

The Spotlight



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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October 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 LIEAF surcharge at 99-cents per electric meter per month. However, the charge is limited to only one residential meter per "residential site". For example, if your home and pole barn are located at the same "residential site" and both meters are currently billed at the residential rate, the surcharge will apply to only one of these residential meters. If you have more than one residential meter at the same "residential site" and both meters were inadvertently billed this surcharge, please call our office.

PIE&G will begin assessing the 99-cent surcharge on electric bills generated on or after **October 1, 2013**. The surcharge does not apply to natural gas billings.

Directors Refund Approximately \$2.3 Million to Members

When you signed up for electric and natural gas service from PIE&G, you became a member of a cooperative. The difference is that while investor owned utilities return a portion of their profits back to their shareholders, cooperatives allocate excess revenue back to its members as "capital credits" that are refunded when the co-op's financial conditions permit.

Last May, your co-op's board of directors approved a refund of nearly \$2.3 million

in capital credits. Members who received service in 1983 - 84, 1992 - 98 and 2011 - 12 will receive a share in proportion to their energy use. **CHECKS WILL BE MAILED IN OCTOBER.**

Until capital credits are refunded, they may be used as operating capital to build and maintain the distribution facilities needed to serve you. It makes sense - dollars and cents - to give credit back to the members who helped build this cooperative through capital credits!

Plan on Attending the PIE&G ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, October 25th
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 18th.

recycleit

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.

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.

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Fall Furnace CHECKUP

Stay Warm, Stay Safe & Save Energy

An annual checkup of your furnace by a licensed heating contractor can help reduce

your heating costs and is one of the best ways to help prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

A checkup now can keep you from waking up in the middle of the night to a cold house later. It could also save lives. Here are other easy ways to help keep your furnace running safely and efficiently all winter.

- Check for rust and corrosion on the vent pipe connected to the chimney.
- Check flues or vents for cracks & obstructions.
- Check the filter once a month and replace it if it is worn or dirty.
- Check the owner's manual to see if the blower motor should be lubricated.



For more tips, visit energystar.gov



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



- ☑ 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 10,654kWh/year.

KeepElectricityAffordable.org

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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.