

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 278 • Greenville, OH 45331
937-548-4114 • 1-800-776-5612

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Rate adjustment with September billing

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative's (Darke REC) management and board of trustees have been reviewing and planning for 2010 and beyond. Our main goal, as stated in the cooperative's mission statement, is, "providing reliable quality service at a competitive price."

In order to provide reliable quality service, it is necessary to have an aggressive construction work plan. The current four-year work plan is one of our most aggressive at \$6.2 million. A major component in this work plan is rebuilding several miles of our older electric lines to help us better provide safe and reliable service.

The Darke REC Board of Trustees voted to remain on a

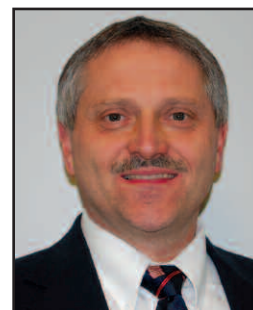
15-year rotation for paying capital credits. Prior to 2005 the capital credit payment averaged less than \$400,000. For the next eight years Darke REC will be paying an average of nearly \$1 million to its members. In order to remain on the current schedule for construction and capital credit payments, our financial forecast shows a rate change is necessary. To comply with our goals, Darke REC is adjusting electric service rates for just the third time since 1991.

The rate adjustment will be recovered through residential and commercial service charges as well as consumption rates. The residential service charge will be \$19.50/month and the commercial service charge will be \$28/month. The remaining 6.4 percent adjustment will be charged through the consumption block rates. The security light monthly fee will be adjusted to \$9/month due to an environmental change from mercury vapor to high-pressure sodium bulbs.

Darke REC members have some

of the lowest rates in Ohio. In a recent rate comparison study conducted by our power supplier, Buckeye Power, Inc., Darke REC's residential rate is much lower than the statewide average for investor-owned utilities and lower than the average of Ohio's 24 electric cooperatives. Compared to the statewide averages, for a member using 1,000 kilowatt-hours, Darke's rate is 28 percent lower than the state's investor-owned electric utilities and 14 percent lower than Ohio's electric cooperatives.

As always, your cooperative is committed to our member owner's best interests and strives to provide reliable quality service at a competitive price.



*Ted Holsapple,
General Manager*

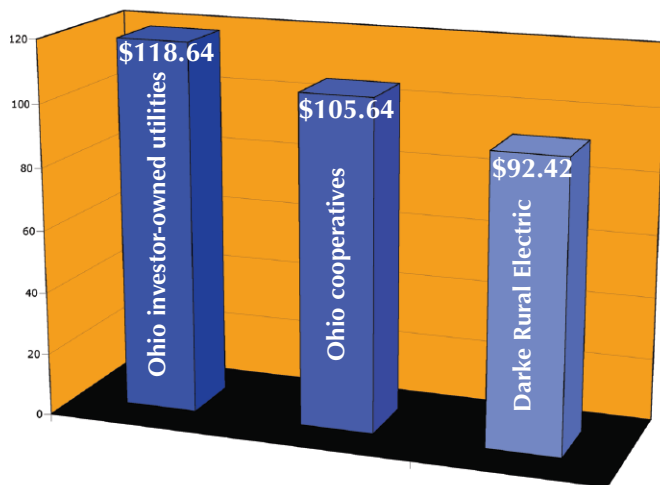
TRUSTEES

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Donald MuhlenkampTrustee
Ted HolsappleGen. Manager

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays

Failure to receive your electric bill in no way relieves you, the member, from paying it. If you do not receive your bill, contact us before the due date.

**2008-2009
average
cost for
1,000 kWh**



The Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections Program!

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative has a program that offers further proof that being a member of an electric cooperative has its advantages. The Co-op Connections® Program is a card-based program for Touchstone Energy® cooperatives that offers members valuable discounts at participating local and national businesses.

Best of all, the card is free!



Here's what you get:

- Great discounts from businesses in your community.
- 10 to 60 percent discounts on prescriptions at participating pharmacies.
- Access to more than 56,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores, including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and many more. Search online to find discounted prices on prescriptions (www.rxpricequotes.com) and participating locations (www.locateproviders.com).

Here's what you do:

- Log on to www.darkerec.com to view a list of participating businesses and discount offerings (fall of 2009).
- Present your card at participating businesses to receive discounts. (New discounts are added periodically.) The cards will be mailed to you in your September bill.

This is just one more way you benefit from being a cooperative member. As a Touchstone Energy cooperative, we always are "looking out for you." If you have any questions, please call Beth Davenport at Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, 937-548-4114, or e-mail bethd-darkerec@woh.rr.com.

Watch for your Co-op Connections Card that will be mailed with your September bill!

Check out discounts from local businesses on the next page.
Watch next month for more discounts!!!

Co-op Connection Card participating businesses and discounts

Arcanum

Farmer Brown Restaurant: Free drink with the purchase of a Farmer Brown sandwich and french fries.

www.farmerbrownrestaurant.com

Herbal Reflexions: 5% off products — not valid with any other discount

Hi-T.E.C. Automotive, LTD: 10% on repairs of \$200 or more not valid for oil changes or tires; www.hitecautomotive.com

Eaton

Drake Heating & Air: 10% off any repair — not off service call fee; www.drakeheatingandair.com

Greenville

Ann's Gifts & Antiques: 10% off regular prices — consignments excluded

Bill Rogers' Carpet: 5% off nonsale items up to a maximum of \$50 (taxes, labor and other discount offers are exempted from discount); www.countystart.com/darke

Bow Wow Dog Grooming: \$3 discount on one dog grooming for new customers (one time)

California Beds & Bedrooms: 5% off nonsale items up to a maximum of \$50 (taxes, labor and other discount offers are exempted from discount); www.countystart.com/darke

Country Bridal & Tux: \$10 off each tux rental (weddings up to \$100 off). Groom's tuxedo rental free with 5 or more paid rentals. www.tuxesandsewing.com

Crystal Lee Ann Photography: Free 8x10 with any service; www.crystalleann.com

Curves of Greenville: 66% off service fee; curves.com

Danny's Place: 15% off

Dave Knapp Ford – Lincoln – Mercury: 5% off maintenance and repairs. Every 5th oil change free (diesel not included). Best price guarantee on tires we sell; daveknappford.com

Ford's Transmission LTD: \$50 off transmission overhaul

Furniture Express: Free delivery on anything over \$700 (not valid with other discounts); furnexp.com

Hannah's Garden Center: 5% off regular-priced items

Hansbarger Home Solutions: Free delivery* with purchase of \$999 or more. Not valid with any other discount or coupon.

*Deliveries within our normal service area;

www.hansbargerhomesolutions.com

Kevin Flory Landscaping and Lawn Care, Inc.: 10% off all landscaping services (not valid with any other offers); www.florylandscaping.com

Marvin's Truck & Auto Service: 5% off total bill.

Not valid with any other discount or coupon.

Merle Norman Cosmetics: 15% discount off total bill — not valid with any other discount, coupons or sale items

Michael's Fine Clocks & Jewelry: 15% off clocks, watches & jewelry (not valid on services or sale items)

Montage Café: Free beverage with meal purchase; themontagecafe.com

NAPA Auto Parts: 7% off excluding oil & sparkplugs

Oakview Upholstery: 10% off all in-stock material

Plessinger Brothers Florist: 10% off cash-and-carry items — not good with any other sale or discounts

Romer's Catering & Entertainment Facilities: 5% off food purchases (receptions, weddings, corporate meetings, etc.)—not valid with fundraisers; www.romerscatering.com

Schmidt Photography: 10% off photo orders of \$100 or more; www.schmidtphotostudio.com

S&H Auto Repair: \$1 off oil changes

Sherwin Williams Paints: 10% off Sherwin Williams manufactured merchandise

Southwest Traders: 20% off jewelry and 10% off artifacts except no discounts on consignment items

Tim's Mower's & More: 10% off parts and service up to \$100 total sale; www.tismowersandmore.com

Unwrapped Pack & Ship: 20% off boxes and shipping supplies

Williams Jewelers: 25% off regular-priced items

Youniques Boutique: 15% off a regular-priced item

Lewisburg

Country Charm: 10% off purchase of \$10 or more

Lewisburg Optical: 15% off a complete pair of eyeglasses—not valid with any other discounts, coupons or insurance

Village Florist and Gifts Inc: 10% off purchase, cash-and-carry only (excludes wire orders); ww.villagefloristlewisburgoh.com

Village Video & Tanning: Buy 1,000-minute tanning pkg. (\$150) & receive free bottle of tanning lotion w/value of up to \$20. Rent two new release videos & receive 3rd free.

New Madison

Deb's Wildflowers: 10% off flowers and gifts (except antiques) in store for walk-ins only; www.debswildflowers.com

Pittsburg

Pittsburg Pizza & Grill: \$2 discount off all 15-inch carry-out pizzas

Versailles

House of Flowers & Gifts: Free groom's tux with 5 or more rented tuxes and ½ price off ring bearer's tux or \$2 off any "in-store" purchase of \$15 or more for walk-ins only (excludes candy and Willow Tree); www.versaillesflowers.com

McBo's Lanes: Bowl two games at regular price and get 3rd game free; www.mcboslanes.com

Nelly Packs, Microwavable Body Warmers: We sell Nelly Packs at WHOLESALE for local customers; www.nellypacks.net

The Floor Store & More: Free rental of Host Carpet Cleaner machine

The Herb Pantry: 10% off encapsulated herbs, vitamins and minerals from Nature's Sunshine and the NOW Company

Versailles Massage & Spa: Free Nelly Pack (\$8 value) with service

West Alexandria

Heaven's Door General Store: 10% off any in-store purchase

Perfection Plumbing: 10% off total bill; not valid on weekends or holidays or with any other discount or coupons

Sarah's Pizza & Subs: \$1 off medium pizza, \$2 off large pizza and \$3 off X-large pizza

Stork News of Dayton: \$10 off any rental of 5 days or more

Do you have a standby generator? Thinking of installing one? You must notify Darke Rural Electric.

Storm-related outages have many of you thinking it is a good idea to purchase a standby electric generator, in the event of an extended outage. We understand a member's need to keep electric power going to their homes, farms or businesses, and would like to remind you to use extreme caution when installing and using a standby generator. If used incorrectly, a standby generator can cause serious harm or even death. Below are some important things you should know about generators:

- Generators can produce power to a home's 120/240 volt service. However, if a generator is not properly installed, the "backfeed" will result in an output of 7,200 volts on the distribution line (much higher than what it should carry). **This could seriously injure or kill a lineman working on the system trying to restore power, even if they are miles away from where the generator is installed.**
- Generators need to be isolated from the electric power lines. This means you should connect appliances or other devices directly to the generator with the appropriate-sized cords. You also must install an appropriate double-throw switch on your generator to separate your service from the co-op's system. This switch will isolate your generator from the cooperative's power supply lines whenever it is generating current. This will prevent electricity from backfeeding current onto our lines and endangering the lives of our personnel.
- Remember to determine the wattage output you need before buying a generator. Manufacturers rate the strength of a generator in terms of wattage. The generator's wattage output should at least meet or exceed the total rated watts of the appliances you will operate in the case of an outage.
- Know your generator! Read installation instructions, safety and maintenance information, and, most importantly, follow all manufacturer's recommendations!
- When you need to use your generator during a power outage, turn off the main power switch or breaker in your home.
- Never overload the generator. It should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment. Overloading will cause wear and tear on the generator and could present fire and safety hazards.
- Be careful when fueling your generator! Never try to refuel the generator while it is operating.
- If installed inside, make sure there is proper ventilation and air cooling to prevent overheating and the accumulation of toxic exhaust fumes.

For your sake as well as the line crews, we want to maintain a safe environment when it comes to standby generators. If you currently have a standby generator, please help us update our records by completing the information below:

Complete and return to:

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. — P.O. Box 278 — Greenville, OH 45331

Yes, I have a standby generator at my service location.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Service address: _____

Size of generator: _____ Do you have a double-throw switch? yes no



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keeping your tires properly inflated improves gas mileage for the average vehicle by around 3 percent, saving up to 20 gallons of gasoline per year.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

