

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

REA ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC.

75 Airport Road • P.O. Box 70
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
Email: reaenergy@reaenergy.com

Chad Carrick
President and CEO

STAFF

Barry Baker
Indiana Operations Manager

Erin Bauer
ACRE Coordinator

Shane Cribbs
Network & Systems Manager

Dave Daugherty
Safety & Right of Way Manager

Jeff Dishong
Ebensburg Operations Supervisor

Lisa Gardill
Accounting & Finance Manager

Nick Hartman
Manager of Engineering

Stacy Hilliard, CCC, CKAE
Communications & Marketing Manager
Local Pages Editor

Bryon Roland
Purchasing & Facilities Manager

Renee Spalla
Supervisor of Consumer Services

Chris Weller
Load Management Supervisor

OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES
844-920-3395

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

Owning the Cooperative Identity: October is National Co-op Month



STACY HILLIARD

THIS MONTH, WE ARE COLLECTIVELY celebrating National Co-op Month to recognize the cooperative model, its influential uses and the numerous ways cooperatives benefit their consumer-members.

Cooperatives were, and still are, created by communities to tackle issues they cannot solve individually. Their members collectively own, operate and run the organization(s), with each member typically getting to vote on decisions. These members are also consumers who use the cooperative's services, which may include electricity, agriculture marketing, food distribution,

mutual purchasing, home care, childcare and real estate, among many others. Currently, there are at least 30,000 cooperatives in the United States alone.


As a member of REA Energy, you may be most familiar with electric cooperatives. We are part of a statewide association, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, along with 13 other electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. We also are part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which represents nearly 960 electric cooperatives in the United States. All of us have the same mission of providing safe and reliable electricity to our members.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities built by the communities they serve. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet your evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are invested in our community because we live here, too. We strive to help make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops are guided by seven principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. The following principles provide a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to their purpose:

1. Open and Voluntary Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is to provide reliable power. Our purpose is people and the communities we're proud to serve. 

STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKAE
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

Playing it Safe Online

KAYLA KING, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

IN TODAY'S WORLD, MOST OF us don't leave the front door to our home unlocked. We protect our homes, loved ones, and valuables from intruders with locks, alarms, and other security measures. Cybersecurity is no different. It's the practice of protecting valuable information, such as your identity, banking and health records, and other sensitive data, from digital attacks and theft.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The staff at REA Energy takes steps to ensure the personal information you share with us is protected, and we encourage you to do the same with information stored on your own personal devices.

According to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency, an arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, these are the four best ways to keep you and your family safe online:

1. Implement multi-factor authentication (also known as two-step verification) on your accounts. This additional layer of protection makes it much harder for criminals to access your information. Even if a hacker obtains your password, they may be unable to access your accounts if multi-factor authentication is enabled.

2. Update your software. This is one of the easiest ways to protect your personal data. When downloading a software update, make sure it's coming straight from the company that created it. Beware of fake pop-ups that request urgent downloads. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.

3. Think before you click. Most successful cyberattacks start with phishing emails. Don't take the bait when cybercriminals go phishing. Avoid emails (or texts) that look too good to be true, are oddly urgent or poorly crafted, or include unusual requests.

4. Create strong passwords, using long, unique, and complex words or phrases. Consider using a password manager to save time, work across all devices, protect your identity and notify you of potential phishing websites.

For the young people in your household

Just as you would talk with your children about safety in the physical world, remember to discuss ways to stay safe online. Help them understand the public nature of the internet. Young people need to know early on that what is shared online stays online and is difficult (if not impossible) to take back.

Also, just as you would guard your money or valuables, children need to learn to guard their personal information, especially on social networks. As a parent or guardian, help kids learn about and use the privacy and security settings on social networks and gaming sites.

Keeping the electric grid and your data secure

REA Energy is doing its share on the cybersecurity front. Part of offering excellent service is keeping that service secure and reliable. For REA Energy, reliability means repairing wear and tear, upgrading our equipment to withstand storms and severe weather, and using technology and best practices to keep our system secure from cybersecurity issues.

While we can't stop a storm or predict every disruption, as a co-op, we do everything we can to keep the lights on and our members protected. Because if we all do our part, our interconnected world will be safer and more secure for everyone. 🌱

See Yourself in Cyber.



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Frightful Fun for Everyone

KAYLA KING, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

OCTOBER MEANS A LOT OF different things for everyone. For some, it's time to go leaf-peeping, enjoy a cup of apple cider and visit pumpkin patches. For others, it's all about the high school football season. Some even start planning for the winter holiday season.

Then, there are some of us who think Halloween is the highlight of the fall season. Decorating with fake spider webs, tombstones, ghosts and witches' brooms, dressing up with elaborate costumes or even stopping by your favorite haunt is how you spend your October. But did you know there is an award-winning haunted trail in our own backyard?

Nestled in the heart of Homer City, a spine-tingling experience attracts thrill-seekers and horror enthusiasts alike: Scary Harry's Haunted Trails. Renowned for its bone-chilling atmosphere and expertly crafted scares, this haunted attraction has earned its place as a must-visit destination during the Halloween season.

Scary Harry's Haunted Trails transports visitors into a world of darkness and dread from the moment they step foot on the grounds. The eerie ambiance features dense woods that cloak the trails and buildings, amplifying the sense of isolation and anticipation. Each twist and turn of the trails leads deeper into the unknown, where unexpected terrors lurk in the shadows.

To Paul and Amanda Ondo, Scary Harry's is not only their pride and joy but also their home away from home. While the haunting season at Scary Harry's starts Sept. 13, the Ondos are on-site year-round. Even Paul's mother, Cora, and stepfather, Dan, help. Cora does a great deal of decorating

and propmaking, while Dan can be found maintaining the grounds.

"August is when we pick up the production to get the property ready for the start of the season," Amanda says. "It's all-hands-on-deck for all 40 of us on staff here."

With a dream to one day own an amusement park, the Ondos began their haunting journey in 2008 with a trick-or-treat event on their property. They decided to open the haunted trail in 2009 and officially changed its name to Scary Harry's in 2012. A year later, they moved the attraction to its current 10-acre property. In 2021, Scary Harry's was named the "Scariest Haunt" in Pennsylvania by The Scare Factor. The site competed against 69 other haunted attractions in the state.

Scare actors and staff must complete rigorous training each year to not only excel at scaring customers but to also keep those customers safe while on the property. Scary Harry's has more than \$100,000 in safety equipment on-site, and the staff must go through a minimum of eight hours of training each season. Scary Harry's and similar attractions are subject to state inspections and regulations to ensure customer and staff safety.

For many, visiting Scary Harry's Haunted Trails has become a Halloween tradition. The attraction welcomes 400 to 700 visitors a day during the spooky season. Whether you are a horror aficionado or someone seeking an unforgettable thrill, this haunted attraction promises to deliver an experience that will haunt your dreams long after the night is over.

Scary Harry's is a testament to the Ondos' artistry and passion for creating fear-inducing experiences. From its

atmospheric setting to its meticulously crafted scares and immersive storytelling, every aspect of this attraction is designed to leave a lasting impression on those brave enough to venture into its depths. As Halloween approaches, dare to step into the darkness and discover why Scary Harry's is a destination that continues to captivate and terrify all who dare to visit. 🎃



A YEAR-ROUND PROJECT: Before the Scary Harry's Haunted Trails opens mid-September for the spooky season, staff work throughout the summer to prepare the attraction.




1703 Pierce Road
Homer City, PA 15748

October Hours of Operation

Fridays: 7 - 11 p.m.
Saturdays: 7 - 11 p.m.
Sundays (October 13, 20 & 27):
7 - 10 p.m.

Cash or Card Accepted

scaryharrys.com

 Scary Harry's
Haunted Trails



REA energy
Cooperative Inc.

Focused on YOU.

October is National Co-op Month

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because REA Energy is a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of cooperative membership.

Get a member appreciation gift this month at either of our offices.

If you couldn't attend this year's annual meeting, bring your annual meeting notice to an REA Energy office during Co-op Month to receive a member appreciation gift.

Right-of-Way Management/ Facility Construction News

REA Energy contractors from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way of the Uniontown substation area in addition to emergency maintenance areas in October.

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

REA Energy's Ebensburg and Indiana offices will be closed Friday, Oct. 18. Both offices will reopen at 7 a.m. Monday, Oct. 21. Please call 844-920-3395 to report any power outages.

Payments can be placed in the drop box at both locations or submitted via SmartHub at reaenergy.com.

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REA Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.