

The Spotlight



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

What's Inside

- Low Income Energy Assistance Fund
- Annual Meeting
- Home Heating Credit (HHC)
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
- Tree Planting

September 2013

Governor Snyder Signs Law for Low Income Energy Assistance Fund (LIEAF)



On July 1, 2013, Governor Rick Snyder signed into law Public Act 95, creating the Low Income Energy Assistance Fund or "LIEAF" that authorizes the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to raise up to \$50 million for low income energy assistance payments. The money would come from a surcharge of no more than \$1 per meter per month for all Michigan electric utilities participating in the LIEAF.

On July 29, the MPSC set the surcharge at 99-cents per meter per month. The surcharge is limited to electric bills only and to one electric residential meter per residential site. PIE&G will begin assessing the 99-cent surcharge on electric bills generated on or after October 1, 2013.

ANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with its bylaws, PIE&G will conduct its annual membership meeting on **Friday, October 25th at Onaway High School**. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The General Business session will begin at 10:00 a.m. Members will hear various reports on their cooperative. The meeting will conclude with director election results and door prizes. Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting.

For more information on the annual meeting and your director candidate ballot, please refer to your September/October issue of *Country Lines* magazine.



Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Get \$30 for your old refrigerator or freezer.

Have an extra working refrigerator or freezer? Don't let it sit there wasting energy. Turn it in. You'll receive a \$30 rebate from the Energy Optimization (EO) Appliance Recycling program and we'll recycle it. Schedule your FREE pick-up today.

recycleit

ENERGY TIP: Shopping for new appliances? Take advantage of EO rebates on ENERGY STAR models.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

Owned By Those We Serve . . . Locally Controlled . . . Committed to Community . . . Not For Profit



Deadline Approaching for Home Heating Credit

If you have a low income, are receiving public assistance, or are receiving unemployment compensation, you may be eligible to receive help with winter heating costs with a Home Heating Credit. The Michigan Department of Treasury determines eligibility and makes payments.



Keep in mind:

- You do not need to file a state income tax return to receive the Home Heating Credit.
- You may apply for the Home Heating Credit only.
- Eligibility is based on income, number of exemptions and household heating costs.

Visit www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance for more information. You will need to complete the **MI-1040CR-7 Claim Form** to apply. Forms are available on this site or call 517-636-4486 (select option 2 for MI Income Tax forms) to have Home Heating Credit forms and instructions mailed to you.

Home Heating Credit forms and instructions are also available at Treasury offices and at most public libraries, northern Michigan post offices, Michigan Secretary of State branch offices and Department of Human Services (DHS) branch offices.

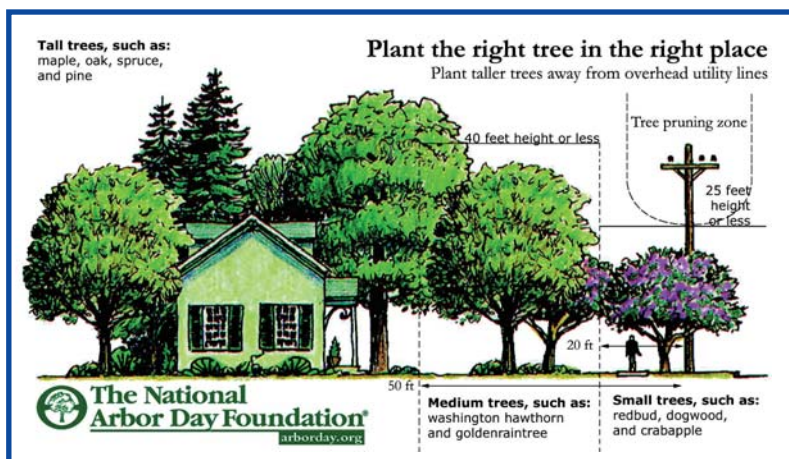
Forms are automatically mailed to households that received a credit last year. Applications are available from mid- to late January but **the deadline for filing is September 30 each year.**

Note: You may designate your HHC payable directly to PIE&G or other registered heat provider. The HHC may ONLY be used to pay for home heating costs (gas, propane, heating oil) and may not be used for your electric bill unless you use electric heat at your home. All named persons on the HHC must endorse the energy draft by signing off to authorize payment.

Carbon Monoxide Can Be Deadly

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amount of CO produced is usually not hazardous. However, if appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of CO can result. Hundreds of people die accidentally every year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances. Even more die from CO produced by idling cars. Fetuses, infants, elderly people, and people with anemia or with a history of heart or respiratory disease can be especially susceptible.

IF YOU SMELL GAS OR SUSPECT A GAS LEAK, CALL 1-800-656-8565 IMMEDIATELY



Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

19831 M-68 Hwy • P.O. Box 308 • Onaway, MI 49765 • 989-733-8515 • 800-423-6634 • www.pieg.com

GAS EMERGENCY ONLY 1-800-655-8565

We will gladly accept your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. No additional charge for using your credit card.



Most natural gas rates and charges are not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission. TWN, long distance phone service is not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission.