



GM'S REPORT

MEMBER-OWNED MEANS MEMBER-GOVERNED

One of the most important aspects of Firelands Electric Cooperative's annual meeting each June is the election for board of trustees. These nine trustees, chosen by the co-op's membership, provide strategic direction to ensure that Firelands Electric is operating in the best interests of its members. And they aren't strangers to the co-op — they are neighbors and fellow members who live and work in Firelands Electric's service territory.

With the utility industry experiencing some of the biggest changes since its inception, Firelands Electric Cooperative needs your active participation. As a member of a co-op, you have the right (and some may even say the responsibility) to help set the direction for the organization. Whether serving as a board member or simply voting for one, your involvement serves as a guide for how your electric cooperative operates.

This is a critical difference between co-ops and other electricity providers, such as investor-owned utilities (IOUs) or municipally owned systems. With IOUs, stockholders who live far away and have no direct attachment to the organization elect the directors who make the decisions. Maximizing annual dividends is often their primary concern. Communities served by municipally owned systems may vote for the mayor or city council, but the connection to the electric service is very indirect.

Every Firelands Electric member has the right to vote — and has a say in the governance of the cooperative. Unless we consistently remind ourselves about how precious this right truly is, we can easily take it for granted. Through active engagement and participation of the membership, the co-op can make sure that it is leading in a direction that the members will want to follow.



Dan McNaull
GENERAL MANAGER

Board nomination petitions
for districts 4, 5, and 8
will be available Feb. 22.

The board of trustees is committed to providing solutions that maintain the vibrancy of our local communities. To continue to innovate and more effectively serve the community, we rely on you, our members, to provide guidance. We value your perspective, and we cannot operate effectively and help our community thrive without you.

Please consider serving on your co-op's board of trustees. Board members for districts 4, 5, and 8 will be decided at our annual meeting on June 22, 2019. Any co-op member who is in good standing and resides in a district with an open spot on the board is welcome to run for that position. (See the next page for a map of the cooperative's board districts.) Board members receive

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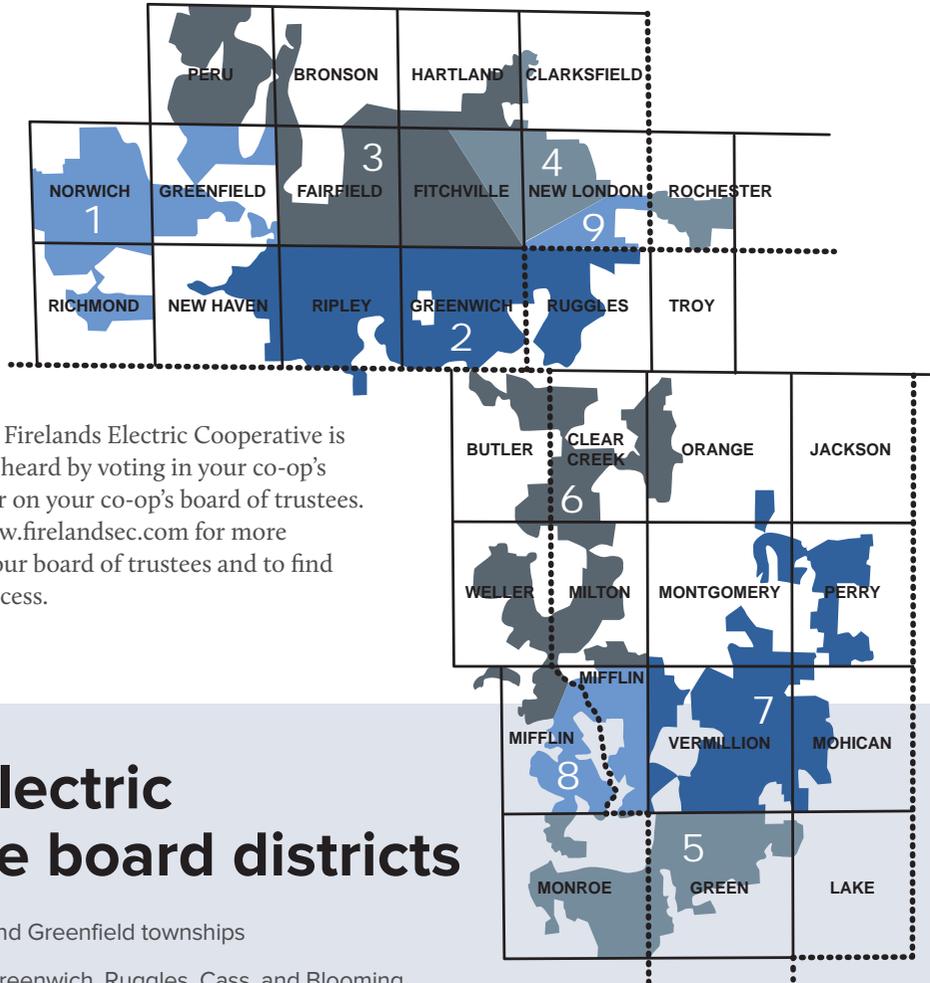


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compensation for attending meetings, and nomination petitions for this year's election will be available beginning Feb. 22. Potential candidates are required to collect 20 member signatures from within their district and submit an election application by Friday, April 12.

One of the greatest resources at Firelands Electric Cooperative is our members. Let your voice be heard by voting in your co-op's elections or serving as a member on your co-op's board of trustees. Call 1-800-533-8658 or visit www.firelandsec.com for more information on how to run for our board of trustees and to find out more about the election process.



Firelands Electric Cooperative board districts

District 1: Richmond, Norwich, and Greenfield townships

District 2: New Haven, Ripley, Greenwich, Ruggles, Cass, and Blooming Grove townships

District 3: Peru, Bronson, Fairfield, and Hartland townships, and Fitchville Township west of State Route 250

District 4: Clarksfield and Rochester townships, Fitchville Township east of State Route 250, and north of CSX rail in New London municipality and New London Township

District 5: Monroe, Green, and Lake townships

District 6: Butler, Clear Creek, Orange, Weller, Milton, and Mifflin and Madison townships north of State Route 42

District 7: Vermillion, Mohican, Montgomery, and Perry townships

District 8: Mifflin Township south of State Route 42 in Ashland and Richland counties

District 9: South of CSX rail in New London municipality and New London Township

Firelands Electric Cooperative is governed by a board of trustees, nominated and elected by our members in accordance with our Code of Regulations. Our service area is divided into nine districts, which are drawn up based on equitable representation of the geographic areas served by Firelands.

FYI

Electricity 101: the flip of a switch

Have you ever wondered why they call it electricity?

It's named after those little pieces of atoms called electrons, and it's the place to start in understanding how power plants make the electricity that reliably lights your home with the flip of a switch.

Getting all those electrons to march together inside a wire has been described as one of civilization's greatest and most complex engineering feats.

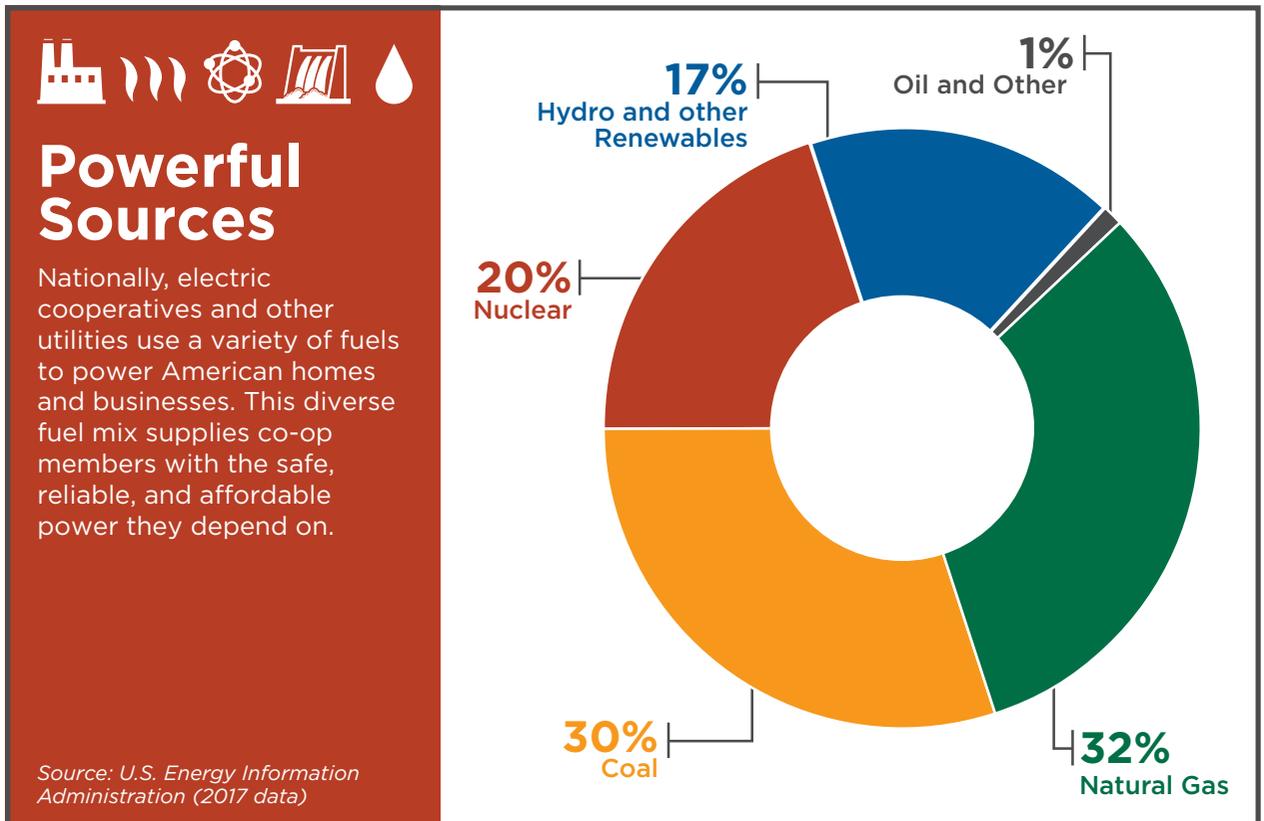
Just about all of your electricity starts with the scientific phenomenon that spinning a magnet inside a coil of wires will generate electricity. Deep inside most power plants are large turbines that are turned in different ways: falling water at a hydroelectric dam, burning coal or natural gas at a fossil fuel station, atomic energy at a nuclear power plant, or the rotating blades of a wind turbine.

Every one of those power plants is unimaginably complicated — think about what you would do if you

were handed a lump of coal and were told to make it run your refrigerator.

Most large electric generating plants need large banks of transformers to boost the voltage for the cross-country trip through wires held up by tall transmission lines and towers. As it nears your neighborhood, the voltage is reduced at one of those fenced-in complexes of wires and transformers called a substation. Lower voltage makes the electricity safer for home energy use. As the electricity gets closer to your home or business, the voltage is reduced again with smaller transformers, which you can typically see mounted on a nearby utility pole or in a ground-level green box in your yard.

Beyond those basics, all that flowing electricity needs to be coordinated so it gets to the right house just as it's needed, with safety always as the top priority. When you think about it, that's a lot of power in the simple flip of a switch!





YOUTH PROGRAMS



Education helps shape the leaders of tomorrow. That's why Firelands Electric includes it as one of our seven core principles. At the beginning of 2017, the cooperative introduced a new program to encourage students in their pursuit of academic excellence. Students in grades 6–8 are invited to become part of “The A Team” and be recognized for their hard work and dedication to education.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Winners of December drawing receive iTunes gift cards



Jeremy Leber
*St. Edward School
Son of Len and Christine Leber*



Lela Funk
*Ashland Middle School
Daughter of Jeffrey and Jana Funk*

Send us your grade card and win!
The next drawing will be held on Feb. 10.

How you can win

Students in grades 6–8 who have a minimum of three A's on their most recent report card and whose parents or guardians are members of Firelands Electric Co-op are eligible to apply. A copy of the report card should be submitted by mail to Firelands Electric Co-op, Attn: The A Team, P.O. Box 32, New London, OH 44851. Report cards may also be emailed to members@firelandsec.com.

Be sure to include the student's name, age, school, grade, address, phone number, the parents' name(s), and email address on your entry.

Complete program details are available at www.firelandsec.com/content/team.



Christopher Hancock
*Buckeye Central Middle School
Son of Douglas and Christine Hancock*

CO-OP NEWS

W.E. Anderson celebrates 10 years of service



W.E. "Andy" Anderson
DISTRICT 8 TRUSTEE

Last month, W.E. "Andy" Anderson celebrated ten years as District 8 trustee of Firelands Electric Cooperative. He was appointed to the board in 2009, following the passing of longtime board member Don Stauffer. A cooperative member for 54 years, Andy retired from Ashland City Schools, where he taught chemistry and served as the science department chairperson.

In addition to serving on Firelands Electric's board, Andy is involved in numerous other civic organizations. He is a 50-year member of the Hayesville Lions Club and in his seventh term on the Hillsdale Local Schools Board of Education. In the past, Andy also held positions on the boards of the Ashland County Farm Bureau and Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center. He also spent 40 years as the Mifflin Township zoning inspector.

Growing up in rural Coshocton County, Andy has been around electric cooperatives his entire life. He can even remember his grandfather going door-to-door to sign friends and neighbors up for electric service with Tuscarawas-Coshocton Electric Cooperative, which is now the electric cooperative known as The Frontier Power Company. "Before that, we had gas-powered lights," Andy says. "And I remember that one of the first electric appliances my parents purchased was a refrigerator."

Andy has seen many changes in the industry since those early days of rural electrification. But one thing has remained the same — electric cooperatives' commitment to providing reliable, affordable power to its members. That's why Andy, like many co-op trustees, is an ACRE Century Club member and earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in 2014. The CCD program focuses on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required by trustees in order to operate the cooperative for the best interest of its members.

Andy and his wife, Donna, reside in the Ashland area. The couple, who have been married for 63 years, have three children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. In his spare time, Andy enjoys woodworking and carpentry.



Thank you!

For the 11th year in a row, Firelands Electric Cooperative served as a collection location for the USO of Northern Ohio's Step Up for Soldiers campaign. In early December, Mike and Aimee Lloyd dropped off several large boxes of donated items from the South Central Schools community.

The Lloyds' son, who is a member of the National Guard, received assistance from the USO during a recent delayed flight. Wishing to pay it forward, Aimee sent emails out to school staff requesting donations for the annual drive. South Central's Students Against Drunk Driving group also got involved by collecting items from fellow students. A huge thank you to the South Central community for their generosity!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Carbary's CORNER



Scott Carbary
ENERGY ADVISOR

Firelands Electric Co-op members often request a free energy consultation simply because they want to conserve electricity. Individually, the changes they make may be small, but completing several of them can sometimes result in noticeable savings. During a recent appointment, I worked with a co-op member on ways to reduce his energy use — including improving the efficiency of the refrigerator.

Heating and cooling (HVAC) systems and water heaters account for roughly 60 to 70 percent of your home's energy use. At 8 percent, refrigerators use far less. However, an inefficient unit can create all kinds of havoc, and this particular member's fridge wasn't performing at its best. Upon closer inspection, I found the unit's condenser coils completely clogged with dirt and pet hair.

Like a car radiator, if the coil becomes blocked, the compressor, or motor, will run hotter and longer trying to keep your food cool. This, in turn, causes the refrigerator to use — and waste — more energy. The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers suggests a blocked coil may lengthen run times by as much as 50 percent and shorten the lifespan of the average refrigerator from 12 to 14 years down to five to seven years. Over time, this can become costly.



The solution, fortunately, is simple. After shutting off power to the fridge, remove any buildup on the coils. The coils are usually located behind a kick plate at the bottom of the unit or beneath a panel at the back. All you need is a vacuum cleaner with a crevice tool or an inexpensive brush, available at any home improvement store, which is specifically designed for this purpose. Check out www.firelandsec.com/content/energy-education for more detailed instructions on cleaning your refrigerator coils.

After arming the homeowner with this tip as well as several others, he was ready to start saving!

OURSOLAR

Visit www.firelandsec.com/content/renewable-energy to find out how you can become involved in low-cost, hassle-free community solar.

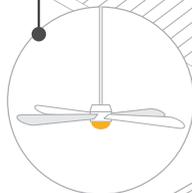


Heating and Cooling Tips for Manufactured Homes

If you own a manufactured home, take measures to ensure you have an efficient heating and cooling system. You can also make simple improvements that save energy and make your home more comfortable.

\$ Install ceiling fans

Install ceiling fans throughout your manufactured home. Ceiling fans are energy efficient and can be used to keep warm or cool air moving throughout your home. Be sure to turn them off when you're away. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not rooms.

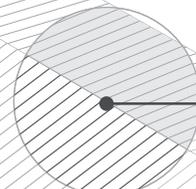


\$ Option for smaller budgets

\$\$ Option for flexible budgets

\$\$ Efficient roof color

Choose a light-colored roof if you live in the southern part of the U.S. and a dark-colored roof if you live in the northern U.S.



\$\$ Install a mini-split system

Eliminate unnecessary heating and cooling by installing a single zone strategy throughout your manufactured home. A zone system allows you to save energy by only heating or cooling rooms that are occupied.

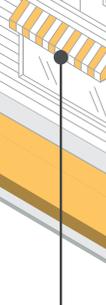


ZONE 2

ZONE 1

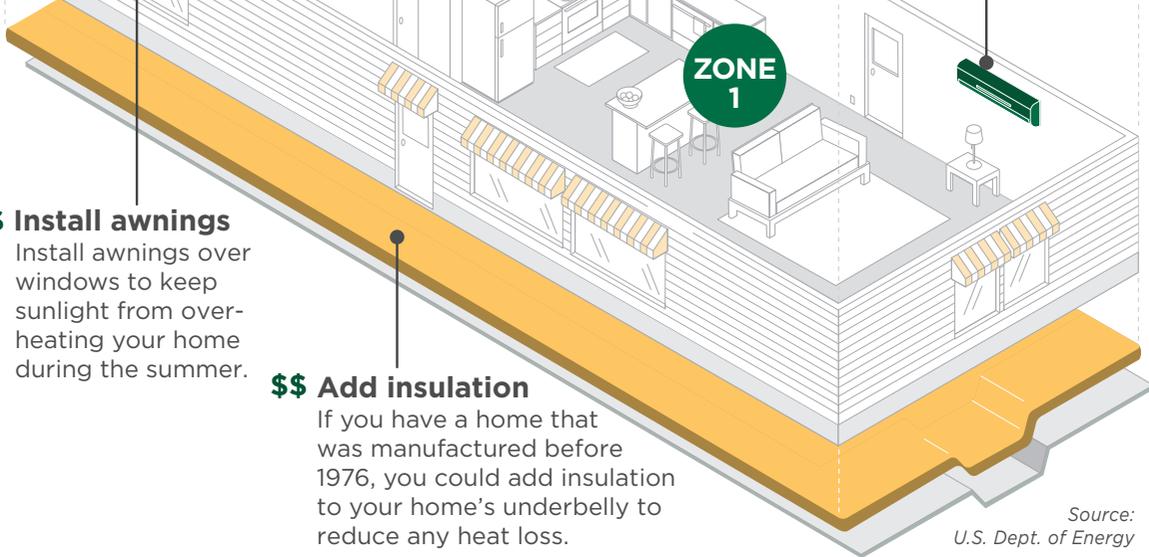
\$ Install awnings

Install awnings over windows to keep sunlight from overheating your home during the summer.



\$\$ Add insulation

If you have a home that was manufactured before 1976, you could add insulation to your home's underbelly to reduce any heat loss.



Source:
U.S. Dept. of Energy



COOPERATIVE UPDATE

BOARD MEETING *highlights*

Firelands Electric Cooperative's board of trustees met Nov. 27 and covered the following items:

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported the cooperative received 33 membership applications for approval by the board.
- The board reviewed a report for a safety and training meeting held on Oct. 20.
- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the October financials and reported on recent accounting and billing department activities.
- Brian Stavish from Cooperative Finance Corporation reviewed Firelands Electric's 2017 Key Ratio Trends Analysis and commended the cooperative's financial performance.
- General Manager Dan McNaull reported that contractor Janotta & Herner is estimating a cost savings in excess of \$500,000 for the cooperative's new facility.
- The board reviewed and approved the capital budget for 2019.
- Director of Electric Operations Don Englet reviewed recent projects and crew activities in the operations

department. He reported that the NASA Mansfield Transport Corridor Relocation project was completed on Nov. 20.

- Englet notified the board of a fire at the Fitchville substation that occurred the evening of Nov. 26. The fire resulted in substantial damage, and repairs will take several months to complete. Members who receive their power from the Fitchville substation are being temporarily backfed from other substations until all repairs are made.
- Director of Member Services and Communications Andrea Gravenhorst updated the board on recent activities involving the member services department and upcoming information technology projects involving the new facility.

Firelands Electric Co-op is democratically controlled and governed by local people committed to policies that result in a safe and reliable electric system, fair rates, financial responsibility, and superior member service.

The cooperative's next board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26, at Firelands Electric's new facility, located at 103 Industrial Drive, New London.

FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

OUTAGE HOTLINE

1-800-533-8658

OFFICE

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New London, OH 44851
419-929-1571

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
www.firelandsec.com



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dan Schloemer
President, District 1

Bruce Leimbach
Vice President, District 4

Carl Ayers
Secretary/Treasurer, District 5

W.E. Anderson
District 8

Steve Gray
District 3

Gene Lamoreaux
District 2

John Martin
District 9

Kevin Reidy
District 6

Rob Turk
District 7

GENERAL MANAGER

Dan McNaull

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
members@firelandsec.com

