

The Spotlight



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 1937 - 2012

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October 2012

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ENERGY BILL

PIE&G representatives are always happy to assist you with billing questions, but a brief review of the tips below may be all you need to understand your energy bill.

No two households use energy the same way, so comparing your electric bill to a neighbor is like comparing apples to oranges. It's best to compare your own current energy use to your past consumption at the same house.

- Look at the number of days in the service period. Are you reporting meter readings consistently (same date each month)? More days in your service period usually results in more usage.
- Did you report an actual reading before your due date or is this an estimate? If your bill is based upon an estimate, it may be higher simply because of an under estimated reading in the previous month or months.



• When comparing usage this month to a year ago, be sure both service periods have the same number of days. Even then, always consider weather fluctuations, which can be a major factor in a change to your bill.

• If you leave home for an extended period for business or vacation, any appliances plugged in will continue to use electricity (water heater, freezer, refrigerator, heating/cooling system and well pump). Energy bills are highly personal and influenced by many factors, including lifestyle, family size, weatherization and age of your

home, efficiency of appliances, geographic location and climate.

CAPITAL CREDIT REFUNDS

If you took service from PIE&G in 1982-1983, please watch the mail for your capital credit refund check in October.

PLAN ON ATTENDING THE PIE&G ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, October 26th • Onaway High School Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.
Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

The September/October issue of Country Lines contains your mail-in ballot for the Board of Director election. Ballots must be returned by October 19th.



75TH ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE

Samuel T. Judd • Ocqueoc
Ruth Sharef • Bear Lake/Johannesburg
Gerald Abbe • Cheboygan

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FALL INTO ENERGY SAVINGS

By Madeline Keimig, Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

As scarves and light jackets leave closets this fall, be ready to cut the chill and your energy bill with these seasonal tips:

- Set your thermostat no higher than 68 degrees and be sure to lower the temperature when you go to bed or are not at home. This saves money and keeps you warm.
- During the day, open shades and curtains to allow solar heating. Close them at night to retain the day's heat.
- Check your home's weather stripping for air leaks around doors, windows, baseboards, and wherever pipes, wires, and vents enter the house. Make sure the warm air you paid for won't escape.
- Have your heating system serviced by contractor who has a certification through the North American Technician Excellence (NATE) program, and replace furnace filters at least once every three months. Clean filters once a month during the heating season to keep the system at peak performance.

Want more home energy efficiency tips? See how little changes can add up to big savings at www.TogetherWeSave.com.



ELECTRICITY POWERS OUR LIVES: HOW MUCH IT TAKES (IN KILOWATT HOURS)



Good hair days Alert mornings Cool breezes Home movie night Cold drinks Fluffy towels Warm showers

SOURCE: Buildings Energy Data Book 2010, 2.1.16 Operating Characteristics of Electric Appliances in the Residential Sector, published by the U.S. Department of Energy, March 2011. A kilowatt hour is the common unit of measurement for the electricity we use. It's calculated by the number of watts a device needs every hour it's in use. According to the Energy Information Administration, the average family uses about 10,654 kWh/year.

KeepElectricityAffordable.org

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