

# MEC MINUTE

## OUR TREE REMOVAL AND BRUSH CLEANUP PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE

Our chief responsibility as an electric cooperative is to provide reliable and safe power, and trees are a major hazard to our infrastructure. As a result, we proactively remove trees and brush within our rights-of-way, which are 15-foot strips of land on either side of our high-voltage and primary power lines. We do this for several reasons, including public safety, access, restoration effectiveness, and outage prevention.

If a tree on your property gets tangled in our lines, it could result in an outage for many customers, or it could hide power lines from view, creating a potentially deadly situation. Therefore, we work hard to remove obstructions from our lines and poles to help provide the best possible service experience for you.

You can learn more about the importance of tree trimming and vegetation management from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Here are the areas where we plan to clear our rights-of-way this year:

- **Michigan:** Calvin, Constantine, Decatur, Fabius, Flowerfield, Keeler, Lagrange, Marcellus, Newberg, North Porter, Penn, Pipestone, Porter, Prairie Ronde, Silver Creek, Van Buren, Volinia, Wayne
- **Ohio:** Brady, Franklin, Gorham, Mill Creek

We also employ a long-term spraying strategy to manage continued regrowth. It effectively controls tall-growing rees and bushes while promoting low-growing plants beneficial to wildlife.

We will spray in the following townships:

- **Michigan:** Almena, Antwerp, Brady, Calvin, Constantine, Decatur, Fabius, Florence, Flowerfield, Howard, Jefferson, Lagrange, Leonidas, Lockport, Marcellus, Mason, Mendon, Milton, Mottville, Ontwa, Oshtemo, Oslo, Park, Penn, Portage, Porter, Prairie Ronde, Schoolcraft, Texas, Van Buren, Volinia, Wakeshma, Washington, Wayne, White Pigeon, York
- **Indiana:** Harris
- **Ohio:** Brady, Franklin, German, Gorham, Mill Creek

## WE WILL NOTIFY YOU WHEN WORK IS SCHEDULED IN YOUR AREA

We mail notices to affected customers a few weeks prior to starting tree work or spraying. We also place automated phone calls, and as the tree crew surveys a specific area, we will attempt to leave a door tag.

If you have any questions, please call 800-492-5989, Mon. through Fri. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## U.S. MAIL DELIVERY SLOWER BY TWO DAYS

The U.S. Post Office has changed its first-class mail delivery standard from three days to five days. Please keep this in mind when mailing payments and allow for extra time.

## ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR BUILDING VIBRANT COMMUNITIES GRANTS

We strive to create vibrant, relevant, and sustainable rural communities. To support our vision, we offer our Building Vibrant Communities Grant Program, providing support to local, non-profit organizations serving individuals in our electric cooperative service territory. National/international organizations and their local chapters are not eligible.

Qualified organizations may apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 to help fund projects and initiatives that support the mission of the organization.

Some examples of past awards include funds for roof repair, a service dog program, technology for telehealth, and foul weather safety gear.

We are accepting applications for our current cycle until June 30.

Please visit [teammidwest.com/vibrant-communities](http://teammidwest.com/vibrant-communities) for more information and application requirements.

A man in a blue t-shirt is shown from the chest up, looking upwards and to the right. He is holding a roll of white weatherstripping material and is in the process of applying it to a door frame. The background is a blurred interior space with a window and some furniture.

# Shut the Door on Energy Waste.

Did you know **25% to 40%** of energy used to heat and cool your home is wasted through air leaks? Seal all exterior doors with weatherstripping to minimize energy waste.