The power of Operation Round Up

It started as a simple idea 27 years ago at one co-op in South Carolina. Just round up the co-op member’s electric bill to the next dollar, and then use it to do good work in your community. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country, including Hendricks Power, use this idea to help organizations close to home.

All co-ops adhere to seven principles, including “Concern for Community.” The Operation Round Up program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. The average co-op member donates $6 with a maximum possible contribution of $11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but it adds up to make a significant impact.

The program is always voluntary, and members can opt-in or opt-out at any time. Once members see the good work the program does in their community, they almost always keep contributing.

Over the years, these funds have been distributed for a wide range of activities. Most recently, Hendricks Power members made a donation to the Lizton Lions Club possible. A $2,000 grant was presented to Kathy Frederick-Caldwell, secretary and treasurer to the Lizton Lions Club, to assist with their Park Project. The concept behind the project is to create a safe, centrally located park and playground for the community to enjoy.

The grant from Operation Round Up will help purchase new playground equipment for the park that is ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant.

Those interested in receiving funds for the good of the community can find our guidelines and application at www.hendrickspower.com. We also encourage members to sign up for the program by calling (317) 745-5473.

*Members currently on budget billing cannot participate in this program due to the billing settings.

Save the date! 2016 Legislative Breakfasts

The 2016 Legislative Breakfasts will be held at 7:00 am on Jan. 25, Feb. 29 and March 28 at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Center. These breakfasts, hosted by Hendricks Power, North Salem State Bank and Hendricks County Farm Bureau, provide a great opportunity for you to hear directly from your representatives at the Indiana Statehouse.

Your "Touchstone Energy" Partner
Regular maintenance benefits members

Oil changes for your car. Filter changes for your furnace. Check-ups with your doctor. What do these have in common? They involve maintaining something — your car, your furnace, your body.

Hendricks Power maintains its electric system in the same way, to ensure that electricity is delivered from our substations to your homes and businesses in a safe and reliable manner.

You could skip oil changes and never add oil to your engine, but eventually it would catch up with you. The result would be a broken-down car on the side of the road, plus a costly repair. The alternative would be to invest in regular oil changes and avoid the breakdown and the repair.

Likewise, regular replacement of poles, wires, transformers and other equipment ensures that our electric system runs smoothly, keeping power outages and costly repairs to a minimum. Our investment in new technologies also ensures a high quality of service.

Our linemen recently rebuilt the Reno substation, located just outside of Coatesville.

As a cooperative, Hendricks Power invests the rates that our customers pay into purchasing wholesale electricity to meet your needs and into maintaining the system. While we could save the money and skip the maintenance, it wouldn’t pay off in the long run. By investing in regular maintenance and upgrades along the way, we ensure that the quality of service you receive remains high and rates remain stable.

So, in the same way you keep your car, your furnace and your body running, we keep the power flowing to you.

Additional 2016 youth programs

Applications for these programs will be available in December. Check our website at www.hendrickspower.com under Community Outreach.

Scholarships: We will be offering six scholarships in the amount of $1,500 to graduating seniors for higher education.

Youth Tour: We will offer an opportunity for a high school junior to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. in June 2016. This is a seven-day trip with over 1,500 student delegates from across the country.

Touchstone Energy Camp: We will offer an opportunity for two local sixth-graders to attend Camp Tecumseh in June 2016.

Energy Advisor Corner

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Cooking up holiday energy savings

For many of us, the best holidays involve home-cooked meals and wonderful aromas of turkey, stuffing and baked goods wafting throughout the house. It means a busy kitchen and a bustling house full of family and friends. If this rings true for you, despite the increased kitchen activity, you still have an opportunity to save energy during the holidays.

Cut carbs (carbon) painlessly

In addition to being the “heart of your home,” your kitchen could pump savings back into your wallet. According to the Department of Energy, cooking accounts for 4.5 percent of total energy use in U.S. homes. This number, combined with the energy use associated with refrigeration, dishwashing and hot water heating means that as much as 15 percent of the energy in the average American home is used in the kitchen. So, saving energy here can have a significant impact on your household budget.

For example, when preparing side dishes, baked goods, soups and such, consider using small appliances like a crock pot, toaster oven, microwave or warming plate instead of your conventional oven or stovetop. These small appliances are a smart, energy-saving alternative, typically using about half the energy of a stove.

Seal in efficiency

When using your oven, don’t peek! Opening the oven door can lower the temperature by as much as 25 degrees and causes your stove to work harder (consuming more energy) to return to the desired cooking temperature. If your recipe calls for baking the dish more than an hour, it is not necessary to preheat the oven. If your oven is electric, you can likely turn the oven off for the last few minutes of cooking and allow the residual heat to complete the job. Clean burners and reflectors increase efficiency and offer better heating, so don’t neglect this small but important task.

Just as keeping the oven door closed seals in efficiency and enables the stove to operate more economically, the same rules apply to the refrigerator and freezer.

Keep the doors closed as much as possible to cold air doesn’t escape. However, leaving the door open for a longer period of time while you load groceries or remove items you need is more efficient than opening and closing it several times.

If you are entertaining a large group, you may be able to give your furnace a brief holiday. When your oven is working hard and you have a house full of guests, the heat from the stove and the guests will keep your house comfortable, enabling you to turn down the thermostat.

Clean up with energy savings

When it’s time to clean up, extend fellowship to the kitchen, and wash and dry dirty dishes by hand. This uses less energy than a dishwasher. However, don’t leave the water running continuously, or you will waste energy. If you do use the dishwasher and rinse dishes before loading them, use cold water. Run the dishwasher with full loads only, and if possible, use the energy-saving cycle. Note that dishwashers that have overnight or air power dry settings can save up to 10 percent of your dishwashing energy costs.

By adapting these efficient practices in your kitchen, energy savings will be one more thing to be thankful for this holiday season.

Light Up the Holidays items

Members who bring one or more of the following items to our office between November 18 - December 18 will receive four LED light bulbs from the co-op. Donations benefit Family Promise of Hendricks County and Hope Healthcare services.

Legal Pads; Multi-Use Copy Paper; Gallons of Distilled or Pure Water; Toothbrushes; #10 Envelopes; Bottled Water; Rolls of Paper Towel; Kleenex; Band-Aids; Postage Stamps; Avery #5160 Labels; 13, 33 and/or 39 Gallon Trash Bags; Hand Sanitizer; Liquid Hand Soap; Toiletries (deoarolon, razors, shaving cream); Laundry Detergent; Laundry Fabric Softener; Dryer Sheets; Plastic Utensils; Paper Plates; Paper Bowls; Napkins; Plastic Cups; Twin Sheet Sets; Pillows; New Car Seats and/or Booster Seats; Diapers; Pull-Ups; Towels and Wash Cloths; Socks; USB Portable Drives; Wall Clocks; Clorox Disinfecting Wipes