

Midwest Energy Cooperative

October 2016

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



Northern Michigan's New
Alpine Power Plant
Is A Powerhouse

Plus!

Celebrating History And
Looking To the Future

Experience The Midwest
Propane Difference

Scenes From A Day
At The Races 2016

Switch to geo by the end of the year for incredible savings



Switching to geo can save you even more—if you hurry

Upgrading to geothermal just got more affordable, and with the 30% federal tax credit set to expire at the end of this year, the time to act is now! WaterFurnace units can save you up to 70% on heating, cooling & hot water by capturing the clean, renewable energy in your backyard to provide incredible home comfort. Now, for a limited time, we're offering homeowners with traditional systems a very special Switch-to-Geo rebate package on our most efficient and comfortable geothermal heat pumps—the 7 Series and the 5 Series—from now until Dec. 9, 2016. Contact your local WaterFurnace dealer to learn more about the Geothermal Upgrade Event!



7 SERIES
\$2000
INSTANT REBATE

5 SERIES
\$1000
INSTANT REBATE

ACT NOW FOR A
30% Tax Credit
EXPIRES DEC. 2016

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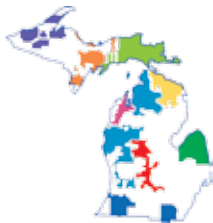
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Michigan's Electric Cooperatives
countrylines.com

October 2016
Vol. 36, No. 9

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Publisher
**Michigan Electric
Cooperative Association**

Michigan Country Lines, USPS-591-710, is published monthly, except August and December, with periodicals postage paid at Lansing, MI, and additional offices. It is the official publication of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

Subscriptions are authorized for members of Alger Delta, Cherryland, Great Lakes, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Ontonagon, Presque Isle, and Thumb electric cooperatives by their boards of directors.

POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

Association officers are **Robert Kran**, Great Lakes Energy, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

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ON THE COVER

The Smith family can rest easy, knowing their family sources their power from Alpine Power Plant. Alpine Power Plant is now the largest and most efficient generator in Michigan north of the Ludington-Midland line, including the Upper Peninsula.

IN YOUR WORDS

What is your favorite Michigan fall activity?

Please submit answers to countrylines.com by November 1.

Last month's responses to the question:

What is your favorite Michigan craft beer?

"Perrin Grapefruit"

"Perrin Lil' Grizzly"

"Short's Soft Parade"

"Bell's Two-Hearted"

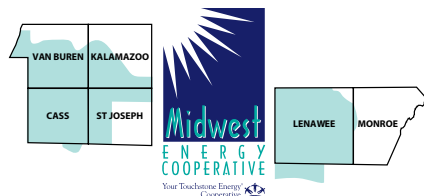
"Founders All Day IPA"

"Dark Horse Crooked Tree"



During construction of the Alpine Power Plant a favorite restaurant was discovered and enjoyed. The Railside Bar & Grill in Elmira is one of northern Michigan's best kept secrets—with a diverse array of tasty dishes, including genuine Polish meals, delicious pizzas, mouth-watering sandwiches, and of course, the World Famous Potato Burger.

Enjoy the Railside's recipe for Polish Nachos at micoopkitchen.com and read more about the Alpine Power Plant on page 14.



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901 E. State Street (P.O. Box 127)
Cassopolis, MI 49031-0127
M-F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

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M-F, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

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Midwest Energy Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Celebrating History And Looking To The Future



Robert Hance
President/CEO

We are people who like a good celebration, and nothing is off limits for a little recognition.

Here are just a few of this month's designated national days: Oct. 2 is Name Your Car Day; Oct. 12, Bring Your Teddy Bear to Work/School Day; Oct. 17, Clean Your Virtual Desktop Day; and let's not forget Chucky, the Notorious Killer Doll Day on Oct. 25. I can only imagine what Hallmark has in mind for that one!

The October celebration that I want to focus on is National Co-op Month. It's been recognized for more than half a century and is a celebration of the 40,000 cooperative businesses serving more than 120 million people across this country.

The 2016 theme is "Cooperatives Build" and it strikes me how relevant that is in our current environment at Team Midwest. The electric cooperative movement started in the 1930s to bring power and light to rural areas. We built an infrastructure to deliver a much-needed value and commodity that others wouldn't provide.

Fast forward to 2016, and your cooperative is building a new infrastructure to again provide a value and commodity that others won't. We're relighting the rural space with fiber internet, and that's great reason to celebrate National Co-op Month!

This is a landmark time in our history. Rural Michigan is losing population because of a lack of critical services like the internet. Our investment in our members and our infrastructure is not only encouraging people and businesses to stay; it's creating reason and relevance for people and businesses to exist and flourish in more rural areas.

We know that we're doing something impactful, but there's nothing more validating than the comments we hear daily from our members. Here's just one from a new user:

"We've lived here 25 years with no cable companies ever willing to run cable down our rural road. WOW, we're in the 21st century now! We watched our first streamed movie ever and can finally play online games and see content we'd only read about. We no longer feel left behind compared to the rest of the world. We're so happy and grateful you took the initiative to help those of us unserved. Thank you, Team Fiber, for bringing our rural home into this century." Kathleen, Vicksburg

We have created and are implementing a vision for something more for our members and building it now as we speak. Now that's something to celebrate! ■

Peace Of Mind Pricing At Midwest Propane

If there is one word that best describes the propane industry, it's volatile.

Three years ago our country fell into an extended deep freeze where propane supply issues and price gouging dominated headlines. Last year, "mild" ruled the day, and most users were spared painfully expensive tank fills.

When you combine an already-volatile industry with pricing games played by many retailers, it leaves many users feeling overwhelmed and at the mercy of their supplier.

You have a choice!

Midwest Propane has never engaged with the pricing games. Our commitment is to provide an exceptional service experience with a capped rate, free and provided through the entire heating season. You can't put a price on peace of mind. Three years ago many ended up paying north of \$4 per gallon because of the volatile market, while our customers comfortably heated their homes with the price stability that is the cornerstone of our approach.

When you play a game, someone always loses. Instead of offering ridiculously low first-fill prices to lure in new customers, we take care of all customers with one capped rate. It's a win-win! So while you may see promotions for some pretty attractive first-fill offers, do your homework and understand what



you will pay for your second fill, or in the middle of the heating season when wholesale prices tend to spike. Our goal is to create an exceptional experience that makes you want to stay around for life, and not just through an introductory program period.

The Midwest Propane guaranteed capped rate for the 2016–17 heating season, June 1, 2016, through May 31, 2017, is \$1.499. This isn't a special deal or a first-fill gimmick. It's the result of a thoughtful and strategic buying approach that hasn't always meant the lowest price for customers, but has always meant a predictable and stable price.

Learn more at TeamMidwestPropane.com. ■



Midwest Propane is "Fueling The Fight"

Tim Anderson, Stan Haas, and their fellow Midwest Propane servicemen aren't delivering just gas this fall; they're delivering hope for cancer patients served through the West Michigan Cancer Center (WMCC). Midwest Propane is again "Fueling the Fight" this fall, and donated nearly \$4,000 to WMCC. We committed one penny per gallon of gas delivered in August, which is the highest delivery month of the year as service technicians prepare customers for the high-use heating season. In total, Midwest has donated more than \$40,000 to support cancer care and services in southwest Michigan; and 2016 marks the fourth year of "Fueling the Fight."



Michigan Co-ops Lead The Way In Renewable Energy

Sun. Water. Wind.

Michiganders know these elements can make for a great day at the beach. Michigan's electric cooperatives also know these raw energy sources can be a great way to power your home.

From solar to wind to hydroelectric (hydro) power, Michigan's electric cooperatives are the state's undeniable leaders in renewable energy.

Collectively, Michigan's nine electric cooperatives will receive more than 20 percent of their energy from renewable resources in 2017. Meanwhile, the statewide average for other utilities is closer to the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirement of 10 percent.

Michigan's cooperatives have been ahead of the curve on renewable energy for more than a decade.

In 2006, Wolverine Power Cooperative* partnered with John Deere Renewables to develop Michigan's first commercial scale wind farm in Huron County. The wind farm was fully operational in 2007 with an output of 50 megawatts. The following year, Michigan adopted the RPS which mandated a 10 percent supply of renewable energy be utilized by electric providers by 2015.

After Michigan's first wind farm, progress continued with the state's very first community solar project at

Cherryland Electric Cooperative in 2013. Another community solar project was built by HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative in 2014. Community solar offers an affordable, convenient way for members to use renewable energy as a power source. A solar panel subscription entitles members to a share of energy produced on a utility-scale community solar array. Participants receive solar credits on their utility bill. It's a great way to remove up-front costs and installation barriers of solar, making it available to the wider membership.

Cloverland Electric Cooperative operates one of the largest hydropower facilities in Michigan. Located along the St. Marys River in Sault Ste. Marie, the hydro plant produces one-fifth of the power needs of the eastern Upper Peninsula.

Now there's the new \$200 million clean natural gas Alpine Power Plant. Commissioned just this year, it was developed to meet peak demand needs for Michigan co-op members and to supplement the often intermittent nature of renewable energy. (See the full story on page 14 of this issue).

This fall, a partnership that includes several of Michigan's electric cooperatives will begin construction on a large solar project located in Missaukee County, between Cadillac and Lake City. This large-scale array will begin generating electricity using the sun starting in January 2017. The project is still in the early stages, and



more information will appear in future issues of *Michigan Country Lines* as it develops. Additionally, members can sign-up to receive project updates at spartansolar.com.

So why do Michigan's electric co-ops continue to lead the way in renewable energy?

"We listen to our members and are able to capitalize quickly on renewable energy opportunities," said Craig Borr, CEO/president of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA). MECA is the service organization representing electric cooperatives in Michigan.

"Michigan's electric cooperatives got into renewable energy because it was the right thing to do from an environmental standpoint," said Borr. "But it turns out it's also the responsible thing to do from a financial standpoint."

Clean, renewable energy generation is where the future of energy is headed.

And for Michigan co-ops, that future looks pretty bright. ■

**Wolverine Power Cooperative supplies power to its member co-ops that include Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Midwest Energy Cooperative, and Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op.*

"Pol"ar Energy

Some may know Jan Pol, DVM, as their neighbor and longtime veterinarian and others know him by his enduring title—*The Incredible Dr. Pol*. Seen on National Geographic's *WILD*, Dr. Pol, his wife, Diane, and their team care for countless animals, but they also care about renewable energy.



This year, the Pols engaged in their second solar project, this time mounted on the barn at their Central Michigan home. They worked closely with their local co-op, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, local representative Nick Cluley with Ecojiva, their installer, as well as the folks from CNR Electric to install approximately 5,000 square feet of Canadian Solar's highest efficiency monocrystalline panels.

The system is equipped to generate up to 57 kW. By incorporating solar panels on their property, the Pols hope to take full advantage of the renewable energy generated in order to offset their residential usage. The Pols plan to sell their excess energy back to the utility for the benefit of their fellow co-op members.

The Pols energy for renewable energy is an inspiration to their community, our state and the world.

Act Now: Buy One LED Bulb, Get One FREE!

Want to save energy, control utility costs, and help improve the environment? Upgrade to high-efficiency LED lighting! To help our members make the switch to LED, Midwest Energy will provide one free bulb with each unit purchased at regular price.

LED Bulbs: The Key to Savings

Did you know that incandescent bulbs release up to 90 percent of their energy as wasted heat? LEDs, on the other hand, emit far less heat—using up to 80 percent less energy, and lasting up to 25 times longer!

Just a few more benefits of LEDs:

- Operate effectively in extreme hot and cold temperatures
- Available in a broad range of colors (including soft, warm, and bright white)
- Small size fosters unique design opportunities
- Most models can be used with a dimmer switch
- Contain no mercury or other hazardous substances

Visit your local Midwest office to take advantage of the offer at the right:

- **Adrian District Service Center:** 1610 E. Maumee Street, Adrian
- **Cassopolis District Service Center:** 901 E. State Street, Cassopolis
- **Paw Paw District Service Center:** 59825 S. LaGrave, Paw Paw

Visit michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for additional energy-saving information and incentives. ■

SHOP NOW AND SAVE

Now through December 31, 2016, receive one LED bulb FREE* with the purchase of one bulb at regular price:

Bulb Type	Cost
10W LED bulb (60W equivalent)	\$2
14W LED bulb (75W equivalent)	\$3
18W LED bulb (100W equivalent)	\$4
12W BR30 LED bulb (85W equivalent)	\$7
CFL bulb (60W equivalent)	\$.50

*Limit 24 bulbs.



Buy 1 Get 1 FREE!

Now through December
when you buy an energy-efficient lightbulb
at Midwest Energy, you get one FREE.

Limit 24 lightbulbs LIMITED TIME OFFER

\$2  **10W LED bulb**
60W equivalent

\$3  **14W LED bulb**
75W equivalent

\$4  **18W LED bulb**
100W equivalent

\$7  **12W BR30 LED bulb**
85W equivalent

50¢  **CFL Single bulb**
60W equivalent

Visit one of Midwest Energy's district
service centers to participate.



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

Best Friends



Lori Haley, Three Rivers – "A Boy and His Dog."



Nichele Rohacs, Niles – "Sisters. Best Friends."



Tammy West, Jones – "We're In This Together."

Photo Contest Winners

The votes are in, and we're happy to share the winning photo (and some great runners-up) from our September photo contest. Winners were selected from 11 Facebook entries receiving nearly 500 votes! Thanks to everyone who submitted a photo, voted and spread the word by sharing the post on Facebook.

Visit teammidwest.com/photo-contest/ to view all the photos submitted.



Erin Dohm, Dowagiac – "Water Babies: Violet and Addie."

Enter Your Photos and Win!

Team Midwest's photo contest is underway; and one lucky winner will win a credit of up to \$200 on their December 2016 electric bill. Every month, a new theme will be announced, and then you can submit your photo. The photo receiving the most votes each month on our Facebook contest page will be entered into the drawing for the year-end bill credit and will be featured in *Country Lines*. Visit facebook.com/TeamMidwest and click on "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs to submit your high-resolution photos. Not on Facebook? You can also enter at TeamMidwest.com/photocontest. Make sure to vote, and encourage others to vote for you, too!

Our upcoming themes are Wild Weather for the January 2017 issue—photos accepted from Nov. 1 to Nov. 20 and Holiday Fun for the February issue—photos accepted Dec. 1 to Dec. 20.

WORLD CUISINE

Take a cultural journey with these tasty recipes.



Photos—831 Creative

Seafood Tostadas (pictured)

Linda L. Ackerman, Thompsonville

- 1 cup medium-hot thick and chunky salsa
- ¼ teaspoon cumin
- ½ pound cod fillets
- ¼ pound medium raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
- ¼ pound shelled or imitation crab
- 1 cup slivered cabbage
- ½ avocado, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup each, thinly sliced red pepper and onion
- 4–8 small flour or corn tortillas, crisped
- chopped cilantro
- 4 lime wedges

Bring salsa and cumin to simmer in a medium skillet. Add cod; cover skillet and poach fish 3–4 minutes. Turn cod, add 2–3 tablespoons hot water to salsa if needed. Add shrimp and crab. Cover and simmer another 3–4 minutes, or until cod flakes easily and shrimp is opaque. Top each crisped tortilla with seafood and vegetables. Spoon warm salsa over tortillas. Garnish with cilantro and lime. Serve immediately!

Scotch Eggs

Rebecca (Becky) Mikel, Union

- salt/pepper to taste
- ½ cup flour
- 3–4 hard boiled eggs, peeled
- 1 pound ground pork sausage
- 3 raw eggs (not boiled)
- 1 cup seasoned breadcrumbs
- shortening, heated



In a bowl, mix salt and pepper with flour. Peel boiled eggs, then roll in the flour and salt and pepper mixture. Pat sausage out into 4–6 equal patties and encase each egg evenly in sausage patty. Beat three raw eggs together

in a separate bowl, then dip the sausage encased egg in the beaten egg mixture. Roll the egg in breadcrumbs until well coated. Drop gently into the heated oil and turn slowly as sausage browns all the way through. This is traditional fare in the U.K. and is eaten hot or cold—so do either!

Greek Salad

- 1 pound small-sized pasta
- 1 English cucumber, diced
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 cup pepperoncini peppers, sliced
- ½ cup sliced black olives
- ½ cup sliced grape tomatoes
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 cup mayo
- ⅓ cup Italian dressing



Cook small-sized pasta according to package directions. Rinse pasta with cold water. Mix mayo and Italian dressing in small bowl. Combine the rest of the ingredients. Chill in refrigerator for at least 30 minutes. Serve!

Pannukakku (Finnish Oven Pancake)

- 1 ½ cups flour
- 1 ½ cups whole milk
- 6 eggs
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons butter
- powdered sugar, jam or maple syrup for serving



Preheat oven to 400 F and place a 13x9 pan inside while it is heating. In a blender, mix all ingredients, except the butter, until they are well blended. Put the butter into the hot pan and brush the pan with the melted butter. Add blender mixture,

and bake for 20–25 minutes until pancake is puffy and golden. It will deflate when it's taken out of the oven. Serve sprinkled with powdered sugar and warm jam or maple syrup.



Gather Round The Co-op Kitchen Table

Join our **EXCLUSIVE** online cooking community to submit your recipes and try recipes from other members.

Go to **MICOOPKITCHEN.COM** and register.

Please submit your favorite **“HEALTHY LIVING”** recipe by **NOVEMBER 4** for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe featured in *Country Lines*.

Enter your recipe online at micoopkitchen.com or send to (handprint or type on one side, please): *Country Lines* Recipes, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

micoopkitchen.com



CUSTOMER APPRECIATION 2016: **A DAY AT THE RACES**

What do you get when you bring 1,800 co-op members to Victory Lane? A customer appreciation day to remember!

On August 28, Team Midwest hosted customers at Michigan International Speedway's NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Pure Michigan 400. For some, it was a first-time experience, while others are regulars on the racing scene. Regardless, everyone enjoyed the fastest track in NASCAR as we celebrated our family of customers.

Several members enjoyed added behind-the-scenes, pre-race experiences after winning Cold Pit passes and Pace Car rides. Congratulations to Dennis Carter, Onsted; Jim DeMoss, Mattawan; Kevin Elliott, Archbold; Ryan Forgey, Union; Steve Houts, Three Rivers; Jessika Gay, Constantine; Kevin Patterson, Blissfield; and Katie Wisneski, Paw Paw. Sue Emerson of Mattawan came away with the 2017 Champions Club passes for a race of her choosing.





THANKS FOR JOINING US FOR A DAY AT THE RACES!





Wolverine Power Cooperative

generates and transmits power to our rural substations so we can distribute it to you, our members. They help us ensure that your energy is affordable, reliable, clean and safe. We rely on Wolverine to make well-informed decisions about the future of your electricity.

We're proud to announce that the newest addition to the Wolverine supply mix, the Alpine Power Plant, is now fully powered and generating enough power for 120,000 member households across the state of Michigan!

What is the Alpine Power Plant?

Just 18 short months ago, Wolverine's board of directors—made up of co-op members just like you—set the Alpine Power Plant in motion. Alpine is the largest and most efficient generator in northern Michigan, including the Upper Peninsula.

Alpine is fueled by natural gas, a clean, reliable, and affordable alternative to coal. Its unique, state-of-the-art technology includes two GE simple-cycle combustion turbine generators that together are capable of producing up to 432 megawatts of power. Alpine is a "peaker plant," meaning it can be fired up quickly to provide electricity for surges in demand.

Wolverine invested approximately \$180 million into Alpine to ensure a quick start and flexible operations. As Michigan transitions away from coal plants toward more renewable forms of electric generation, Alpine provides us with a new, affordable, efficient and flexible generation asset, essential for years to come as the industry changes.

Northern Michigan's New
Alpine Power Plant
Is A Powerhouse

How does Alpine impact me?

Wolverine Power Cooperative and its members, including Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Midwest Energy Cooperative and Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, are proud to be leaders when it comes to providing long-term solutions for Michigan's energy capacity. Old coal plants are retiring, leaving a void that new power plants can and need to fill.

Adding Alpine's output to Michigan's energy supply will help maintain affordable rates in the midst of coal plants retiring, by giving us an additional option when market rates fluctuate. The plant will also serve to integrate new renewable energy sources, as we expect to receive 30 percent of our electricity from renewable sources in the future.

Beyond the energy benefits for Michigan as a whole, Alpine Power Plant offers economic impacts for its local community. Strategically located to support reliability in northern Michigan, the middle-of-the-mitt location in Otsego County provides a boost to the local economy. During construction, the site was host to more than 300 workers that, in turn, contributed greatly to the local economy. The plant will be maintained by nine full-time employees. The plant also provides a tax boost to units of government in Elmira Township, the City of Gaylord and Otsego County.

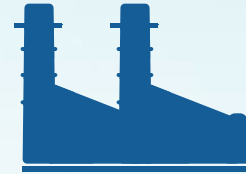
Michigan's energy future is secured in part because of projects like the Alpine Power Plant. We hope you're as excited as we are to see your electric bills stay low and your quality of life stay high! ■

Get more information about the Alpine Power Plant by visiting alpinecleanenergy.com.

WHAT IS ALPINE DOING?

Generating Electricity

Wolverine's Alpine Power Plant is the largest power plant in Michigan's northern Lower and Upper Peninsulas, capable of generating up to 430 MW of electricity.



Powering Members

Alpine ensures Wolverine's members have a reliable, clean and competitive power supply for decades to come.



Supporting Michigan

With retiring coal plants and expanding regulations, Alpine is essential for replacing capacity to meet Michigan's energy demand. Alpine is the only large-scale power plant within a 150-mile radius.



Helping Communities

Alpine provides a major boost to communities with increased tax revenues for local units of government.



Stay Warm And Save Energy

Heating and cooling costs account for more than half of the energy used in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most. But there's hope—equipping your home with an energy-efficient furnace and a proper thermostat is an effective way to control energy use and costs.

ECM Motors: The Key To Savings

If you're in the market for a new furnace, look for a model with an electronically commutated motor (ECM). An ECM, often referred to as a "variable speed motor," adjusts operating speeds, ensures optimal airflow, and uses less electricity—saving you energy and money.

If you can't afford to purchase an entirely new furnace, replace your existing blower motor with an ECM to improve efficiency. Your existing furnace most likely relies on a motor that allows it to run at only one speed—full speed—whenever it's turned on. Since the blower motor uses about 80 percent of the total electricity consumed by the furnace, switching to an energy-saving ECM can make a major impact.

Invest In A New Thermostat

Wi-Fi enabled and smart thermostats help control energy costs by allowing homeowners to program and adjust temperatures remotely, 24/7. Smart thermostats are unique in that they can program

themselves as they "learn" your behavior patterns and desired temperatures for certain days and times during the week.

REBATES NOW AVAILABLE

Upgrading to energy-saving equipment is more affordable than ever with cash incentives available through the Energy Optimization program:

Equipment	Cash Incentive
New furnace with ECM blower motor	\$200
ECM blower motor replacement	\$200
Wi-Fi enabled or smart thermostat	\$100
COMBO BONUS: New furnace + central A/C unit	\$100 bonus
COMBO BONUS: New furnace + central A/C unit + Wi-Fi enabled or smart thermostat	\$150 bonus

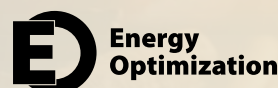
Visit michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for additional energy-saving information and incentives. ■

Save on heating costs

Cooler weather has arrived, which means it's time to think about properly heating your home. Upgrade to a high-efficiency furnace, or install an ECM blower motor in your existing model, and receive a \$200 cash incentive from the Energy Optimization program!

ENERGY TIP: Take control of your energy use with a Wi-Fi-enabled or smart thermostat and receive a \$100 cash incentive.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org
PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

Preferred Contractors Meet Cooperative Quality Standards



Choosing qualified and reputable contractors can be difficult. As a service to our members, we have compiled a list of Midwest Energy Cooperative preferred heating and cooling contractors. As part of the qualification process, we researched, interviewed and checked references on a regional pool of contractors. On our final list, we included only those that we feel will provide the level of service that you have come to know and expect from your cooperative.

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

American Performance Heating & Cooling

47317 Destiny Avenue
Paw Paw, MI 49079
877-865-8801 or 269-720-0803
performancegeothermal.com
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems, including geothermal

Bartholomew Heating & Cooling, Inc.

3025 Emerald Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
269-381-9045
TotalComfortPros.com
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems, including geothermal; home performance contractor

Bel-Aire Heating & Air Conditioning

781 Lenox Road
Portage, MI 49024
888-Bel-Aire (235-2473)
belaire.com
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems, including geothermal

Comfort One Heating & Cooling

200 5th Street
Michigan Center, MI 49254
517-764-1500
or
7250 West US Hwy 223
Adrian, MI 49221
517-263-3040
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems, including geothermal

Crystal Valley Comfort

18569 Highway 20
Bristol, IN 46507
574-825-2611 or 269-273-6975
crystalvalleycomfort.com
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems, including geothermal

Haven Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.

10420 M-140, Suite 12
South Haven, MI 49090
269-637-1400
havenheating.com
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems, including geothermal

HIS Servant Heating & Cooling, Inc.

14738 Packard Road
Hudson, MI 49247
888-789-9339 or 517-286-6929
hisservantheatingandcooling.com
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems

Shoemaker Heating & Plumbing

5310 US Hwy 223
Palmyra, MI 49268
517-263-9940
yourbryantman.com
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems, including geothermal & generators

Service First LLC

5605 Bent Oak Hwy
Adrian, MI 49221
517-263-9194
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems, including geothermal

Sun Services Inc.

26 Longmeadow Lane
Niles, MI 49120
269-684-3898
sunservices.us
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems, including geothermal

The Furnace Guy Heating & Cooling

6053 S. 4th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-544-0904 or 269-273-5241
thefurnaceguyinc.com
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems, including geothermal

Van Kal Heating and Cooling

647 N. State Street
Gobles, MI 49055
269-628-4407
vankalheatingandcooling.com
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems, including geothermal

WaterFurnace Michiana

636 North St. Joseph Ave.
Berrien Springs, MI 49103
269-473-5667
waterfurnace.com
Sales & service of geothermal

Whitcher Plumbing & Heating

1500 W. Maumee Street
Adrian, MI 49221
517-265-1389
whitcherplumbing.com
Sales & service of all types of heating & cooling systems, including geothermal

Co-op Careers Offer Paycheck And A Purpose

By Justin LaBerge

October is National Cooperative Month! Every day in this country, more than 75,000 men and women go to work at America's electric cooperatives to keep the lights on for 42 million energy consumers in 47 states.

It's challenging work, but in addition to a paycheck, co-op employees go home each night knowing they've helped make their communities better places to live.

Over the next five years, thousands of workers will get to experience that sense of purpose and pride as America's electric cooperatives hire nearly 15,000 employees nationwide. These new hires will replace Baby Boomers reaching retirement age and accommodate organic growth in the energy industry.

Many career options

A lineworker high atop a pole is the first image that comes to mind for most people who think about electric cooperative employees. It's true that lineworkers comprise the largest segment of the co-op workforce—approximately 25 percent—but it takes a variety of talents to keep a cooperative running smoothly.

Information technology and engineering are two rapidly growing career opportunities at co-ops. The need for more high-tech workers is driven by the shift to a smarter electric grid and the growth of renewable energy sources that must be carefully monitored and managed.

Other in-demand career paths at electric cooperatives include finance, member services, equipment operators, energy advisors, communications and marketing, purchasing, administrative support and human resources.

Second careers

Some people think the only time to start a new career is fresh out of high school or college. While the energy industry offers many rewarding careers to recent grads, it is also a great place to start a second or third career.



Electric Cooperative Careers
There's a place for you in the co-op network.

Lineworker training programs offered through community colleges are growing in popularity among people who previously worked in oil and gas, manufacturing, mining, forestry and other similar industries.

Make a difference

As not-for-profit, member-owned, locally-based businesses, America's electric cooperatives offer careers that allow employees to make a difference in the communities they serve. Cooperatives are guided by a set of principles that put people ahead of profits and offer fulfilling work to those who enjoy serving others. ■

How to find a co-op job

Interested in joining the co-op family? To learn more about the opportunities available across the cooperative network, visit careers.touchstoneenergy.coop or by visiting Michigan co-op websites at countrylines.com.



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TeamMidwest.com



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