored. It eliminates deposits, late charges and collection fees and puts the power in your hands.

OWN IT doesn't offer a lower rate, but does encourage you to monitor energy use. Surveys show that 90 percent of those enrolled in similar programs believe they use energy more wisely. One of the 300-plus customers using our OWN IT program cut her usage by 30 percent.

If you want to better manage your usage or need more flexibility with your energy costs, learn about our OWN IT Prepaid Metering Program at TeamMidwest.com or call 800-492-5989. ■



# 2013 Annual Report



## Independent Auditor's Report

Following are excerpts from the audit report. The full report may be accessed at [TeamMidwest.com](http://TeamMidwest.com) or by calling 800-492-5989.

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Midwest Energy Cooperative as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the related statements of revenue, patronage capital, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of Midwest Energy Cooperative's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Midwest Energy Cooperative and subsidiary as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Harris Group  
March 11, 2014

## Director's Compensation Disclosure

Elected directors are paid an annual retainer of \$1200 and a per diem based on board position, and years of service or credential status for meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative. The chairman is paid an annual retainer of \$2200.

## STATEMENTS OF REVENUES

Years ending December 31, 2013 and 2012 (Dollars in 000)

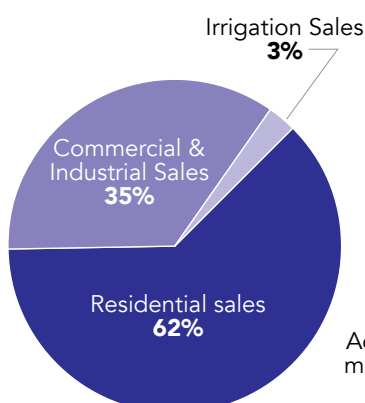
	2013	2012
Operating Revenues	\$ 73,212	\$ 72,203
Operation & Maintenance Expense	62,349	62,367
Depreciation, Taxes, Interest, Etc.	10,336	10,022
Operating Margin	527	<186>
Capital Credits	2,379	2,140
Other non-operating income (exp)	996	706
Net Margins (Loss)	\$ 3,902	\$ 2,660

## BALANCE SHEETS

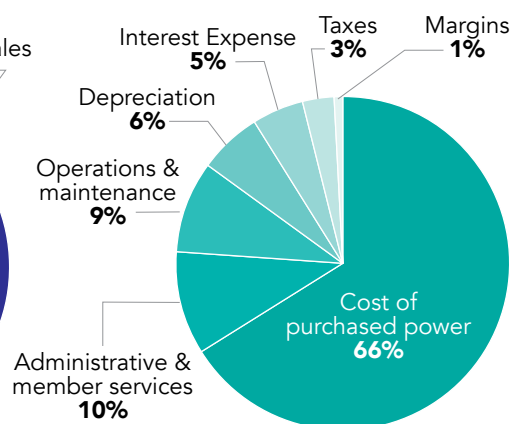
Years ending December 31, 2013 and 2012 (Dollars in 000)

<b>ASSETS</b>		
Utility plant in service, net	\$ 107,573	\$ 103,728
Other assets and investments	22,848	19,975
Current assets	9,402	8,877
Deferred charges	1,167	1,629
Total Assets	\$ 140,990	\$ 134,209
<b>EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES</b>		
Equities	\$ 43,830	\$ 35,330
Long-term debt	81,355	80,567
Accumulated operating provisions	1,632	7,011
Current liabilities	12,821	10,637
Deferred credits	1,352	664
Total Equity and Liabilities	\$ 140,990	\$ 134,209

## Where Our Sales Come From



## Where Your Dollar Goes





## SOUTHERN COMFORT

For good old fashioned Southern comfort, try out some of these hearty, homestyle recipes from down south.

### Louisiana Red Beans and Rice

4 cans 16-oz. kidney or red beans, rinsed and drained  
 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes, undrained  
 1 lb. smoked sausage, sliced  
 1 c. chicken broth  
 3 celery ribs, chopped  
 1 lg. onion, chopped  
 1 med. green pepper, chopped  
 1 sm. red pepper, chopped  
 6 garlic cloves, minced  
 1 bay leaf  
 ½ t. crushed red pepper flakes

Combine all but sausage in slow cooker. Cover, cook on low for 6 hours. Add sausage. Continue to cook 2 hours more. Stir before serving. Serve over rice.

*Tommie Schmidt, Union*

### Squash Cornbread

1 box corn muffin mix (Jiffy™ 8.5 oz.)  
 1 package frozen winter squash (10 oz.), defrosted  
 1 egg  
 3 T. whole berry cranberry sauce (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Grease a 5"x 9" loaf pan.

Southern cooking means cornbread. Here is a quick, easy, and delicious one my family hopes all of yours will enjoy. Blend corn muffin mix, squash & egg to just combined and pour into prepared pan. Drop the cranberry sauce into batter & swirl gently with a knife.

Bake at 375° for 25–30 minutes. Serves 6.

*Nan Couyoumjian, Bellaire*

### Sausage Gravy and Biscuits

1 lb. ground sausage  
 4 T. butter  
 ⅔ c. Kentucky Kernel (fry batter mix)  
 (You can use all or part flour for less spice)  
 ⅔ to 1½ c. milk, to desired consistency  
 Grands!®, Bisquick™, or homemade biscuits



Brown sausage. Add and melt butter. Stir well and cook until light brown. Add fry batter mix. Slowly pour in milk until thickness desired. Serve over biscuits. This is a great meal for breakfast, brunch or dinner!

*Linda Miller, Grayling*

### SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "All About Snacks" recipes by **July 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email [recipes@countrylines.com](mailto:recipes@countrylines.com).

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and Country Lines will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Find more of our readers' recipes at **countrylines.com**

Photos—831 Creative

# Keep Cool With Attic Radiant Barriers

**Q** My air-conditioning costs are high, but we still feel too warm at times. Ads for radiant barriers say they save a lot. How do they work, do they save much, and what is the cost?

**A:** Ads about “huge” energy savings from installing attic radiant barriers are often the very maximum possible and are exaggerated for a typical retrofit installation. But, proper installation in a specific house can yield a reasonable payback and better comfort.

Before deciding if your home is a good candidate, it's wise to understand how a house loses and gains heat. Most importantly, the rate that heat flows from a hot to cold area is determined by the temperature difference between the spaces.

*Conduction* heat flows through solids that touch each other. This is how an iron skillet's handle gets hot. The walls and ceiling of a house also lose or gain heat this way because the materials are all nailed together.

*Convection* is where heat flows through a moving fluid or gas, which increases the flow rate. An example is how your skin loses heat faster on a windy, winter day (wind chill factor creates a lower temperature).

*Radiation* heat flows directly from one object to another via a vacuum, air, glass, etc. It is not dependent on touching or fluid flow. This is how you feel warm by a fire.

Radiant energy is unique because it's affected much more by temperature difference. For conduction and convection, if indoor/outdoor temperature differences double, heat flow doubles. With radiation, the flow is 16 times greater when the difference doubles.

This is why radiant barriers are most often used in the attic to block heat flow through the roof. On a hot day, the temperature of a dark shingle roof can reach 150 degrees. The roof conducts heat to its sheathing, and radiation carries it down through the insulation and ceiling, and into your house.

Radiant barriers require an air gap to keep them from touching the hot surface or they will conduct like any other material. Reinforced aluminum foil was typically used as the radiant barrier, but now many use a reflective plastic film. Be sure to check the barrier emittance level (should be lower than 0.25, or 25 percent) before buying it or signing an installation contract. Aluminum foil is well below 0.25. There are also reflective paints, such as Low/Mit (solec.org) that can be sprayed under the roof sheathing.



To install a radiant barrier, you will need a hand construction stapler, utility knife, and a long straight edge.

Photo—James Dulley

To get a good energy savings payback, install the barrier yourself. Companies like Innovative Insulation, Inc. (radiantbarrier.com) sell double-sided reflective foil for about \$130 for a 4 x 250-foot roll. Invest in a hand construction stapler, utility knife, and a long straight edge, and you are ready to install it.

The easiest way is to cut the barrier into lengths and staple them under the roof rafters. It is not important how neatly it is installed, but it must have adequate attic ventilation—preferably both a soffit and a ridge vent. With single-sided foil, face the reflective side down to take advantage of its low emittance. It requires less radiant barrier to lay it flat over the attic floor insulation. The barrier will collect dust and may become less effective over time, so use perforated barrier material so it breathes and moisture does not get trapped in the insulation.

Savings from installing an attic radiant barrier varies considerably, depending on your climate, specific house, and orientation to the sun. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory estimates air conditioning savings can range from \$150 annually for very hot climates to only \$40 for cold ones. Attic radiant barriers provide little positive or negative effect in the heating season. If your electric co-op offers time-of-use rates, the savings may be somewhat higher. ■

# Midwest in the Community



**Community Career Day**—Apprentice lineman Mark Vantine uses a tabletop utility pole model to teach students about a lineman's job and how electricity works.



**Electrical Safety Month**—Brian Moore (left) and Mark Kangas outfit a student to demonstrate some of the safety gear and equipment used by lineworkers.

**N**eighbor helping neighbor—that's how your Midwest Energy Cooperative family approaches daily work and efforts to give back to the community. We live, work and serve right here in your local community, and strive to actively live our "Community" value in meaningful, impacting ways. Here are just a few of our recent efforts to strengthen and support our communities.

## Co-op Career Day

In a recent Career Day presentation (above), Midwest Energy lineworkers helped Constantine Middle School students experience some of the challenges of linework. Mark Vantine and fellow lineman Eric Keck built a tabletop utility pole model to assist with these demonstrations.

## Electrical Safety Month Contest

As part of its annual Safety Month Contest, Midwest Energy Cooperative brought electrical safety to life for over 600 students in southern Michigan (above center, bottom). Trained representatives from the co-op's operations team, in partnership with the community relations group, presented the interactive hotline demonstration program to fourth grade classrooms from Madison, Morenci and Sand Creek schools in southeast Michigan, and Three Rivers, White Pigeon and Constantine Schools in southwest Michigan.

"Electricity is such an integral part of our lives that we tend to forget the inherent safety concerns involved



Mike Miller (left) and Rich Drews describe the different parts of the electric distribution system as they discuss safety for both the public and lineworkers.

with the flow of current," says Patty Nowlin, director of communications and community relations. "Midwest Energy is strongly committed to creating a culture of safety, both for employees and members of our community, and our public safety programs are one way we promote awareness."

In addition to learning about electrical safety, students were each presented with a Norway spruce sapling and given instructions on where to plant trees safely with regard to power lines and equipment. ■

# Top 5 Reasons to Sign Up for Yet Another Committee

But this promises to be a great experience ...

**M**idwest Energy is looking for a few good people to serve on a new Co-op Member Advisory

Committee. How do you know if you're a good fit? Here are the Top 5 qualifications:

1. You're known far and wide for your world-class ideas and creativity.
2. You really like and really don't like some things going on at your cooperative, and can bring them to the table in a meaningful and productive way.
3. You have a little extra time (a lot is *not* required) to help improve and enhance the member experience for yourself and 34,000 other people who are part of the Midwest Family.

4. You enjoy good food, good conversation and good dialog with other good people!
5. You already believe Midwest is a great organization and want to do what you can to make it even better!

If even a few of the Top 5 describe you, please consider participating in our new Member Advisory Committee.

We value member input and depend on you to help shape service experiences. Our Member Advisory Committee will offer Midwest Energy program, service and experience feedback and serve as a grassroots core of co-op advocates. Evening



meetings will be held two or three times a year in a centralized location. The committee will be informal and loosely structured, with a goal of enhancing the Midwest member service experience.

We hope to convene this group for a first meeting late this summer. For more information, please contact Patty Nowlin at 269-445-1079 or email [Team.Midwest@teammidwest.com](mailto:Team.Midwest@teammidwest.com). ■

## Board Assigns Nearly \$4 Million in Patronage Capital

**A**s an electric co-op, we are different from our investor-owned counterparts in that our consumers, through their patronage, provide capital for the cooperative. You are more than simply a consumer; you are a member and owner!

Midwest Energy maintains a patronage capital account for each member. At the end of each year, any operating margin ("profit") is allocated based on the amount of electricity purchased by each member. The total of these accounts is used by your co-op to provide the equity base necessary for financial stability and is paid back to members over time as approved by the board of directors.

At their April 2014 meeting, the board authorized the allocation of the 2013 net margin totaling \$3,918,031.10. Your portion of this allocation is not payable at this time and does not represent a reduction of your electric bill, but rather indicates your equity share in our cooperative's 2013 margin.

Please notify us of any address changes so we can forward payments when patronage capital is retired. If a member or former member fails to claim cash retirement of patronage capital or other payment from the cooperative within five years after payment has been made available at the last known address, that payment will be added to the cooperative's general fund. ■



## Offices Closed for Independence Day

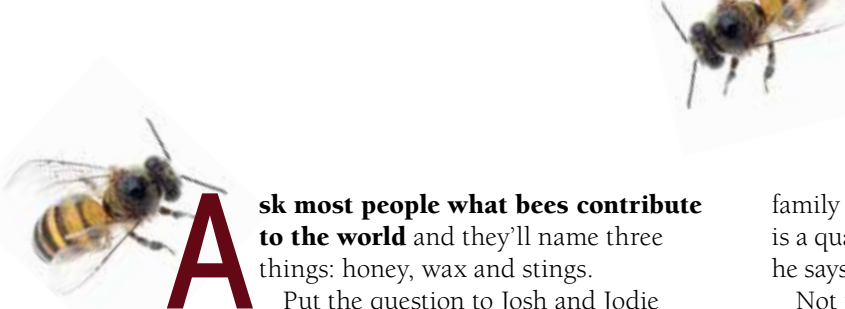
Cooperative offices will be closed for the Independence Day holiday on Friday, July 4. Payments may be made at the drop box and will be posted on the next open business day.

From our family to yours, have a happy and safe Independence Day.



# Backyard Beekeeping: What's the Buzz About?





**A**sk most people what bees contribute to the world and they'll name three things: honey, wax and stings.

Put the question to Josh and Jodie Kieliszewski and you'll get a longer list: soap, body creams, ointments, lip balms...

Another unusual fact about the Kieliszewskis: While describing the wild swarm of bees that set up housekeeping in a hollow maple tree near their home in 2007, they call it a "blessing."

One person's threat is another's opportunity. The swarm might have caused the average person to summon a pest control company. Josh and Jodie, who share an interest in the natural world, found the bees fascinating.

"We saw intelligence...a social structure," Jodie says.

The swarm moved on, but not before the Kieliszewskis were bitten by the beekeeping bug—a passion that eventually became Bee Lovely Botanicals, LLC ([beelovelybotanicals.com](http://beelovelybotanicals.com))—a home-based business offering handmade, all natural bee-related products sold at Michigan farmers markets and on the internet.

Honeybees have taken a beating in recent years. Colony Collapse Disorder—the result, experts believe, of pesticide overuse, has forced many commercial beekeepers out of business. This is an agricultural crisis because honeybees are essential for pollinating crops like apples, blueberries and cucumbers, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) notes that one-third of the food we eat is pollinated by bees.

Recognizing the importance of honeybees in our food supply, the USDA will, according to the *Associated Press*, pay farmers and ranchers in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and North and South Dakota to reseed pastures with clover,

**"Publicity surrounding Colony Collapse Disorder has ignited interest in honeybees and backyard beekeepers, like the Kieliszewskis, are stepping up to fill the gap."**

alfalfa and other plants that attract bees. Publicity surrounding Colony Collapse Disorder has ignited interest in honeybees, and backyard beekeepers like the Kieliszewskis, are stepping up to fill the gap.

Josh and Jodie live in Unionville, Mich., with their three sons, where they are members of Thumb Electric Cooperative. A certified athletic trainer, Jodie now divides her time between her boys and the

family business. Josh, a fisheries and wildlife biologist, is a quality-control scientist in his day job, but beekeeping, he says, has transcended from a hobby to a second job.

Not that he's complaining. "It's all fun; it's not really work," he explains.

The business, however, is not without setbacks. This winter's extreme cold took a heavy toll on the Kieliszewskis' bees, with only five out of 40 hives surviving. An average hive holds 60,000–70,000 bees



at its peak occupancy. But the heavy losses won't stop the Kieliszewskis—they switched to a hardier breed called the Carnolian honeybee.

The Kieliszewskis pride themselves on keeping their operation friendly—to their bees, the environment, and the people who use their products.

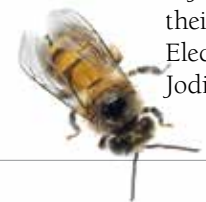
"We do a lot of research, and are really careful about our ingredients," Jodie says. "We personally use all the things we make."

They also resist using chemicals on their hives—even if it means taking bigger losses in harsh weather.

Josh says that he's been stung "a time or two"—especially in the beginning, when he didn't own the proper gear. His dark hair doesn't help. Bees, he explains, equate the color black with bears and other predators.

Jodie casually mentions the time a swarm chased her 300 feet, and stung her 20–30 times. Bees, she says, have different personalities, and this swarm was particularly ornery.

Naturally, the Kieliszewskis know something about bee sting remedies—both conventional and unusual—noting they have "tried almost every bee sting remedy known to man." Jodie likes meat tenderizer, while Josh prefers a remedy that's free and always available: spit. It has enzymes, he says, that break down the venom. ■



# Smart Savings Solutions

Receive a free online energy audit for your home.

**D**id you know that certain household problems are signs of energy issues? Problems such as mold, mildew, ice dams, and overall discomfort can be attributed to inefficiencies in your home. Help improve your home by assessing its energy performance.

Use Midwest Energy Cooperative's Home Energy Optimizer, a *free* online home energy assessment tool, to learn about your energy use and how to save more energy and money. You'll be asked important questions about your home—everything from square footage to typical thermostat settings. The more details you provide, the more customized your results will be. Either way, you'll be saving energy in no time. Completing the online interactive survey takes only 15–30 minutes.

The Energy Optimizer *automatically estimates your energy use and projected heating, cooling, hot water, appliance and lighting costs*. It also calculates your energy savings cost potential in each category to help you see where to get the highest payback for efficiency improvements. You can even review a list of recommended upgrades with simple ways to lower your energy use.

## Benefits

- Free and useful
- Convenient—ability to save and edit responses or finish later
- Customized for your city and climate
- Do-it-yourself, affordable, energy-saving actions
- Completion entitles you to a free energy-saving kit

## FREE Energy-saving Kit

When you complete the Home Energy Optimizer, we will send you a free energy-saving kit that contains:

- 5 CFLs
- 1 energy-efficient bath aerator
- 1 energy-efficient kitchen aerator
- 1 energy-efficient shower head.

## Next Steps

Here's how to get started today:

- Go to **michigan-energy.org/midwest** and click on "Home Audit."
- Write down your session number.
- Answer questions as best you can. (It's okay to skip questions if you have to.)
- *Finish the audit to receive your free energy-saving kit.*
- *Install all kit items.* Keep other Energy Optimization programs and rebates in mind for future purchases. ■



## Saving energy starts online!

Looking for simple ways to save energy at home? With the Home Energy Optimizer—a free online home energy audit—you can receive personalized, do-it yourself tips to reduce energy waste. Get started today at **michigan-energy.org/midwesthomeaudit** for a more energy-efficient, durable, and comfortable home!

**ENERGY TIP: Complete an online audit and receive a FREE energy-saving kit!**

ONLINE: **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).

# Preferred Auditors Maximize Home Energy Dollars

**T**hese days we're all looking for ways that we can maximize our energy dollars by increasing our home's efficiency, but knowing where to start and what to do can be overwhelming.

As a service to our members, we have compiled a list of Midwest Energy Cooperative preferred energy auditors. As part of the qualification process we researched, interviewed and checked references on a regional pool of contractors, and included on our final list only those that we feel confident will provide the level of service that you have come to know and expect from your co-op.

Please feel free to contact any of these contractors with confidence if you are interested in more information about their services.

## **Thermal Inspection Services, LLC**

27253 T Drive N.  
Springport, MI  
517-745-7100

## **Energy Diagnostics**

68597 Hill Street  
Sturgis, MI  
or  
395 East 500 North  
Valparaiso, IN  
219-464-4457  
800-390-8091

## **Energy Saving Services, Inc.**

3025 Emerald Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI  
269-341-HEET (4338)

## **Green Building Consulting Homes +**

PO Box 43497  
Cincinnati, OH  
513-272-2005

## **Home Energy Insight, LLC**

P.O. Box 1536  
Portage, MI  
269-372-2496

## **Infrared Energy Analysis**

920 Loyola St., Ste. 107  
Ann Arbor, MI  
734-995-6339

## **Superior Energy Solutions, LLC**

819 N. Locust St., Ste. B  
Ottawa, OH  
419-890-8067

## **Think Green Midwest**

3997 Reily Milville Road  
Hamilton, OH  
513-477-0130 ■

## Plant the Right Tree IN THE RIGHT PLACE

For safety, plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines

Power line right-of-way





## Growing Future Leaders

**T**he Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) is designed to grow leaders through team-building skills, including hands-on classroom exercises and a high-ropes challenge (over 30 feet in the air!). Sponsored by their electric co-op, students from across Michigan gathered at SpringHill Camp near Evart in April and tested their decision-making skills, learned how to respond in emergency situations, and received valuable career information.

A number of students attending the Summit were then considered for participation in the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., this month.

Learn more about both programs at [miYLS.com](http://miYLS.com). ■

## The Hunt Is On!

Enter the *Country Lines* Deer Blind Contest.

**I**f you think you have the best deer blind in Michigan, then we want to see it. There will be one lucky winner from each deer blind category below:

**Most tricked-out.** What personal touches have you added to spruce up your blind? Perhaps carpet, a frig or a custom paint job? Uniqueness counts.

**Best story behind the deer blind.** Tell us the story of how yours came to be. The entertainment value scores you points.

**Most interestingly-engineered.** Impressive architecture or strange contraption, the more interesting the better.

The 2014 *Country Lines* Deer Blind Contest starts on June 15 and ends Aug. 15. Enter online at [countrylines.com/deer-blind-contest](http://countrylines.com/deer-blind-contest) or mail a photo (a high quality print photo—not from a computer printer)



of your blind to CL Deer Blind Contest, 2859 W. Jolly Road, Okemos, MI 48864. Make sure to include your name, a short description of what makes your blind great, and your contact information. The three winners will each receive a \$50 credit on their electric bill and have a picture of their blind published in *Michigan Country Lines*. ■

## 'Mega' Geothermal Energy Fair is Family Friendly

**A** "mega" geothermal energy fair is coming June 27–28 to the Ingham County fairgrounds in Mason.

"This fair will be for everyone, and we will have workshops, exhibits, seminars, food, music, and even a kids area," says Larry Kaufman, MGEA executive director.

Sponsors are the Michigan Geothermal Energy Association (MGEA) and the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA), and anyone is welcome to attend. On June 27, the offerings are more technical (for dealers and professionals), with an emphasis on technology, including a new product called a portable room geothermal system.

On June 28, the day will be geared towards learning about geothermal for a home or business. Topics include available rebates; an "Ask the Expert" (wind, solar, bio energy, geothermal) session; and updates on energy legislation, bio energy, electric cars, success stories, case studies, and other energy topics.

There will also be dealer booths where you can ask about specific interests or needs, such as replacing a furnace or air conditioner. Visit [glrea.org](http://glrea.org) or call 269-384-9915. ■

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