


# Norris Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# News

## Help during the holidays

Norris Electric Cooperative employees helped make Christmas a little brighter for people in Jasper County. Donations were made to the Jasper County Ministerial Association Christmas Food Basket Program and the Giving Tree Project. Donations of food, money and gifts helped many families during the holiday season. Thank you, Norris Electric employees, for your generosity.



## Attention High School Seniors

**There is still time to apply for a Norris Electric Scholarship.**

Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of a Norris Electric Cooperative member who is currently receiving services from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted. The following rules apply:

- The applicant must be a high school senior.
- Scholarship winners must begin undergraduate studies within a year of being notified they are the recipient of the scholarship.
- Scholarship winners will be expected to be “full time” students (at least 12 hours).
- Scholarships are for one year and are not renewable.
- Scholarships will be awarded based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay.
- Deadline for receipt of completed applications and submissions is February 1, 2020.

Please go online at [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com) to print off an application or see your guidance counselor.





## Why is my power out?

### When power goes out, we are working hard to restore it

We hate it when the power goes out just as much as you do. When there is an outage, we work hard to resume service as quickly and safely as possible. Many times, the reasons for outages are beyond our control. Here are the main reasons the power goes out.

### Storms

Conditions brought on by storms such as high winds, ice and lightning can interrupt service. Lightning itself does not impact outages as much as people think, but it can strike trees and cause branches or even whole trees to fall on distribution lines. Lightning can cause a problem, however, if it strikes substation equipment, such as a large transformer. Strong high winds and ice that accumulates on lines can also impact distribution.

### Trees and vegetation

Branches, limbs or trunks can fall on lines, and vegetation (such as vines) can grow around poles, lines or other equipment. Ice and wind can make matters worse. This is why we work so hard to keep power lines and equipment clear.

### Animals

It is estimated that 11 percent of outages are caused by our furry

friend the squirrel. They love to chew on the weatherproof coating around lines. Other critters like turkeys, snakes and raccoons can interfere with service too. A bird on a wire is harmless and safe for the bird as long as it touches the line and nothing else.

### Accidents

Cars, trucks, and farm equipment that have a run-in with a utility pole can cause an outage.

### Public damage

Unsafe digging, equipment or line damage, vandalism, or theft can all cause interruptions in the energy chain.

### Overload

This happens when demand spikes, such as when too many air conditioners run on a hot summer day, causing blackouts or brownouts.

### Equipment issues

We maintain and inspect all our lines and equipment regularly; however, sometimes equipment malfunctions. We strive to address any problem as soon as it happens.

**Please contact Norris Electric at 877-783-8765 with questions about outages. For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).**



# Top 5 considerations before installing a solar or wind system

- 1. Talk to your electric cooperative, your trusted energy advisor.** Members and cooperatives must work together to obtain an interconnection agreement, connect the system to the grid, and follow cooperative policies and applicable state and/or federal laws.
- 2. Do your homework.** Talk to credible, reputable sources that can help you understand the economics of an installation including the best location/type of renewable energy for your property, incentives and requirements such as insurance. When choosing a reputable vendor, always ask for (and check) references, check consumer reviews and ask for third-party input from credible sources.
- 3. Know your co-op's rate structure and policies.** A Norris representative will provide information on our interconnection process and policies along with a sample bill. Norris will also explain how you will be compensated for excess



- energy you generate and limits on the size of the system that can be used.
- 4. Determine upfront costs and estimate ongoing costs.** You will be responsible for the costs to install the system along with ongoing maintenance and repair. Do your research to determine if a renewable system is economical for your energy needs.
  - 5. Safety first. Privately-owned solar and wind systems are connected to the grid.** All interconnection and safety

requirements must be met before operating the system. This is necessary to protect other members, cooperative employees, public safety personnel and the general public from risks that could result from improper installation.

For more information on Norris policies and requirements, please contact our office Monday through Thursday, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 877-783-8765.



## Save the date...

Norris Electric Cooperative will be hosting the 82nd Annual Meeting of Members on February 8, 2020. Each Member upon registration will receive a \$10 bill credit that will be applied to their account. Enjoy a catered lunch and a chance to win mega prizes after the meeting. We will also be giving away four - \$500 scholarships to four lucky High School Seniors.

**You won't want to miss it!! Mark your calendars.**

*Watch for more details in February's magazine.*



## Add a little light to your night

There's no place like home – and at nightfall, you'll have peace of mind with a night light from your electric cooperative.

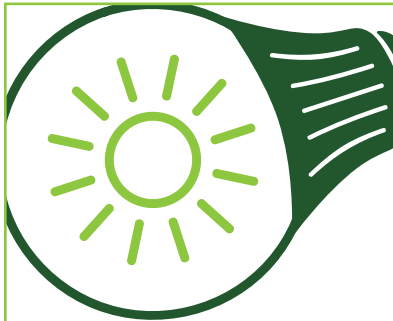
Nothing discourages a would-be burglar or trespasser like a brilliant night light. Today's night lights are brighter and more efficient than ever. And since the night light turns itself on at dusk and off at dawn, it's there when you need it, automatically.

A night light is an affordable way to provide safety and protection for your family and possessions.

### Norris Electric offers the following night lighting:

73-watt LED outdoor light .....	\$7.00 per month
200-watt LED directional light .....	\$20.50 per month

This cost covers installation, operation and maintenance of the light. The electricity the light uses is not metered and is included in the monthly fee. The only requirement is the light must be installed on a Norris Electric pole. It's a great deal for our members! Contact our office at 877-783-8765 to sign up or visit our website at [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com) to print a copy of the lighting agreement.



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Home Generator Systems

You can't control Mother Nature, and now would be a good time for you to purchase a standby generator. Norris Electric offers the Briggs & Stratton

Home Generator System line of standby generators. Briggs & Stratton is one of the leading and most well known names in small engines.

These units are available with transfer switches that automatically start the unit and transfer to standby power in the event of a power outage. When electric service is restored, the transfer switch switches back to utility power and shuts the generator down.

Many homes and small businesses



have pumps, fans, computers and other equipment that require them to have a continuous supply of electric power. With a Briggs & Stratton

Home Generator

System, you never have to worry about another power outage. With the automatic transfer features, you know your processes and equipment are always operating, even when you are gone.

The Briggs & Stratton product line was chosen for its long history in the small engine business and its commitment to a quality line of products at reasonable prices.

If you are looking for a standby generator you may contact Ambraw Power at 618-455-3548.