

# REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## REA ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Indiana, PA 15701-0070  
724-349-4800 • 800-211-5667

## EBENSBURG DISTRICT OFFICE

127 Municipal Road  
Ebensburg, PA 15931  
814-472-8570

Website: [www.reaenergy.com](http://www.reaenergy.com)  
Email: [reaenergy@reaenergy.com](mailto:reaenergy@reaenergy.com)

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Indiana Operations Manager

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ACRE Coordinator

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**Jeff Dishong**

Ebensburg Operations Supervisor

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Local Pages Editor

**Chris Masterson**

Reliability Supervisor

**Bryon Roland**

Purchasing & Facilities Manager

**Brendan Short**

Right of Way/Forestry Supervisor

**Renee Spalla**

Supervisor of Consumer Services

**Chris Weller**

Load Management Supervisor

### OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES

1-800-332-7273  
724-463-7273

### 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

## New Ways to Use Electricity



**IF YOU LISTEN CAREFULLY, YOU** can hear a quiet transformation happening. Electric appliances and equipment are becoming more popular than ever among consumers.

Inside the home, consumers and homebuilders alike are turning to electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings. Whether a traditional electric stove or an induction stove top, both are significantly more efficient than a gas oven. That's because conventional residential cooking tops typically

use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy with efficiencies of approximately 32% and 75%, respectively (according to Energy Star®). Electric induction stoves, which cook food without any flame, reduce indoor air pollution and can bring water to a boil about twice as fast as a gas stove. Robotic vacuums are also gaining popularity. Fortune Business Insights attributes the growth and popularity of robotic vacuums to a larger market trend of smart home technology and automation (think Alexa directing a robotic vacuum to go to work).

More tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, battery technology has advanced significantly. Hand-held tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer and offer the user the same versatility and similar functionality as gas-powered tools. For DIYers and those in the building trades, national brands offer electric versions of their most popular products like drills, saws, sanders, and other tools. In addition to standard offerings, consumers can now purchase a wider array of specialty tools that plug in, such as power inverters and battery chargers.


Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert and president of the Beneficial Electrification League notes, "A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited — electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and vehicles."

Today, the number of electric products available is exploding.

"There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes — even airplanes and boats," Dennis says. "With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market."

More national brands are offering a wider selection of electric-powered tools and equipment, such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers, and snow blowers. The quality of zero- or low-emissions lawn equipment is also improving.

Electric equipment requires less maintenance, and often the biggest task is keeping it charged. Electric equipment is also quieter, so you can listen to music or your favorite podcast while working outdoors — something that wouldn't be possible with gas-powered equipment. On the horizon, autonomous lawn mowers (similar to the robotic vacuum cleaners) will be seen dotting outdoor spaces.

By virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental impact of electric tools and equipment lessens over time as electricity becomes cleaner through increases in renewable energy generation. 

**STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKAE**  
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

# May is National Electrical Safety Month

**MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH**, which is a great opportunity to revisit the dangers of electricity.

Electricity is a dynamic power source that can cause electrical fires, injuries and electrocutions. The Electrical Safety Foundation International and REA Energy Cooperative are asking you to review the common electrical safety questions and answers below. We encourage you to share this information.

Downed power lines and floods are just a couple of the serious safety concerns associated with severe storms and natural disasters. Unfortunately, many of these electrical safety hazards remain long after the storm itself has passed.

## Power lines

### *What should I do if I encounter a downed power line?*

Move at least 10 feet away from the line and anything touching it. Shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock. Electricity wants to move from a high-voltage zone to a low-voltage zone — and it could do that through your body.

*What can I do to help someone who has come in contact with a downed power line?* Do not touch anyone in direct

or indirect contact with a downed line. You could become the next victim. Call 9-1-1 instead.

*Can I use something that is not metal to try to move a downed power line myself?* Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object, such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and electrocute you.

*What should I do if I see a downed power line in the street while I am driving?* Do not drive over downed power lines, and call 9-1-1 to report the location.

*What if a power line comes down onto my car or I didn't see it until I've driven into it?* If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed line, stay in your car. Tell others to stay away. If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid simultaneous contact with the car and the ground. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffle away from the car.

*Is a downed power line still dangerous if it has come down in water, like a pool or pond?* Water is a good conductor of electricity. Any amount of water — even a puddle — could become energized. Be careful not to touch water — or anything in contact with the water — near where there is a downed power line.

## Electrical Safety Checklist

Nearly half of all home fires occur during winter months. Take a few minutes to identify and correct any potential electrical hazards to ensure the safety of your home.

### SWITCHES AND OUTLETS

- **Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?** YES NO  
Warm switches or outlets indicate an unsafe wiring condition.
- **Are any outlets or switches discolored?** YES NO  
Discoloration indicates dangerous heat buildup at these connections.
- **Do plugs fit snugly into outlets?** YES NO  
Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.

### CORDS

- **Are any cords cracked, frayed or damaged?** YES NO  
Damaged cords can expose wires, causing shock or fire hazard.
- **Are any cords pinched by furniture or windows, or attached to anything with staples or nails?** YES NO  
Pinching and/or stapling cords can damage the insulation, causing shock or fire hazard.
- **Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis?** YES NO  
Extension cords should only be used temporarily.

### ELECTRIC PANEL

- **Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses?** YES NO  
If yes, this could indicate you're exceeding a safe level of electrical current.
- **Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)?** YES NO  
AFCIs provide greater fire protection. Check your circuit breakers for the AFCI label.

## Flooded areas

*My basement has flooded and there is standing water. Is it safe to go down there?* Use extreme care when stepping into flooded areas. Submerged outlets or electrical cords can energize water, posing a lethal trap.

*My washer, dryer and a few other appliances got really wet during the flood. Can I start using them again after they dry out?* Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet until they have been examined by a qualified service repair dealer. Electrical equipment exposed to water can be extremely dangerous if re-energized without proper reconditioning or replacement.

*Does a flood affect my home's electrical system, too, or just the appliances?* Electrical items, such as circuit breakers, fuses, ground-fault circuit interrupters, receptacles, plugs, and switches, can malfunction when water and silt get inside. Discard them if they have been submerged. Have a licensed, qualified professional replace them.

*Can flooded outdoor areas be dangerous, too?* Yes. Downed power lines or submerged outlets from adjacent homes could energize the water. Use extreme caution when entering any flooded area.

## Post-evacuation

### *The storm is over. Can I go home?*

First and foremost, do NOT return home until instructed by the appropriate local authorities. Once they give the go-ahead, return during the daylight, especially if power has not been restored. If you smell gas, leave the premises and notify emergency authorities immediately. Do not light matches, turn on lights or engage in any activity that could create a spark.

### *Could there still be electrical dangers?*

Yes. You should still take precautions to protect yourself from electrical hazards posed by downed power lines, flooded areas, and water-damaged appliances and electrical equipment. ⚡

## \*\*ATTENTION\*\*



When using REA Energy's IVR outage reporting and bill payment system, if you have your number blocked, you will hear the message: "An error has occurred. Please hang up and try calling again."

To complete your call and report your outage, you must remove the block for it to go through.

Another item to keep in mind is the number you are calling from; if you are trying to report your outage by entering your phone number, it must be on your account to be recognized. If you wish to update your information, please contact the cooperative.

With the recent change to our new system, we have made some exciting changes to the REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. website! This image below is what you will see when you visit [reaenergy.com](http://reaenergy.com).

From these buttons, you can explore the many options we offer. Clicking "Become a Member" will allow you to sign up for electric service from the cooperative and pay any necessary fees, eliminating the need to come to the office to sign up.

Click on "MyREAenergy" to be directed to our online payment platform. Here you can set up automatic payments, monitor your usage, send messages to the cooperative and much more.

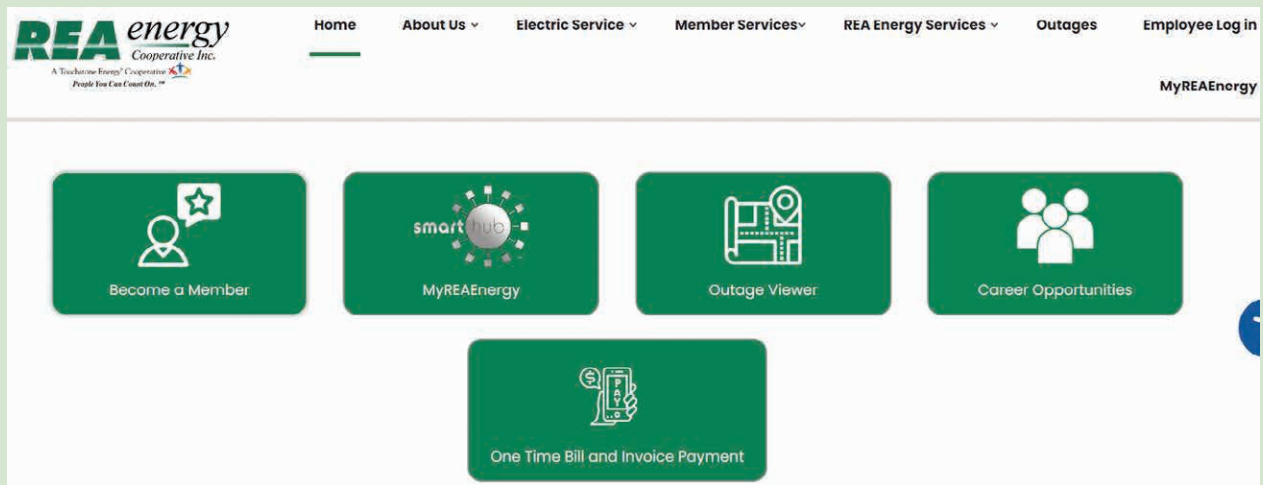
The "Outage Viewer" button leads to a map with a sum-

mary of known power outages and the estimated time of restoration.

Looking for a job with the cooperative? Click "Career Opportunities" to display open positions and download an employment application.

If you are looking to make a one-time online payment of your electric bill or an invoice, click on "One-Time Bill and Invoice Payment." This allows you to make a quick payment without the need to sign up for SmartHub.

But that's not all! From the homepage, you can explore the different services and information offered, follow the link to our REA Energy Services subsidiary, read the current *Penn Lines* issue, and much more.



## ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

### RESIDENTIAL

- Meter sockets
- Entrance cable replacement
- Complete 100-, 200- and 400-amp services
- Complete wiring on new construction
- Manufactured home services
- Home/farm meter pole services
- Panel and breaker replacement
- Automatic and portable generators

### COMMERCIAL

- Three-phase switch gear installation
- Motor control installation
- Complete wiring



- Commercial lighting
- Automatic and portable generators
- Farm services

## HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING

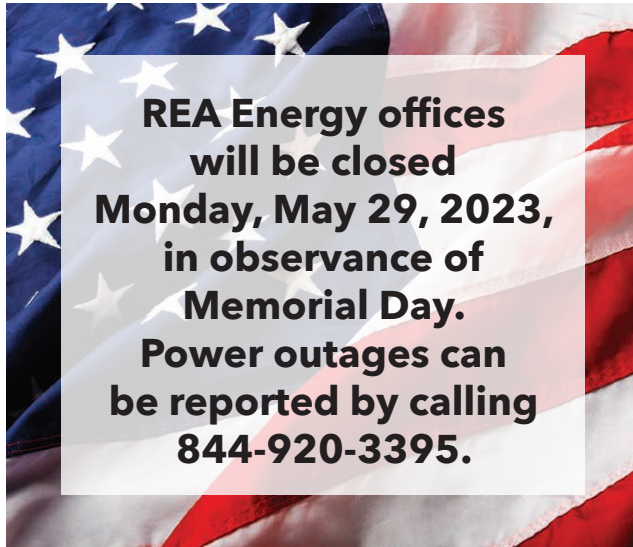
### RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

- Heat pumps
  - » Ducted
  - » Ductless
- Geothermal
- Electric boilers
- Electric thermal storage

E-mail: [reaservices@reaservices.com](mailto:reaservices@reaservices.com)  
[www.reaservices.com](http://www.reaservices.com)

FOR A FREE ESTIMATE CALL:  
724-349-4800, ext. 3

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## Right-of-way Management/Facility Construction News

REA Energy contractors will be completing tree-trimming work in the following areas for the month of May:

Contractor crews from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way of the Birtle Metering Point and the Summerhill and Washington substation areas, in addition to emergency maintenance areas.

Notification of work will be made to members in the areas affected. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractor employees will carry employee identification cards and their vehicles will display their company name.

If you have any questions, call 724-349-4800 or view the specifications at [reaenergy.com](http://reaenergy.com).

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*REA Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*