



## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# The value of your Hancock-Wood Electric membership

**H**ancock-Wood Electric Cooperative offers a membership value that extends far beyond just reliable electricity. The cooperative's commitment to its members is evident in many ways, and this month, we're highlighting four key reasons why being a part of Hancock-Wood is valuable!

### 1. History of stable rates

In a time when material costs have risen by an average of 32% to 215% in the last three years, Hancock-Wood Electric has made great efforts to keep member rates stable. With an average daily cost of less than \$6 a day, the cooperative has introduced Time-of-Day rate adjustments to help members better manage their electricity usage. In a testament to HWE's commitment, the cooperative returned a remarkable \$3 million in patronage refunds this year, the largest amount distributed in the past 26 years. Unlike for-profit utilities, Hancock-Wood has a primary goal of providing electricity at the lowest cost possible for its members.

### 2. Timely restoration efforts

When power outages happen, Hancock-Wood Electric's dedicated lineworkers are on standby, ready to fix and restore service around the clock. Members can receive real-time outage information through the cooperative's mobile app and website. Significant reliability efforts include new services installed, meters tested, and extensive line inspections. The Arlington Substation rebuild project, initiated in 2023, will enhance services for approximately 600 members in the Arlington area, demonstrating the cooperative's proactive approach to maintaining reliable service.

### 3. Unmatched power reliability

With an annual investment of \$5 million to \$7 million in electric system upgrades, Hancock-Wood Electric prioritizes power reliability. In 2024, the cooperative managed a total of 787 outages, with an average outage length of just 80 minutes.

Members can be assured that Hancock-Wood is implementing the most effective strategies for power and system efficiency.

### 4. Operation Round Up and community engagement

Giving back to the community is incredibly important to Hancock-Wood Electric. The Operation Round Up initiative allows members to contribute spare change, raising more than \$1 million for area charities since its creation in 2008. Operation Round Up has supported local organizations and initiatives, such as fire departments, educational institutions, and food banks. Additionally, Hancock-Wood hosts a variety of member appreciation events, including the Findlay Children's Museum event and the annual Member Appreciation Drive-Thru celebration, showcasing the co-op's commitment to valuing membership.

Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative exemplifies what it means to serve its members with reliability and dedication to the community. Being a member means more than just receiving electricity — it means being part of a cooperative that truly values its members.



Bill Barnhart  
PRESIDENT & CEO





## Register for our virtual annual meeting and be entered to win \$300

Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative's annual business meeting, which reviews the cooperative's financial information, construction projects, and our election results from districts 3, 6, and 8, will remain virtual this year and will take place at 10 a.m. on June 11. To participate in the virtual meeting, simply register on our website at [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop) and a link will be sent to your email prior to the 10 a.m. meeting. All members who register to attend will be placed in a drawing for a \$300 bill credit. The video will be available for viewing on our YouTube page, on our Facebook page, and at [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop). Members in District 6 will be receiving election ballots to vote for trustees to represent their respective districts. Members will be able to vote online or by mail; we cannot accept any ballots at our office.

## Jung wins first-place scholarship award

Daniel Jung competed at the Ohio's Electric Cooperatives' Children of Members Scholarship competition on April 15, 2025, and received the first-place scholarship award of \$4,600.

Jung, the son of Hancock-Wood members SeaHwa Jung and Su-Jung Shin, was sponsored by Hancock-Wood. He is a senior at Findlay High School and will be majoring in biology.

Twenty-four high school seniors, representing each of the Ohio-based electric distribution cooperatives, competed for \$51,000 in scholarships. A panel of independent judges reviewed the applications and interviewed the finalists before determining the scholarship winners.



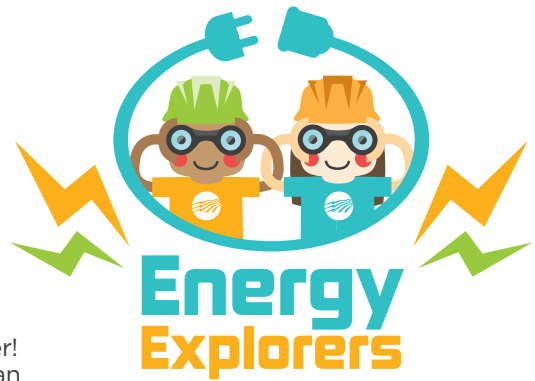




# SOLAR ENERGY WORD SEARCH

Did you know solar panels turn sunlight into electricity? When the sun shines on the panels, tiny particles of light hit cells on the panels to create a flow of energy, like magic sunlight turning into power! The electricity then travels across power lines and can be used to light up homes, charge gadgets and more.

Can you find all the words associated with solar energy in the puzzle below?



## WORD BANK

<b>Solar</b>	<b>Sunlight</b>
<b>Panel</b>	<b>Efficiency</b>
<b>Renewable</b>	<b>Installation</b>
<b>Energy</b>	<b>Rooftop</b>



R	W	Y	Z	U	N	M	J	Z	E	S	Z	E	V	A
T	A	N	G	C	J	I	S	L	I	B	A	F	I	V
S	N	L	Y	U	S	K	B	R	U	Y	Z	F	P	D
W	U	S	O	P	I	A	M	K	K	B	E	I	V	K
P	P	N	G	S	W	E	N	E	R	G	Y	C	O	R
F	O	W	L	E	X	H	Q	Q	V	U	I	I	G	S
X	P	T	N	I	R	Q	V	N	T	J	D	E	A	U
B	A	E	F	L	G	O	S	P	Q	P	T	N	H	Q
W	R	X	D	O	E	H	D	I	Z	X	P	C	X	Z
L	L	X	N	I	O	J	T	L	D	N	L	Y	H	Z
K	O	Y	E	Z	F	R	K	Z	D	Q	E	B	M	V
C	N	O	I	T	A	L	L	A	T	S	N	I	H	B
L	G	P	F	K	Y	L	P	G	E	Z	A	I	E	W
I	W	C	N	Q	O	N	Y	Z	Q	Q	P	V	W	Q
G	L	Y	J	L	L	H	O	X	F	C	H	P	K	K

## 5 WAYS to reduce use during extreme heat

During periods of extreme heat, the demand for electricity can skyrocket, placing additional strain on the grid. By working together to lower our electricity use, we can reduce pressure on the grid.

Here are five effective ways to lower use at home.

1. Raise your thermostat setting a few degrees higher than usual. Every degree can reduce cooling energy consumption.
2. Cook with smaller appliances to save energy and reduce heat gain in the kitchen.
3. Keep blinds, curtains and shades closed during the hottest part of the day to block direct sunlight.
4. Use fans to circulate air, which can make you feel cooler without needing to lower the thermostat.
5. Shift activities that require a lot of energy consumption to off-peak hours, when demand is lower.



## Happy Father's Day!

from Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative

### CONTACT

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

### WEBSITE

[www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop)

### OFFICE

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

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

William Kale  
Chairman

Lee Anne Dierksheide  
Vice Chair

Duane Fry  
Secretary

Charles Beagle

Ed Crawford

Tim Phillips

Max Rader

Ron Riegle

Brian Terry

Bill Barnhart

President and CEO

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

online, dropbox, office, by phone, or automatic bill pay

### HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:  
[leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop](mailto:leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop)

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