


Consolidated Electric Cooperative, Inc.

® Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Daylight saving time

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead at 2 a.m. on March 14 for daylight saving time.



Between the Lines

An official publication of Consolidated Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Between the Lines to be offered only electronically

Consolidated Electric is working hard to minimize costs that affect your electric rate without adversely affecting quality and reliability. One of the aspects of quality customer service is effectively communicating messages to our members. And we use multiple outlets to do so; *Country Living*, *Between the Lines* and our Web site www.CONSolidATEDelectric.coop.

Each year, we conduct a member satisfaction survey and one of the questions is focused on the readership of our publications. The results show a high percentage of our membership prefer to receive communication through our local pages in *Country Living* magazine. The survey results also showed an interest in receiving information

by visiting our Web site and through email. With that in mind and in keeping with the cost control initiatives necessary in keeping our members rates down, we have made some changes.

The past two years we have offered *Between the Lines* not only in print, but also electronically. Many members have taken advantage of the electronic format, which also contains links to our Web site for additional information. In order to cut printing costs in the best interest of our members, effective March 1, *Between the Lines* will **only** be offered in electronic form. If you have not already, but would like to sign-up for the electronic version, please do so on our Web site, www.CONSolidATEDelectric.coop.



Consolidated Electric Cooperative awarded grant for fiber optic project

Consolidated Electric Cooperative was one of only 18 applicants out of 2,200 nationally submitted applications to receive notice of funding for its Broadband Infrastructure project under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The project involves the construction of a 166 mile fiber optic network through northern Delaware County extending north through Morrow County and east into Knox and Licking counties.

In addition to providing the much needed connectivity for key community facilities and wireless service providers,

the Consolidated Network will connect all of Consolidated Electric Cooperative's substations to support its Smart Grid technology initiative. This will help keep electric prices affordable to members of Consolidated.

Trustee elections

Consolidated Electric Cooperative is a democratic organization controlled by its members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In your cooperative, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and are organized in a democratic manner.

This year trustees in districts 1, 2 and 3 are up for election. As a member of Consolidated, you have democratic control over who represents your district. The election process begins with the nomination of candidates by members.

If you are a member of one of these districts please look for a nomination ballot to arrive around Feb. 8. If you are not sure what district you are a member of, the list of townships is on our Web site – www.CONSolidATEDelectric.coop.

Touchstone Energy principle #2



Dryer vents

Have you ever noticed the room containing your clothes dryer is the coldest room in your house? Ever wonder why? It's because your clothes dryer is connected to an exhaust duct that is open to the outdoors and may be potentially leaking heated air. Vents, ducts or electrical wires often have holes or gaps around them which can allow the air in your home to escape, increasing your energy bill and causing more drafts in your house.



Seal small gaps with caulk and holes up to three inches in diameter with spray foam. Cover spaces larger than three inches with a piece of foam board and seal with spray foam. Also, regular cleaning of the dryer vents will increase dryer efficiency and reduce fire risk.

For more information visit our energy advisor Web site – www.yourenergyadvisor.coop or contact your energy advisor, **Roger Keller**, at 419-949-2929.

Money Savers

Clean the lint filter.

Cleaning the dryer filter after every load will improve air circulation and increase the efficiency of the dryer. It's also an important safety measure.

Peak Alerts

A Peak Alert is a warning that a new all-time-high demand for electricity could be set by Ohio's electric cooperatives, which results in increased transmission costs. You can help avert a new peak by turning the thermostat down a few degrees, turning off unnecessary lights, delaying use of large appliances and avoiding use of any other nonessential items.

By helping to "Beat the Peak" you'll help your cooperative, and yourself, save money in preventing higher charges. Peak Alerts are most likely to occur in the evening from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on days during the winter when it's extremely cold.

Listen to the following radio stations for Peak Alerts:

105.3 FM – WYHT – Mansfield
107.9 FM – WODB – Columbus
106.1 FM – WVNO – Mansfield
1400 AM – WMAN – Mansfield

Generlink

Winters in Ohio are unpredictable. Although we do not like to think of outages, in the event that one does occur, your electric cooperative will be working diligently to restore your power. But there are times when you may rely on a generator until power is restored.

Did you know that Consolidated Electric offers a generator standby switch? The switch mounts behind your electric meter and allows you to easily and safely connect a portable generator.



I PULLED THE PLUG ON MY ENERGY COSTS.

I'm saving \$222 a year by unplugging things and turning off power strips. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

It eliminates the need to run electric extension cords throughout your house to appliances. Once the generator is plugged in, the standby switch safely disconnects your home from the electric grid and connects it to the generator.

For just \$9.99 per month this generator standby switch can be your assurance that should the power go out, your inconvenience will be minimal. Switches are also available with surge protection to protect the major appliances in your home for an additional \$3 per month. The generator standby switch is also available for purchase.

Give us a call at 800-421-5863 to learn more or visit the Products and Services section of our Web site, www.CONSolidatedElectric.coop.