

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

A monthly newsletter connecting our members with their cooperative.

September 2026

Battery Storage at Wayne City Substation



YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED some new equipment at our substation in Wayne City. Wayne-White Electric is installing a large battery energy storage system to help manage one of the biggest factors affecting the cost of the electricity we provide you.

Although this system is much bigger than the batteries we use

in our everyday lives, the basic idea is familiar. It stores electricity so that energy can be used later, when it is needed most.

Why is that important? Part of Wayne-White Electric's wholesale power bill is based on how much electricity our members are using during periods of highest electric demand. These peak periods often happen on extremely hot summer afternoons, when air conditioners are running at full speed, or during the coldest hours of winter.

Those few hours can have a significant effect on our power costs.

The new battery will allow us to store electricity and release it during these high-demand periods. When the battery supplies power to the Wayne City substation, it reduces the amount of electricity the Cooperative must purchase at that particular time. Managing those peaks can lower our wholesale power costs -- helping us continue to provide value to you, our member-owners.

This is not an entirely new approach for Wayne-White Electric. Our interruptible rates,

whole-home generator program, irrigation load control and new smart thermostat program all share a similar goal: reducing demand when electricity is most costly. The battery simply gives us another tool to accomplish that goal.

In addition to helping manage power costs, the battery will provide another tool to support reliability. During periods of extremely high demand, especially when energy conservation is requested, Wayne-White Electric can use stored electricity to reduce strain on the power grid and help lessen the need for emergency measures, such as rolling blackouts.

All batteries gradually lose some capacity as they age -- whether they are in a phone, a vehicle or an electric substation. For that reason, our system will begin with more battery capacity than it needs. This will help ensure that it can continue meeting its performance goals as it ages.

We are also pleased that local contractors are helping with construction, keeping a portion of the project's investment here in the communities we serve. The project remains on schedule and is expected to be completed in October.

At Wayne-White Electric Cooperative, we know that every dollar matters. Because we are owned by the people we serve, decisions like this are made with our members in mind. This battery may look like a collection of equipment at a substation, but its purpose is simple: to help your Cooperative use energy wisely, manage peak power costs, and provide long-term value and reliability for our members. 



WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Sept 1 - Bills Generated
- Sept 2 - Bills Out in Mail
- Sept 7 - Labor Day/Closed
- **Sept 15 - Enfield Open**
- Sept 15 - Bills Due!
- Sept 22 - Board Meeting
- Sept 22 - 1st Day of Fall!
- **Sept 29 - Enfield Open**

CONTACT US

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Board of Directors

Directors are voted on at each Annual Meeting by the membership. If the election is not contested, the director running will be elected by acclamation.

Chairman

Bryan WilliamsDistrict 5

Vice Chairman

Ken Lamont District 4

Secretary

Richard TalbertDistrict 8

Treasurer

Richard RubenackerDistrict 7

Directors

Larry Hosselton District 1
Blaine NortonDistrict 2
Ryan DuckworthDistrict 3
David HunsingerDistrict 6
Noel EdmisonDistrict 9

Contact your Board of Directors by emailing:
directors@wwcec.com

**REMINDER!**
****NEW** OFFICE HOURS:**
MONDAY - FRIDAY
7AM - 4PM
TO BETTER SERVE OUR MEMBERS

New Office Hours

Just a reminder that we now have new office hours at our Fairfield headquarters office. Based on feedback from our members, we will now be open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To drop off payments or documents after hours, we will have our drive-thru drop box available in front of the Fairfield office, or a drop box by the door at the Enfield office.

Tips for a Safe Harvest Season

NATIONAL FARM SAFETY AND Health Week is typically held in September, so we wanted to share tips for a safe harvest for all our farming friends and family.

Modern farming often relies on data and equipment with GPS and auto-guidance systems. Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but its impressive size, height and extensions make it vulnerable to contacting power lines. But even with these modern conveniences, farm workers must remain vigilant for safety.

Avoiding Electrical Accidents

To ensure a safe harvest season, follow these tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact your utility.

If Equipment Does Make Contact with a Power Line:

- Do not leave the cab.
- Immediately call 911.
- Warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping

feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Rest is Important for Safety

For many farmers, fall requires long days in the field and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible, combined with fatigue and looming deadlines, increases the risk of injury. In fact, most injuries occur during the spring and fall when stress and fatigue are common among farmers.

The safety and health of workers, including making time for sleep, should be a priority when considering a farm's productivity, according to Josie Rudolphi, University of Illinois Extension association research scientist. "Rushing and cutting corners can lead to injury, which no one has time for, especially during harvest," Rudolphi says.

Rudolphi grew up on a farm and understands the pressures of harvest season. She says that getting proper rest can make a huge difference in staying safe, but during the time crunch of harvest season, farmers sacrifice sleep to work late into the night.

"Sleep deficiency has been associated with increased injury, reduced reaction time, and reduced concentration," Rudolphi says. "All of which could impact health and safety, as well as productivity."

The demands of harvest are stressful, and a lack of sleep can intensify that and lead to errors in the fields or on roads.

To improve sleep, Rudolphi advises farmers to go to bed and wake up at regular times when possible. They can use rainy days to catch up on sleep.

In addition to improving sleep, managing stress is an important component to injury prevention, health and safety, according to Rudolphi. "By using the 'Four A' Method of Avoid (planning ahead), Adapt (changing expectations), Alter (changing the situation when you can) and Accept (acknowledging that a situation is what it is), farmers can successfully manage the stress of long hours and unpredictability," she adds.

Learn more at safeelectricity.org 

SmartHub App: Simplify Managing Your Electric Account

ARE YOU STILL RECEIVING your monthly statements from Wayne-White Electric by mail? If so, we encourage you to switch to paperless billing!

Bills are generated on the first business day of the month and placed in the mail on the second business day. Depending on weekends, holidays, and postal service delays, that can sometimes get your bill to you near the 10th of the month. Bills are always due on the 15th of the month, which then does not leave much time between receiving your bill and the due date. And unfortunately, we cannot control the postal service.

With our SmartHub app, you can receive an email or text message as soon as your bill is ready on the first business day! All you have to do is log in and your current and past bills are viewable and printable online.

Then while you are there, you can also set up autopay or make a payment with a card or bank account. This guarantees that your payment will make it to us immediately instead of mailing a check.

There have been times we have received

payments in the mail that were sent months before. By using SmartHub, you will not have to worry about that hassle anymore!

Here are just a few perks for going paperless with billing and payments:

- Added convenience: Instead of waiting for a paper bill in the mail, you will have the flexibility of “anytime, anywhere” online bill access from your home computer or mobile device.
- Enhanced security: Paperless billing is more secure than dropping a check in the mail, where it can end up in the wrong hands or no hands at all!
- Monthly savings: Pay for less checks and stamps when using paperless billing.
- Environmental aid: Reduces paper use and saves trees!

SmartHub also allows you to track your daily usage so you can better manage your consumption. See daily usage amounts compared to temperatures to monitor the efficiency of your HVAC units as well.

If your power goes out, you can quickly log onto SmartHub and report your outage and view the outage map. Easily stay up to date with restoration efforts in your area with these convenient SmartHub features.

Not comfortable downloading the app on your phone? No problem! You can also access SmartHub through our website at www.waynewhitecoop.com

All of the same features that are available on the mobile app are available when you log in from a computer or tablet.

- Set up notification preferences & what email or phone number you would like to receive each notification.
- Make a payment with a card or bank account.
- View your usage and compare it to previous days/months/years.
- View your current and past bills.
- Set up automatic payments and paperless billing.

Learn more on our website and view the graphic below to learn how to create a SmartHub account. 

How-To Register for SmartHub:



01

Go to SmartHub

Search SmartHub in your phone's app store or go to waynewhitecoop.com & click Register for Online Access in the box at right.



02

Register Account

Click Register Now to create a new SmartHub account. You will be asked for your account number and email to create an account

ACCOUNT REGISTRATION

Required fields marked with an asterisk *

Billing Account Number *
(Only numbers are allowed)

Last Name or Business Name *

Email *

Confirm Email *



03

ACCOUNT REGISTRATION

Congratulations!

Your registration is complete. You will receive an email with instructions for setting your password.

Verify Your Email Address

Once you have entered your account number and email, you will be asked to verify your identity with the last 4-digits of your social security number and set a security question. SmartHub will then send an email to the address you registered with to verify and set up your password.

04

Set Your Password

You will receive this email asking you to verify your account and will be taken to a screen to set up a password. After that, you are in! Now you can easily start managing your electric account 24/7!



SmartHub Registration

Your waynewhitecoop SmartHub registration was successful.

With your SmartHub account you can set up Paperless Billing, Automatic Payments, and view your usage all in one!

Please click the link below to verify your account and set your password.

Stay Safe After an Accident

IF YOU HAVE EVER had an automobile accident, you know that the moments after can be nerve racking. Knowing what to do around electric utilities could end up saving your life in an emergency situation. SafeElectricity.org has the following tips to help keep you safe in your time of need.

Q: My car struck a pad-mounted transformer “green box” or other utility equipment or lines: now what?

A: First, assess the situation. If your car is not smoking or on fire, stay in your vehicle.

If you are in an accident involving electrical equipment, remain in your vehicle or cab until the local utility arrives to de-energize the power. Stepping out of your vehicle while touching it at the same time or trying to walk or run to safety can cause serious burn injuries or death.

Utility equipment includes:

- Neighborhood pad-mounted transformers (metal boxes -- usually green or grey)
- Equipment such as a switching cabinet or junction box for underground utilities
- Overhead power lines or poles

If you are in a multiple-cars accident, yell to others from your car to warn them not to leave their vehicle. Also warn those who might stop to help to not approach the scene.

Call 9-1-1 to report the accident location and clearly state to the dispatcher that electrical lines or equipment is involved.

Q: What if I see smoke or fire?

A: Try to stay calm. Make a clear jump (without touching any part of the vehicle or tractor) and hop, shuffle or waddle like a penguin (with both feet together) at least 50 feet away to safety. Just like downed power lines, any damaged utility equipment such as pad-mounted transformers or cabinets that house electrical equipment can send electrical current through the pavement or ground.

If you walk across the energized ground or touch an energized vehicle and ground at the same time, something called “difference of potential” (also called step potential) can occur, according to Derald Phillips, member of Safe Electricity’s Member Assembly and

director of Safety and Loss Control at North West Rural Electric Cooperative in Iowa.

“When you pass from one current to another by taking regular steps and cross varying voltages of electricity (think of how a water ripples -- each ring represents a different voltage), this is difference of potential and it can cause extreme burn injuries or death,” explains Phillips. If you hop or shuffle, your body is much less likely to expose itself to different voltages at the same time.

DO NOT go near or touch electrical equipment. DO NOT move a downed wire with your hand or an object such as a stick.

Q: Can there still be damage to equipment even if I do not see anything?

A: Yes, there can be damage to a pad-mounted transformer or other equipment that cannot be seen, even if metal boxes or cabinets look intact or appear to have minimal damage. When it comes to above-ground power lines, it is a fallacy that downed wires are insulated to the touch or that power is automatically cut once a power line is down or damaged.

Q: What can happen if a pad-mounted transformer or other equipment has been hit? Fire? Outage?

A: “Assuming the collision was hard enough there would be an outage,” Phillips said. “In a certain sense that would be the safest option. However, if the collision did not cause an outage there could be a fire,” adding that the worst possible option is that an outage did not occur, that the vehicle (and ground) is energized and individuals improperly exit the vehicle or others approach the scene.

Another dangerous outcome could include a vehicle hitting a transformer or underground enclosure hard enough to dislodge it, exposing energized conductors or creating an area/hole to fall into that could be energized. This scenario especially applies to first responders or those who stop to help but could apply to anyone at the scene.

Q: So, what is the bottom line?

A: If you have been in an accident involving a pad-mounted transformer, a power pole or downed lines, or anything that looks like utility equipment, do not leave your

vehicle unless you are in imminent danger, and then properly exit your vehicle. Make a clear jump (without touching any part of the vehicle or tractor) and hop or shuffle at least 30 feet away to safety or as far away as you possibly can. Also warn others about the dangers.

Q: If I see damaged equipment or downed lines, should I report it to my utility?

A: YES, call us at (618) 842-2196 to report any damaged utility equipment you see. Most damage is reported, but not always. For example, a feed truck hits a transformer and the driver did not notice. Although we routinely check equipment for safety and maintenance, unreported damage can occur between checks. We want to be alerted to any problems so we can promptly address them.

For more information about dangerous situations around live power or electrical safety in general, visit www.safeelectricity.org. 



IF THERE IS A DOWNED POWER LINE THINK BEFORE YOU ACT

An overhead power line can become damaged or fall due to a severe storm, car accident, public damage or other reasons. If you see a downed power line, take these actions:

- Consider all power lines energized and deadly.
- Stay at least 50 feet away.
- Call 9-1-1 or the utility to report the downed line.
- Do not approach it or try to move it with another object.
- Do not get out of a vehicle or cab.
- Do not approach the scene.
- Warn others to stay away.
- Turn around and go another way.

Other things to know

- Energized downed lines spread voltage through the ground or nearby objects.
- If you go near a downed line, you can become electricity's path to ground.
- You cannot see if a power line is live just by looking at it.
- Even if a power line appears coated, it is never safe to go near it.
- While transmitting and distributing power is typically safe, extreme scenarios like downed power lines are extremely dangerous. Never approach a downed power line.

Even if you do not see a downed line, realize one could be hidden by storm debris, water/snow or ice.

Safe Electricity.org Learn more at