



# Rural HILIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

RURAL HILIGHTS

## *15th Anniversary RECC's Gob Nob Wind Turbine*

# 3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them. Here's how you can help:

**1. Plant trees in the right place.** Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



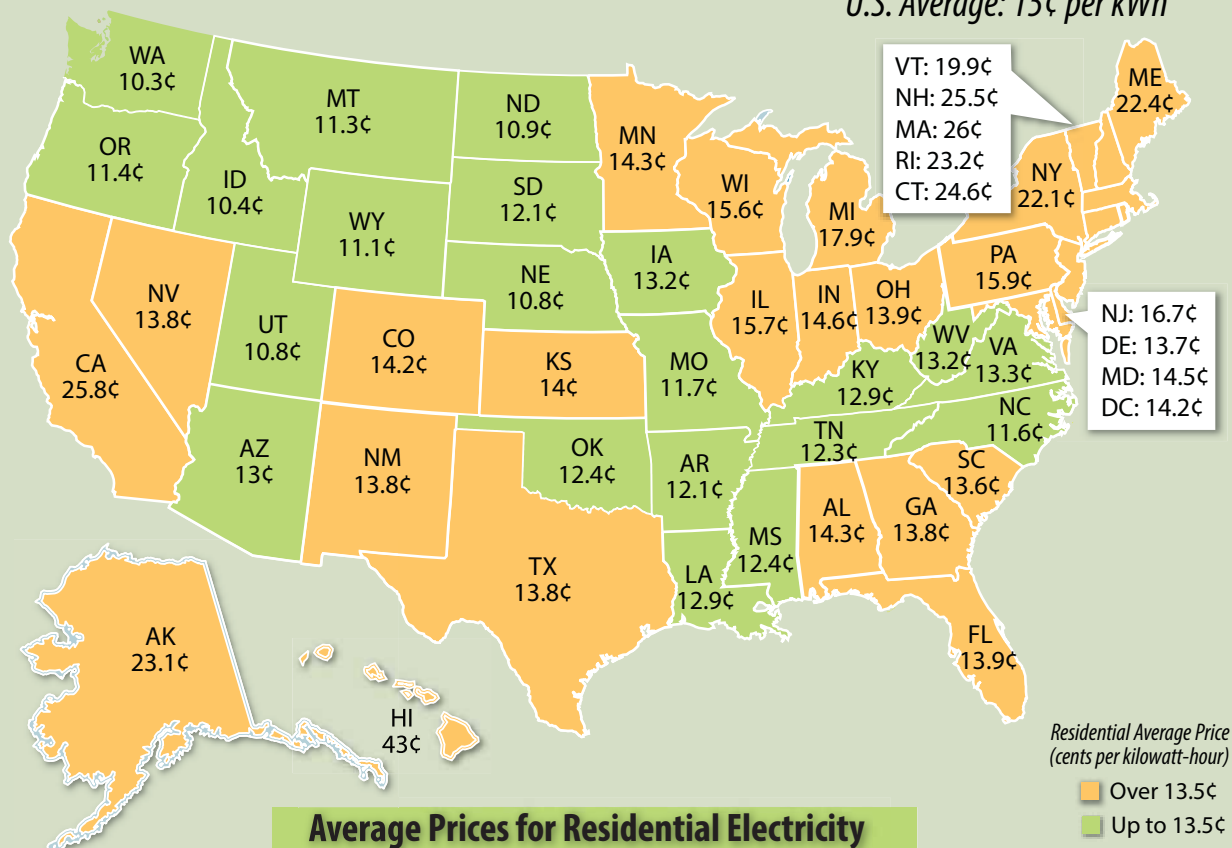
**2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers.** Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



**3. Report dangerous branches.** If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



U.S. Average: 15¢ per kWh



**Average Prices for Residential Electricity**  
2022 figures, in cents per kWh

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration  
Numbers rounded to nearest tenth of a cent



## Flashback from 2009

Farmersville, IL has a new landmark, RECC's 230-foot GobNob wind turbine. Sitting on a hill, just off Interstate 55, is a monumental sight that can be seen 10 miles away. It's also a source of renewable energy for co-op members. All electricity produced by the wind turbine is used by the 382 consumers on RECC's Farmersville substation. On the left, the nacelle is being placed on the 230-foot tower and to the right is its 62,000-pound generator.



## Ice storms pose serious threats to Illinois cooperatives



*RECC member Andrew Polley submitted photos showing ice accumulation in the Rochester area.*



*The Jan 22 storm complicated travel but didn't produce enough ice to affect operations. Utility poles and power lines are incredibly strong but unable to withstand two or three inches of ice when accompanied by strong winds.*

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## ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT



When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.



### ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

### ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

### WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

### OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages



Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative