



1-800-762-0997

www.pioneerec.com

Pioneer has many investments and costs that do not fluctuate with member use

Last month I wrote you about the steps Pioneer takes to maintain 49,000 electric poles to serve our members in Champaign, Miami, Shelby and the eight additional surrounding counties where we provide electric service. Pioneer has about 16,500 member-

“Increasing the member service fee so that it accurately reflects the actual cost of installing and maintaining the necessary equipment to provide reliable service to members is the fairest way to collect Pioneer’s costs.”

—Marty Blake,
Pioneer Rate Expert

consumers, which equals about seven members for every mile of electric line Pioneer has installed to serve you, our members.

On average, each member contributes to the cost of owning and installing three poles on the electric system. The three-pole average per member, along with the cost to clear all the trees from the poles and to maintain the

wires on the electric system and the costs to replace old wires and poles, contributes to the total “member service fee” cost you see each month on your electric bill. Other costs include the meter that is on your home, the transformer on the pole to make the voltage usable in your home and the wire that is installed from the road through your property to your house. All of these costs are fixed costs that do not change once the equipment has been installed. These investments are necessary to provide the high-quality electric service our members expect and deserve.

Just like most of our members do with their homes, Pioneer has a fixed cost payment (like your monthly mortgage house payment) that is made to finance these investments. The member service fee on your bill represents the “fixed cost” of having the

electric system available to be used at your home no matter how much electricity you actually use in the month. For many years, Pioneer’s rates and member service fee were much lower than the actual cost of providing the service to you. The last few years we have been increasing the member service fee so we appropriately recover these fixed costs, fairly, among our 16,500 members.



Ron Salyer
President & CEO

Next month I will explain in further detail changes in your electric bill that will take place in October that will be the final step in adjusting our rates to fairly charge our fixed costs to all our members. While Pioneer increases the member service fee, **we will be reducing our kWh charge.** On average, **most members will see a decrease in their electric bill** with this change. More details to come next month.

“If each member was required to pay the full cost of their average responsibility of three poles and the costs to get their electric lines to their home, the up-front cost for these items alone would be well over \$5,000. The member service fee spreads these costs out over time for affordability.”

—Ron Salyer,
President/CEO

\$250 TO \$500

Heating & Cooling Special Offer

We are offering a rebate to members installing energy-efficient heating and cooling systems. All equipment must be installed in a home on Pioneer lines. This is good for a limited time and the specifications are as follows:

Air-source heat pump with an automatic fossil-fuel backup will receive **\$250**. The system must meet the following guidelines:

- > 9.25 HSPF
- 14.5 SEER

A geothermal system with either electric or fossil-fuel backup will receive **\$500**. The system must meet the following guidelines:

- Closed Loop: 16.1 EER; 3.5 COP
- Open Loop: 18.2 EER; 3.8 COP

- All heat pump sizing requires a Manual J or other recognized heat loss calculation.
- All equipment must be ENERGY STAR-rated. Equipment should also qualify for federal tax incentives. For more information, visit www.energystar.gov.
- Equipment calculations will be required to receive the cash incentive.

BONUS: For a **\$150 water heater rebate**, the electric water heater must meet or exceed the following guidelines:

- 50 gallons: .93 EF (Energy Efficiency)
- > 60 gallons: .92 EF (Energy Efficiency)
- **Must be installed at the same time as HVAC system.**
Limited to qualified HVAC system installations.
- Excludes heat pump water heaters.

Members must show documentation of the unit's efficiency and participate in our Water Heater and Cool Returns load management programs to qualify for the incentive.

All equipment and loop installations must be installed in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and must meet applicable federal, state and local agency standards.

Limited Time Only

Dealers should provide to members as part of the sales and installation agreement:

- A. Owner's manual and instruction for equipment operation
- B. Installation instruction and warranty
- C. Offer maintenance/service contract
- D. Sketch of the loop layout location in reference to existing buildings
- E. Load calculation for equipment sizing
- F. Efficiency ratings of all installed equipment

Offer is good for a limited time — July 1 through October 31. This incentive applies to any Pioneer member who installs or signs a contract during the designated time frame. Members may also be eligible for a rate discount. For more information about the heating/cooling systems, program details, rate discount or to set up an inspection of installed equipment, contact Ted Riethman at 1-800-762-0997 or triethman@pioneerec.com. **All work must be completed by December 31, 2011.**

Nominating committees looking for interested members



Your Cooperative NEEDS YOU!

Pioneer is a member-owned business governed by a **board of trustees** elected from the membership. This board establishes company policy, represents members' interest in the Cooperative and employs a president/CEO who is responsible to it for the operation of the business. The board meets regularly, one day a month. There are nine trustees on the Pioneer Board — three each from the Champaign, Miami and Shelby districts. Each is elected by secret ballot to a three-year term and may be re-elected to up to six additional consecutive terms. One trustee is elected each year from each of the districts.

The board of trustees is entrusted with protecting, preserving and defending the assets of the Cooperative. Each trustee is expected to participate in electric cooperative training and conference opportunities to ensure he or she is able to make well-informed decisions regarding Pioneer and its members' needs. This requires additional time commitments beyond the monthly meeting.

Pioneer also has three elected nominating committees called **county boards**. Each board has 12 members elected by secret ballot. They also serve three-year terms with the same opportunity to be re-elected to up to six additional terms. Four trustees are elected each year to each of the county boards. The function of each county board is to select candidates to run for the Pioneer Board of Trustees

and for its district nominating committee. County board members typically meet two evenings a year. While not making governance decisions for the Cooperative, the county boards have a very significant role in its success. Effective nominations by these committees ensure whoever is elected from the ballot will be capable leaders and will have the best interests of Pioneer and its members as their goal in serving.

Want to know more about the boards, or to be considered for nomination? Complete the form and return it by September 9, or you may e-mail your interest to nmcmaken@pioneerec.com.

I want to know more about becoming a board member.

Name _____

Mailing address _____

City, State & ZIP Code _____

Phone number _____

Account number _____

E-mail address _____

Pioneer Electric Cooperative

937-773-2523
1-800-762-0997
www.pioneerec.com

QUICK PAY
1-888-836-1422

PIQUA

344 West U.S. Route 36
Piqua, Ohio 45356

URBANA

767 Three Mile Road
Urbana, Ohio 43078

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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PRESIDENT/CEO

Ronald P. Salyer

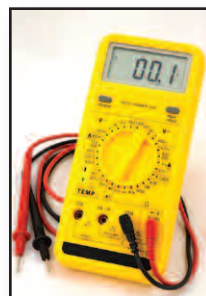
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Test **BEFORE** you touch

Electrical hazards are the sixth leading cause of workplace fatalities. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), contact with large appliances, such as air conditioners, contributes to nearly 20 percent of consumer product electrocutions.

Whether at home or in the workplace, there are a number of safety precautions that can reduce the chance of deaths, injuries and economic losses due to electrical hazards:

- Understand your electrical system — know which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light and outlet.
- Make sure circuits are turned off before starting electrical work, and take measures to make sure they are not turned back on while working.
- Use a circuit tester. Make sure it is working by testing it before and after you use it to test the circuit.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to help prevent electrocutions.



Since the 1970s, ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) have saved thousands of lives and have helped cut the number of home electrocutions in half.

GFCIs are electrical safety devices that trip electrical circuits when they detect ground faults or leakage current. A person who becomes part of a path for leakage current will be severely shocked or electrocuted. These outlets prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs by even a slight amount from that returning.

A GFCI should be used in any indoor or outdoor area where water may come into contact with electrical products. GFCIs should be tested once a month to make sure they are working properly. To test your GFCI:

- Push the “reset” button on the GFCI to prepare the outlet for testing.
- Plug in a nightlight into the GFCI and turn it ON. The light should now be on.
- Push the “test” button of the GFCI. The nightlight should turn OFF.
- Push the “reset” button again. The nightlight should now go ON again.

If the nightlight does not turn off when the “test” button is pushed, then the GFCI may have been improperly wired or is damaged and it does not offer shock protection. Contact a licensed electrician to check the GFCI and correct the problem.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

What's your Energy IQ?

Last month was the final edition of our Energy IQ quiz. The answers for last month are:

1. The name for products that fill openings in a building envelope including windows, doors, skylights and curtain walls designed to permit the passage of air, light, vehicles or people is called fenestration.
2. With windows and doors, U-factor is used to measure how well a product prevents heat from escaping.
3. True: in newer homes that already have double-pane windows, replacing windows generally has a long payback period, or a small return on investment.
4. Things to look for if you are in the market for replacing windows include: the ENERGY STAR label, low-e coatings and a high condensation resistance (CR) rating (all of the above).