



# DREMC NEWS

JULY 2022

## Welcome.

Welcome to the first edition of DREMC's digital newsletter, exclusively featuring updates and information about our team and the work being done in the communities we serve.

This new digital format allows us to continue connecting regularly with members about DREMC topics while significantly reducing the expense associated with printing and shipping a paper magazine.

Residential members will continue to receive a printed copy of *The Tennessee Magazine* in August, November, February and May. In between these editions, you can find this digital newsletter on the homepage of [www.dremc.com](http://www.dremc.com).

For more than two years, COVID has challenged everyone to find new ways to connect. The introduction of this newsletter is one way our team can save the cooperative money without sacrificing communication.

If you would like to have the latest newsletter delivered to your email inbox, please message our team at [DREMCnews@dremc.com](mailto:DREMCnews@dremc.com) to sign up for our online distribution list.

There are many ways to keep informed about the work being done at your cooperative. DREMC uses social media to share timely updates, especially during large scale weather events and outages.

You can follow our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn pages as another way to get regular

news from the DREMC team.

As your trusted energy advisor, DREMC aims to provide valuable tips and information to help you lower energy use, save money, and use electricity as safely as possible. You can also learn about billing and payment options, rebates, and services that our team offers.

The current supply chain challenges have required that we all find new and resourceful ways to perform our jobs. In the August edition of *The Tennessee Magazine*, we will talk

“Connection and transparency are important, and we are committed to keeping the members we serve up to date about the work being done at DREMC.”

more about the realities of how increased materials costs and delivery times have impacted DREMC.

I am grateful for the support and resiliency displayed by this team and the members we serve. As the world continues to change, so does our approach and the tools we use to accomplish the day-to-day elements of our work.

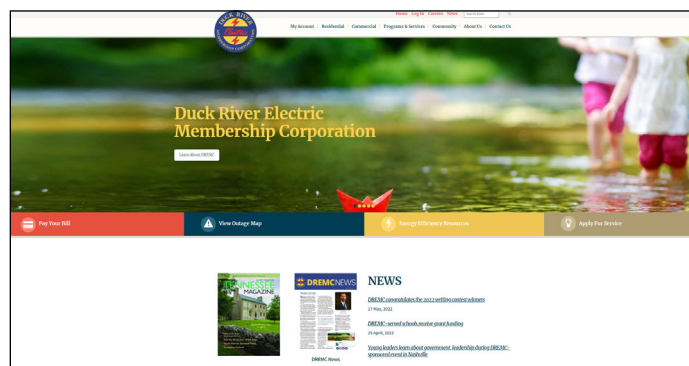
However, the DREMC mission of delivering safe



Scott Spence  
Duck River EMC  
President & CEO

and reliable electric service and the lowest possible cost has remained unchanged since 1936. No matter the challenge, we will always work towards the mission our founders established for us to fulfill.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the work being done at DREMC. We look forward to connecting with you through this digital platform, on social media and in person.



# The people who power DREMC

## *the Engineering & Line Inspection teams*

"We have the technology. We have the capability. We can make it better than it was before. Better, stronger, faster." These borrowed excerpts from the introduction of the 1970s TV series *Six Million Dollar Man* seem to apply to this month's focus on The People Who Power Duck River Electric. Meet the engineering and line inspection teams.

Although these two teams have different responsibilities, they have a common goal – building and maintaining the electric system using better technology and improving the processes and procedures to strengthen DREMC's distribution system infrastructure while securing safety and reliability.

Billy Tiller, vice-president of engineering, is an electrical engineer and has been with DREMC for two years. He brings 32 years of engineering experience to DREMC, including transmission planning for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

"The engineering team works from the minute someone needs power at a new location up until the line is built to the home or business," Tiller shared.

"Electric construction is busy now, but I expect it will get even busier as residential growth, mainly in the Columbia, Spring Hill and Chapel Hill areas, continues at a fast pace," Tiller adds.

Electrical Engineers Josh Weldon, Ed Cashion, Patrick Hannah and Chuck Snell each have specialized responsibilities that range from securing reliable power supply for DREMC's commercial and industrial members to monitoring the SCADA system (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition), GIS system (Geographic Information System), 30 substations to also evaluating overall system upgrades, which are at the pulse of delivering electricity to DREMC members.

Chris Wade, system engineer, admits that he didn't realize so much went into building a power line. "To most, one power line and its pole-top construction look the same as the next," he said, "but they're very different when you consider angles, clearances and overall construction of the structure."

"All that we do as a team is member-driven," said Shelby Pihs. She and Tabatha McCroskey are the engineering coordinators who put the finishing touches on several jobs that enter the engineering department.

"With improved processes and new technology, we've been able to eliminate previous tasks that were

"At times, designing new electric construction is simple, and at other times, the design requires a larger system upgrade to provide the amount of power needed to serve a new industry. Our team determines the best solution at the lowest cost for all new electric construction."

Billy Tiller, Vice-President, Engineering

duplicated or outdated and still maintain accurate engineering records for all employees to access as needed," adds McCroskey. "We archive lots of detailed information, too. The engineering department has electrical construction information dating back to the 1930s!"

The story doesn't end there. After a while, electrical construction must be inspected to maintain service reliability and safety. This is where Melanie Coate and Ben Hullett come in as DREMC's line inspection team.

Coate oversees regular inspections to ensure the solidity of more than 122,000 wooden poles system wide and documents the poles in need of repair or replacement, while Hullett inspects line construction performed by contract crews to ensure their work meets the cooperative's engineering specifications.

"These two teams are dedicated to the overreaching effort of DREMC to support the 'better, stronger, faster' improvements of the electric system," Tiller said. "Each improvement made is a step in the direction of securing the delivery of low-cost electricity for today's members while planning for the future needs of the communities we serve."



*In the photos are, from top left, DREMC engineering team members Chris Wade, Anthony Allen, Luke Davidson, Ryan Adcock and Randy Ridner; Billy Tiller; Josh Weldon, Patrick Hannah and Ed Cashion. Chuck Snell and Robin Cornelius; Shelby Pihs and Tabatha McCroskey; DREMC's line inspection team members are Ben Hullett and Melanie Coate.*

For more photos and to read the complete story in the series of *The People Who Power DREMC*, [click here](#).





# 2022 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Saturday, August 20**

Harris Middle School  
570 Eagle Blvd.  
Shelbyville, TN 37160

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. Meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.

- Door prizes
  - Refreshments
  - Business meeting
  - Attendance gifts for the first 300 members
- ➔ **PLUS**, a chance to win the grand prize

**Save the date!** The Duck River Electric Membership Corporation plans to hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, at Harris Middle School in Shelbyville, TN. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the official kick-off of the 2022 meeting at 9:30 a.m.

More information about the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting is included with DREMC's July bill statements. Read about the Zone 5 director candidates in the August issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*. Details for the voting process will be shared on DREMC's website, [drenc.com](http://drenc.com).

*In the event these plans change, information will be posted at [drenc.com](http://drenc.com) and on social media.*

## FINANCING AVAILABLE



- **NO DOWN PAYMENT**
- **AFFORDABLE MONTHLY PAYMENTS**
- **NO PENALTY FOR EARLY PAYOFF**

For more details and how to begin the process, click [here](#) or call DREMC at 931-680-5882.

## Project HELP



Summer temperatures can result in increased HVAC use and higher electric bills. For those facing financial hardship, Duck River Electric's Project HELP may be able to assist.

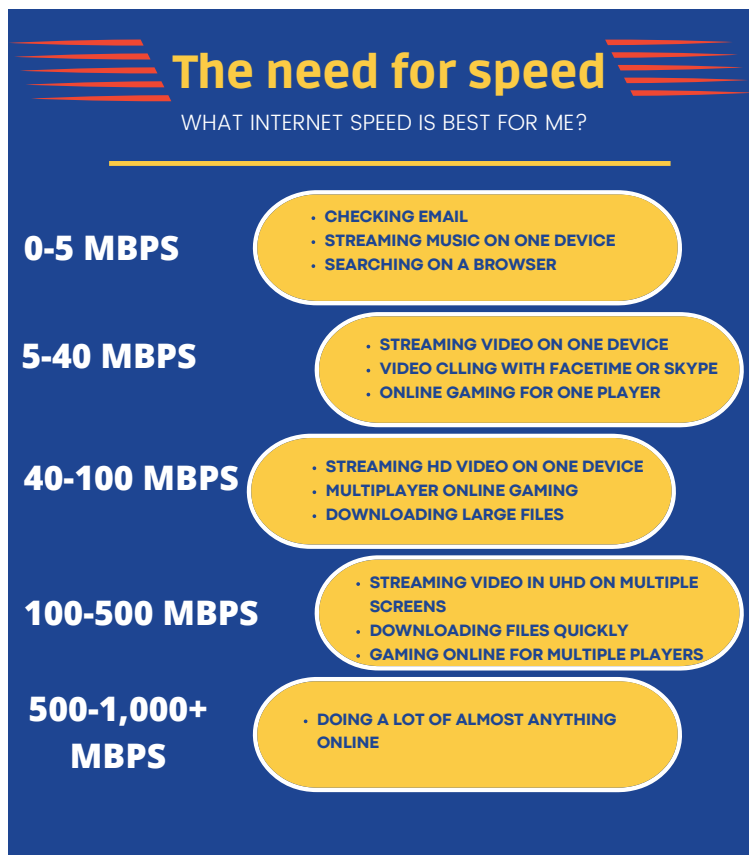
"Aside from an unexpected high electric bill, people are also impacted by the loss of jobs, illness and more," said Cathy Miller, director of Good Samaritan Association of Bedford County. "They come to Good Samaritan for help, and your donations to Project HELP make a difference to families and individuals having trouble paying their electric bills."

Because financial hardships can occur anytime during the year, Project HELP assistance is available to qualifying DREMC members year-round.

If you or someone you know needs assistance paying their DREMC electric bill, Project HELP is available. Contact your [local community partner agency](#) for more information.

# Project **UNITE**

Partnership brings **power** & **POSSIBILITIES**



The need for fast and reliable internet has increased drastically in recent years. The average home could have as many as 10 to 15 devices connected to the internet at any given time.

The popularity of gaming, the rise in video streaming services, along with the fact that many Americans started and continued working from home during the pandemic, have all increased the bandwidth demands for most households. While the topic of internet upload and download speeds might not be something discussed around the dinner table, it has become an increasingly important factor to consider for home and business internet customers.

While upload speeds dictate how quickly your internet connection can retrieve data from web pages, videos and more, download speeds are important for typical everyday internet usage, for example, streaming video or downloading a file from email. The table at left was shared by DREMC's partner, United Communications, and provides examples of suggested download speeds for various activities. [Click here](#) to learn more about upload and download speeds and about the services offered by United Communications.



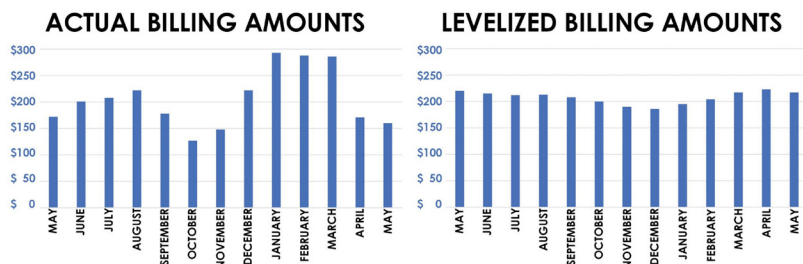
## Levelized Billing

Levelized Billing is designed to help Residential members expect what their bills will be each month. The billing plan works to defer bill increases during heating and cooling seasons to other months when bills are typically lower.

To enroll in Levelized Billing, please complete and return the enrollment [form](#) via email or at your local Duck River Electric office.

Want to know more? Contact your local DREMC office to see if Levelized Billing is right for you.

Let DREMC's Levelized Billing plan help you "level out" the effects that seasonal temperature changes have on electric bills.



# HOW DOES HOT WEATHER AFFECT YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

AND HOW DOES RAISING MY THERMOSTAT A FEW DEGREES IN THE SUMMER HELP SAVE MONEY?

YOUR HOME USES MUCH MORE ENERGY DURING HOT WEATHER EVEN WHEN YOUR THERMOSTAT SETTINGS ARE THE SAME.

WHEN YOU RAISE THE THERMOSTAT, IT NARROWS THE TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUTDOORS AND INDOORS, WHICH MEANS YOUR HVAC UNIT DOESN'T HAVE TO WORK AS HARD TO MEET THE COOLING DEMAND.

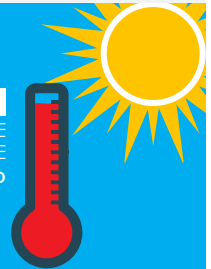
MILD DAY  
OUTSIDE  
TEMPERATURE  
80°



FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOUR THERMOSTAT IS SET TO 75°, THESE COMPARISONS SHOW HOW HIGHER TEMPS CAN AFFECT YOUR BILL.



HOT DAY  
OUTSIDE  
TEMPERATURE  
105°



AIR NEEDED IN THE HOME 5°

The difference between the thermostat setting and the outside temperature is only 5 degrees. The cooling system may only operate a few minutes of each hour to cool the home.

AIR NEEDED IN THE HOME 30°

The difference between the thermostat setting and the outside temperature is 30 degrees. The cooling system may operate almost the entire hour to cool the home.



THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE USES COOLING DEGREE DAYS (CDD) TO MEASURE THE ENERGY NEEDED TO COOL A HOME OR BUILDING. CDD IS THE NUMBER OF DEGREES THAT A DAY'S AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IS ABOVE 65° FAHRENHEIT.

THE MAY 2022 CDDs WERE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THE SAME PERIOD IN 2021.

199 CDD / 101 CDD / 150 CDD  
MAY 2022 / MAY 2021 / MAY AVG.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DATA / SHELBYVILLE, TN



THERE WERE **16 DAYS** IN MAY 2022 WITH TEMPERATURES REACHING 85° OR HIGHER. MAY 2021 HAD ONLY 6 DAYS.



MORE THAN HALF OF THE ENERGY USED IN THE AVERAGE HOME IS FOR HEATING AND COOLING.



GENERATION COSTS ARE UP, PUSHING THE TVA FUEL COST ADJUSTMENT HIGHER THIS SUMMER.



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC RATES ARE 17% BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

## TIPS TO SAVE ENERGY DURING HOT WEATHER



USE THE THERMOSTAT WISELY.



CLOSE DRAPES TO KEEP OUT HEAT.



RUN FANS TO CIRCULATE AIR.



KEEP AIR FILTERS CLEAN.

## Energy evaluations lead to energy savings, comfort

A **free** home energy evaluation is a good first step in lowering your energy bill. An energy evaluation provides recommendations from your trusted energy advisor on ways to make your home more comfortable and energy-efficient.

DREMC offers three ways to complete your evaluation. Whichever energy evaluation you choose, you'll begin by registering with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) [EnergyRight program](#).

Click [here](#) for more details about the **free** home energy evaluations.

If your business is looking for ways to reduce energy costs, DREMC can help through the [Comprehensive Services Program](#).

# Ways to keep your HVAC operating efficiently

- **A licensed professional can examine your unit** and make you aware of anything in need of replacement or repair, which may prevent the unit from breaking down in the heat of the summer when you need it most.
- **Change or clean air filters monthly.** When filters do their job properly, they trap dirt, pet hair and anything else that's floating in the air. This keeps debris from recirculating throughout your home when the air conditioner is running.
- **Run ceiling fans.** Fans create a wind chill that will make you feel cooler, even with the thermostat set higher. While they will not lower the temperature of the room, they can make a noticeable improvement to overall comfort.
- **Limit heat inside the home or business.** During days when outside temperatures are extreme, limit the use of the oven, clothes dryer, lights and other appliances that create heat. Wait until after dark, when the day cools off a bit, before running heat-producing appliances.



Dirty filters can prevent air from flowing, which makes the HVAC work even harder to cool your house, using more energy.

Filters may need to be changed or cleaned more often during the summer months due to higher humidity, pollen and because the unit's air exchanges occur more often than in the off seasons.



1

When carrying a ladder, pool skimmer or any tall object – look up. Be aware of where overhead power lines are located to avoid accidental contact with them.

2

Keep electric radios, appliances and wiring for outdoor lighting away from swimming pools. Never touch an electrical device while in the pool.

3

Test outdoor GFCI outlets to ensure they operate properly to help keep you safe. GFCI shuts power off when the outlet detects an electrical fault, including when contact is made with water.

Help keep children safe outdoors around electricity by also reminding them:

DO NOT CLIMB TREES NEAR POWER LINES.

NEVER PLAY AROUND PAD-MOUNT TRANSFORMERS.

DO NOT THROW ITEMS (TOYS, ROCKS, ETC.) AT OVERHEAD TRANSFORMERS OR ELECTRIC METERS.

KNOW TO STAY CLEAR OF THOSE PLACES WHERE SIGNS READ "HIGH VOLTAGE," "DANGER," "KEEP OUT," AND "CAUTION."

Duck River Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.