

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES
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OFFICE HOURS
Indiana Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Ebensburg Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Closed Tuesday and Thursday

The Cooperative Difference



CHAD CARRICK

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH, a time to recognize what makes electric cooperatives unique. As costs continue to rise across nearly every aspect of daily life, REA Energy Cooperative knows that many families are carefully managing their budgets and looking for ways to make every dollar count. We understand those challenges because we live and work in the same communities we serve.

As a member-owned cooperative, our mission is different from that of a traditional investor-owned utility. We are not driven by the interests of outside shareholders; we are accountable to our members, and every decision we make is guided by what's best for the people and communities we serve.

Combating rising costs

While many factors affecting the cost of electricity are beyond our control, it is our responsibility to manage those challenges wisely. That's why we remain focused on maintaining reliable service while working diligently to control costs, operate efficiently, and make thoughtful investments that strengthen our electric system for the future.

At REA Energy, our focus is always on solutions. We continually evaluate our operations, seek efficiencies, and look for opportunities to help members manage their energy use and lower their monthly bills. We take the trust our members place in us seriously and remain committed to delivering the greatest possible value from every dollar invested in the cooperative.

National Cooperative Month is also a reminder that you are more than a customer. As a member, you are an owner of REA Energy. Through your elected board of directors, you have a voice in the cooperative's future, and through capital credits, you share in the financial success of the organization. That local ownership and accountability are what set cooperatives apart.

For generations, electric cooperatives have been built on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors. While the energy industry continues to evolve, that commitment remains unchanged. Thank you for your trust, your support and your membership.

At REA Energy, you, our members, are the reason we work every day to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity for our communities. 🇺🇸

CHAD CARRICK, MBA, CFPC
PRESIDENT & CEO

You're Not Just Paying the Bill, You're Part of the Team

KAYLA KING, CCC, MARKETING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

IF YOU RECEIVE POWER FROM REA Energy Cooperative, you are more than a customer. You are a member and an owner of the cooperative. That is one of the things that makes electric cooperatives different from other utilities.

Operated with local members in mind

REA Energy was built to serve our local communities. Unlike investor-owned utilities that are owned by shareholders and operated to earn profits, REA Energy is owned by the members it serves. Every member has a voice in how the cooperative operates.

Electric cooperatives came to be during the rural electrification movement of the 1930s. At that time, many rural areas did not have access to electricity because it was too expensive for private companies to build power lines to farms and small communities.

Undeterred, residents worked together to form electric cooperatives and bring electricity to their rural neighbors. Nearly 90 years later, that same spirit of working together to serve our communities is still at the heart of REA Energy.

As a member of the cooperative, you help shape its future. Members elect a nine-member board of directors from among their fellow REA membership. These directors represent you and help make decisions about REA Energy's operations and long-term goals. Each member gets one vote, no matter how much or little electricity they use.

Following values of yesteryear

Electric cooperatives follow a set of values known as the Seven Cooperative Principles. These principles come from a group known as the Rochdale Pioneers, who started one of the world's first successful cooperatives in Rochdale, England, in 1844.

The Seven Cooperative Principles are:

- ▶ Voluntary and Open Membership
- ▶ Democratic Member Control
- ▶ Member Economic Participation

- ▶ Autonomy and Independence
- ▶ Education, Training and Information
- ▶ Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- ▶ Concern for Community

These principles guide the decisions that REA Energy makes every day. They help the cooperative focus on providing reliable service, supporting its communities and meeting the needs of its members..

Being a member pays

Another vital part of being a cooperative member is understanding how a not-for-profit electric cooperative works. Being not-for-profit does not mean the cooperative does not earn money. Instead, it means the cooperative operates at cost and does not exist to make profits for outside investors.

The money that members pay for electric services is used to maintain power lines, replace equipment, improve reliability, and keep electricity flowing safely to homes and businesses. It also helps cover daily operating expenses.

If REA Energy collects more money than it needs to cover expenses in a year, those extra funds are called margins. Instead of going to shareholders, margins are assigned back to members as capital credits. Over time, and when the cooperative's financial condition allows, those capital credits may be returned to members.

Investing in our members, now and in the future

Because REA Energy is owned by its members, decisions are always made with them in mind. The cooperative focuses on providing dependable service and making investments that benefit the communities it serves.

REA Energy works to improve the quality of life throughout its service area. The cooperative supports safety events, vocational school program development, community projects and does it all through our subsidiaries, REA Energy Services and In The Stix Broadband. These efforts reflect the cooperative principle of concern for community and demonstrate a commitment to helping our communities grow and succeed.

Being a member of REA Energy means being part of something bigger than just paying a monthly bill. It means having ownership in a local organization that is focused on serving its members. It means having a voice, sharing in the cooperative's success and working together to strengthen our communities.

At its core, an electric cooperative is neighbors helping neighbors. That commitment has guided REA Energy for generations and continues to power our communities today. 🌱

CELEBRATE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH WITH REA ENERGY!

October is National Cooperative Month, and REA Energy is proud to join more than 40,000 cooperatives serving communities across the country.

As part of the celebration, members who did not attend the cooperative's online annual meeting can receive a gift packet. To participate in this Member Appreciation Event, visit our office in Indiana or Ebensburg during October or November and present the Member Card from your Annual Meeting Notice. Gift packets are available on a first-come, first-served basis, with one packet per membership while supplies last.

Members who received the \$15 bill credit for participating in the online meeting are not eligible for a gift packet.

Don't Cry, Squonk! A Local Legend Worth Celebrating This Halloween

KAYLA KING, CCC, MARKETING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

WITH HALLOWEEN APPROACHING, thoughts often turn to ghosts, goblins and other creatures that go bump in the night, playing tricks and scaring people. Here in Pennsylvania, however, we have our own legendary creature that's a little different from the rest. It doesn't haunt old houses or terrorize travelers. In fact, it's too shy to do either.

Meet the Squonk, Pennsylvania's very own hometown cryptid. According to Pennsylvania folklore, the Squonk lives deep in the hemlock forests near Johnstown and the Laurel Highlands region. It's known for being sad, not scary.

Stories describe the creature as small, with a hog-like appearance, loose, wrinkled skin, and patches of hair that makes it self-conscious. Legend says the Squonk spends much of its time crying over the way it looks.

A puddle and a story

The Squonk's mournful sobs are said to echo throughout the woods, drawing curious people closer. However, anyone hoping to catch it may be disappointed. According to folklore, whenever the Squonk is cornered or captured, it dissolves into a puddle of tears, leaving behind little more than a good story to tell around the campfire.

While nobody can say for certain whether the Squonk ever really roamed Pennsylvania's forests, its legend has been passed down for generations. The tale traces its roots to the lumber camps of the early 1900s, where loggers shared stories after long days in the woods. The Squonk was later immortalized in William T. Cox's 1910 book, "Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods," helping secure its place as

one of Pennsylvania's most beloved pieces of folklore.

Part of the Squonk's charm is that it isn't a monster at all. In a world full of fierce dragons, hairy beasts and things that go bump in the night, the Squonk is surprisingly relatable. It reminds us that everyone feels awkward, embarrassed or out of place from time to time. Rather than inspiring fear, the Squonk inspires sympathy and maybe even a little affection.

This relatability may be why the legend has endured for more than a century. The Squonk may not be brave, powerful or glamorous, but it has become a treasured part of Pennsylvania's identity. From local artwork and festivals to campfire stories and community traditions, this tearful cryptid continues to capture the hearts of people across the Commonwealth.

In fact, with its deep Pennsylvania roots, commitment to staying local and reputation for bringing people together through storytelling, the Squonk might qualify as an honorary REA Energy member. Like the communities REA Energy serves, the Squonk is uniquely Pennsylvanian, deeply connected to local history and part of a story that has been shared from one generation to the next.

This Halloween as you carve pumpkins, hand out candy or gather with family and friends, take a moment to appreciate one of Pennsylvania's most unique legends. And if you happen to hear faint sobbing from a nearby stand of hemlocks, don't be alarmed.

It might just be the Squonk.

And if all you find is a puddle of tears, you'll know you were almost lucky enough to meet Pennsylvania's most famous cryptid. 🐾



REA ENERGY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11, FOR

VETERANS DAY

THE INDIANA OFFICE WILL REOPEN ON
THURSDAY, NOV. 12, AND THE
EBENSBURG OFFICE ON FRIDAY, NOV. 13.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE OR MAKE A
PAYMENT, PLEASE CALL 844-920-3395.

STAY CONNECTED

Keep your contact information up to date so you never miss outage alerts and service updates. You can update your details through SmartHub, by calling 724-349-4800, or by writing the changes on the back of your REA Energy bill and returning it with your payment.

Your phone number is especially important for reporting outages and receiving real-time updates. If it's outdated, you could miss critical information when you need it most.

Take a moment to review your information:

- Make sure your primary phone number is correct
- Use a number you can access anytime

Staying connected helps us respond faster and keep you informed at critical times.
Update your information today to be prepared for tomorrow.

Right-of-Way Management/Facility Construction News

REA Energy contractors will be completing tree-trimming work in the following areas in October:
Contractor crews from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way of the Locust substation service territory, in addition to emergency maintenance areas.
Members in affected areas will be notified. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractor employees will carry identification cards and their vehicles will display their company name.
For more information, call 724-349-4800 or view the specifications online at reaenergy.com.

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REA Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.