

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

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

Guest Column

Electricity Provides Powerful Value



STACY HILLIARD

IF YOU'RE LIKE ME, there are aspects of your life that become a daily routine. I get ready in the morning and drive to work. At lunchtime, I drive somewhere to get food. After the workday is done, I head home to do housework and spend time with my family before going to bed.

As we look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, I began to think about my daily routine and how much value it provided me in comparison with the money I spent. On average, my daily expenses total about \$85 a week, including gasoline and food costs, or about \$340 monthly. That got me

thinking: Is this the best value for my money?

The average daily cost of electricity is about \$4.57, and the average monthly electric bill for members of REA Energy Cooperative is \$120 to \$130. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte, which is about \$6.

Electricity provides benefits we often take for granted. It allows us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate.

As a member-owned cooperative, REA Energy does everything in its power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for our members. It's not always easy because there are several factors in addition to inflation that impact the price of electricity; some are within our control while others are not.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investments, and maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns can affect both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. Rest assured, REA Energy works each day with you in mind to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money. 🌱

STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKAE
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

An Unforgettable Journey: REA Energy Students Take on Washington, D.C., for Rural Electric Youth Tour

KAYLA KING, CCC, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

IN JUNE, ABOUT 1,700 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS from 44 states came together in Washington, D.C., for the 2025 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour. This once-in-a-lifetime trip gives students going into their senior year the opportunity to visit our nation's capital, meet new friends from all over the country, and learn about how rural electric cooperatives and government work together to help communities.

This year, REA Energy proudly sent 14 students from our service territory to represent us on Youth Tour. These students brought energy, curiosity and a love for learning. They joined a delegation of 66 students from Pennsylvania and New Jersey cooperatives for a week full of learning, exploring, and making memories. Together, they visited famous attractions, met with congressional staff members and discovered how electric cooperatives help power our country.

Youth Tour begins...

The journey began early on a Monday morning as the students and their chaperones embarked on a bus to the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Md. After settling in, the students participated in orientation activities and icebreaker games to get to know each other. They also were given Pennsylvania- and New Jersey-themed pins and friendship bracelets — which quickly became popular keepsakes — to trade with students from other states.

On Tuesday, the group visited several important landmarks, which included the Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR), Martin Luther King Jr., and Thomas Jefferson memorials. At the FDR Memorial, they learned how President Roosevelt empowered rural electric cooperatives by signing the Rural Electrification Act in 1936. Later, they visited the Udvar-Hazy Center, which is part of the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum. They also toured the Smithsonian's natural history and American history museums. That evening, the group explored the newly opened Camp Co-op at the hotel. Here, students traded pins, completed service activities, made friendship bracelets, played games and hung out.

Students had the exciting chance to be selected for the

NRECA Youth Leadership Council (YLC). This program helps students build leadership and public-speaking skills. One REA Energy student, Molly Spence of Marion Center School District, was selected as a finalist with three other students from Pennsylvania. Their peers cast ballots to pick the winner. Molly gave a strong and meaningful speech to the Pa./N.J. Youth Tour group Tuesday morning. She made a lasting impression on the students and chaperones and will serve as Pennsylvania's YLC runner-up. Congratulations, Molly!

Wednesday focused on leadership and speaking up on important causes. The students learned what it means to be a leader in their schools and communities during the Co-op 101 and Youth Advocacy sessions. In the afternoon, they traveled to Capitol Hill and met with staff members from their federal representatives' offices. They asked thoughtful questions about school funding, healthcare and rural broadband. Later, they visited The People's House, an interactive museum about the history of the White House.

Thursday was a busy and emotional day. The group visited Arlington National Cemetery to honor fallen heroes and then spent time at the Holocaust Memorial Museum. That night, all the states came together for Youth Night, which included trivia games, speakers, more pin trading and a powerful speech by Paralympian Mike Schlappi, who talked about staying positive and strong during tough times.

On Friday, students explored the International Spy Museum and enjoyed seeing the animals at the National Zoo. We made a surprise visit to the front of the White House, where students took photos and joined an impromptu dance session with a street performer. That evening, they celebrated at Co-op Connections Night — a fun event filled with music, dancing and laughter.

Saturday morning was spent visiting the Lincoln Memorial and the World War II, Vietnam, and Korean War memorials before heading home. What began as a group of strangers turned into 80 friends who shared memories, hugs and even a few tears. As the buses rolled away from Washington, the students promised to stay in touch and remember the amazing week they spent together. 📸



Pa./N.J. Youth Tour delegates pose with Pennsylvania state Rep. Jeremy Shaffer (R-Allegheny) at NRECA's Youth Evening.



REA Energy Youth Tour delegates tour several monuments and memorials, including the Jefferson Memorial.



Pa./N.J. Youth Tour delegates visited several important Washington, D.C., sites, including the White House.



Youth Tour students had a chance to speak with U.S. Rep. Guy Reschenthaler's staff member.



The Pa./N.J. Youth Tour group spent time on Capitol Hill for congressional meetings.



ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

Annual Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m.

The Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex

The annual meeting of the members for REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. will be held Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex, 711 Pratt Drive, Indiana, Pa. Doors open at 4 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Those who attend the in-person meeting will receive a gift and be eligible for door prizes.

For those unable to attend the meeting in person, there is an option to attend virtually. To register for the virtual meeting, visit reaenergy.com and click on the button that says "Annual Meeting Registration." Registration will open on August 18. Please register by noon Sept. 18.

This will admit you to the virtual annual meeting and registers the named member(s) for a chance to win a door prize. Members who participate in the online meeting for the entire time will receive a \$10 bill credit.



**REA ENERGY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPT. 1, IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.**

**THE INDIANA OFFICE WILL REOPEN FOR BUSINESS
TUESDAY, SEPT. 2, AND THE EBENSBURG OFFICE WILL
REOPEN FOR BUSINESS WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 3.**

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

Right-of-Way Management News

REA Energy contractors from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way near the Fairview and Georgeville substations and emergency maintenance areas in August.

Members in the affected areas will be notified. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractors 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.

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