



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Hancock-Wood continues to invest in the future of your co-op

Our team at Hancock-Wood Electric is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering — and empowering — our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

I wanted to share with you, our members, how we are working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs. Our co-op invested more than \$5 million in 2025. This money has all been put into significant upgrades, which in turn benefits all members.

These projects include:

- Rebuild of outdated system. This rebuild is scheduled each year and focuses on different sections all over our service area. Crews replaced 19.1 miles of obsolete overhead lines, costing \$1.6 million, which directly benefits members by reducing the likelihood of outages.
- Proactive maintenance. Tested more than 2,000 meters for accuracy. Inspected 15,826 poles for rot. Inspected more than 600 miles of distribution line. Replaced 214 poles.
- Outage Statistics. Outage performance of system ranked in top quartile for electric cooperatives. Crews responded quickly and safely to outages, with an average restoral time of only 46 minutes.
- SCADA upgrades. SCADA is a program that allows our crew to remotely switch services on and off. SCADA is operational at all substations and helps to reduce outage time due to transmission outages.
- Fiber communication upgrades. In collaboration with Amplex, fiber-optic cable is connected at all but two substations. Fiber-optic communications allow for faster and more resilient communications.
- Technology Workplan, or TWP. Completed a new TWP, which establishes a multi-year roadmap to modernize the distribution system, improve reliability, enhance member services, and strengthen operational efficiency. Focused on metering, reliability, communications, load management, and distributed generation.
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives. Supporting neighboring electric cooperative Tricounty REC by providing IT services. Working with our fellow cooperatives allows us to share resources and control expenses.
- Landmark substation recloser replacement. This substation is located on the east side of Findlay. Reclosers are used to sectionalize the line during temporary and permanent fault conditions. This work was done to address aging equipment.
- Belmore substation regulator replacement. This substation is located between Belmore and Deshler. Regulators are used to maintain proper voltage to our members, starting at the substation. This work was done to address aging equipment.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

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- Conductor replacement not associated with our rebuild projects but done due to the numerous poles that have tested as bad and need to be replaced.
- Recloser upgrades: We have deployed more than 85 electronic reclosers, which allow us to isolate, open/close, and backfeed from various sources from the office. This helps with identifying, isolating, and restoring faulted areas more quickly and more efficiently.
- Keeping safety as priority
No. 1. Most importantly, your cooperative completed this work without any lost-time accidents.

In addition to these projects, one of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Ohio and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2026, Hancock-Wood Electric will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve — for today and tomorrow.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Your thoughts and opinions on Hancock-Wood Electric **help us better serve you.**

In May, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative will be working with NRECA Market Research Services to complete member satisfaction surveys.

The random surveys will be conducted by phone and email, and not everyone will be contacted. If you are contacted, we would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your opinions about the cooperative. All information is confidential.

We strive to provide all member-owners with safe, affordable, reliable, and clean electric service. By participating in the survey, you will help us make decisions that benefit you, your family, and your neighbors.



HWE LINE CREW, FROM LEFT: LEE BRODMAN, JOSH FUSON, CLINT PATTERSON, COLE GIBSON, ISAIAH ZAPATA, JAKE AULD, WILSON OTTO, MARK MARECHES, JAMIE COLE, ISAAC GAETTO, ROD BARNHISEL, ROB SCHWATRZ, RYAN STEARNS, ROSS BENTON, JEFF PRICE, JOSH KITZLER AND BRANDT SCHULTE. NOT PICTURED ARE BRANDON WISE AND KELLEYS ISLAND LINEMEN DAVE ERVIN AND KEVIN VANDEPERRE.

Lineworkers are wired for service

Electric cooperatives like Hancock-Wood Electric were built on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors, and our lineworkers embody that spirit every day. They are the first to respond and the last to leave, often working long hours behind the scenes. At times, serving our neighbors means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid. During major outage events crews stand ready to assist neighboring co-ops — sometimes close to home, and sometimes across state lines — to help restore power. This spirit of mutual aid strengthens all cooperatives and ultimately benefits the members we serve.

We understand any time the lights go out can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times. Line work is demanding, physical, and at times, it can be dangerous. Our crews approach each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our members place in them.

On April 13, 2026, we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication, which are the backbone of our cooperative.

To our lineworkers: Thank you for your hard work, your readiness, and your unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all that you do.



Operation Round Up program grants **\$17,000** to local organizations

The Community Trust Fund board, which oversees the Operation Round Up program, met for the first quarter grant cycle in February. Four grants, totaling \$17,000, were approved. The following organizations received funding:

- Gliding Stars of Findlay
- McComb Elementary
- Vanlue Fire Department
- FOCUS Recovery and Wellness Community

If you are involved in a local nonprofit organization that is looking for funding for a special project, please reach out to us and learn more about how to apply for a grant at www.hwe.coop.

CONTACT

800-445-4840
FAX: 419-257-3024

WEBSITE

www.hwe.coop

OFFICE

1399 Business Park Drive South
P.O. Box 190
North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-0190

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Members First! 
**HANCOCK-WOOD
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 