

Comeback for Energy Tax Credits

Feds revive incentives for efficient home upgrades

By Megan McKoy-Noe

Ready to boost your home's energy efficiency without breaking the bank? The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 revived energy efficiency tax credits to the tune of \$500.

The credit offsets the cost of upgrades such as super-efficient water heaters and furnaces, boilers, heat pumps, central air conditioners, building insulation, windows, and roofs.

This marks the third extension of the incentive initiated by the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005. The last round expired in 2011; the new legislation covers 2012 upgrades along with projects undertaken in 2013. If you've already received an energy tax credit, you're out of luck—there's a lifetime cap of \$500.

Full details on qualifying upgrades and individual caps are at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits. Here are a few ways to lower your electric bill and save at tax time.

Insulating Factors

Recoup up to 10 percent of the cost of upgrading a home's envelope. The tax credit is capped at \$500 for all improvements; labor costs are not covered. Eligible upgrades are:

- Insulation materials
- Systems designed to reduce a home's heat loss/gain
- Exterior doors
- Skylights and windows (\$200 maximum for upgrades between 2006-2013)

- Qualifying metal or asphalt roofs

Heating and Cooling

Replacing your home's heating or cooling system? You could qualify for a tax credit ranging from \$50 to \$500 for units put in place between Jan. 1, 2012, and Dec. 31, 2013.

Eligible improvements are:

- High-efficiency water heaters (energy factor of at least 0.82 or thermal efficiency of at least 90 percent; \$300 cap)
- Electric heat pump water heaters with an energy factor of at least 2.0 (\$300 cap)
- Advanced main air circulating fan (\$50 cap)
- Qualifying central air conditioner (\$300 cap)
- Biomass stove (select fuels; \$300 cap)

Tax Credit Basics

Energy tax credits are non-refundable—they can increase your refund by reducing the taxes you owe, dollar for dollar, and can be carried forward to reduce taxes in following years. You don't get a separate check for the credit amount.

File for energy tax credits with IRS Form 5695. Be sure to keep a Manufacturer Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records.

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Don't fall victim to a new scam

Clay Electric Cooperative is always looking out for our member's best interests. In that light, we recently became aware of a scam that affected one of our sister co-ops in Ohio and we want to be sure our members don't fall victim to something like this in Illinois.

A member of an Ohio electric co-op recently received a call about renewing his subscription for the statewide association's magazine. Thankfully, that member questioned the caller because he believed he received the magazine for free. When pressed for information, the caller hung up and the member made his cooperative aware of the situation.

Illinois Country Living magazine is just one of the many benefits of your membership in your cooperative. You will never need to renew your subscription unless you were to move out of co-op territory and still wished to receive it.

We here at Clay Electric Cooperative will NEVER ask you to pay for your publication. If you receive a call asking for credit card or personal information please hang up and give us a call. Don't fall victim to identity thieves using the familiar name of your cooperative to steal your personal information.

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Regular meeting January 28, 2013

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President/General Manager John Meng, and Cooperative Attorney Melanie Pearce. The invocation was given by Neil Gould.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held December 17, 2012.

Accepted 10 new members for service.

Canceled 10 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$37,778.57.

Discussed and **Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of December, 2012.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning the AIEC January Board meeting.

Heard a report by Trustee Herman concerning the recent SIPC Board meeting, including the financials, disbursed SIPC Administration and Finance Dept.

Summary. Resolved the appointment of delegates for the SIPC Annual Meeting.

Approved the Managers report as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng including Financial and maintenance reports, and small commercial versus residential classifications report.

Collected Form 990 from Board Members.

Heard a report on the upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Rescheduled dates for the regular monthly Board meetings during February, April, and May 2013.

Disbursed Agility Recovery folder concerning disaster services and rates, Approved discontinuing further consideration.

Reviewed and **Approved** bids for rock for maintenance yard, to the low bid of Schoonover Trucking.

Heard and **Approved** consideration of attic insulation of the Cooperative office building to Schackmann Insulation and Construction.

Discussed succession planning and Disbursed for review Exec. V.P./

Gen. Mgr. Position description.

Approved the date of September 5, 2013 for the Annual Meeting of Members of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Reviewed and **Approved** budget as presented.

Heard and **Approved** a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding the retirement of capital credits to the estates of three deceased members pursuant to Cooperative policy.

Disbursed issues of Embody Health, and Touchstone Energy Powering Human Connections.

Disbursed copy of executed Clay County Water Management Agreement.

Disbursed revised Policy 900-1Service and Line Extension Policy.

Disbursed 2013 1099's.

Informed that Brian Adams will present the Cost of Service study at the March Board meeting.

Discussed the Glenn English Scholarship Foundation.

Heard a presentation and demonstration by Gen. Mgr. Meng concerning ElectriMAP GIS.

Adjournment.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
www.ceci.coop

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Eligible upgrades must be made to a taxpayer's primary residence by Dec. 31, 2013.

Rebate Locator

Some states offer further subsidies or rebates for efficiency projects. For a complete list of federal, state, and local energy efficiency assistance, visit the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, at www.dsireusa.org.

Sources: Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency, Tax Incentives Assistance Project

Megan McKoy-Noe writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Clay Electric Cooperative also offers incentives for upgrading existing homes or new construction when installing Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP), or Geothermal HVAC. Please contact Member Services Director Doug Hockman at Clay Electric Cooperative to learn more on these programs.

NOMINATING PROCESS FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

ARTICLE III TRUSTEES

SECTION 1. General Powers. The Board of Trustees shall consist of nine members. Except as otherwise provided by law, the certificate of incorporation of the Co-operative, or by these bylaws, the Board of Trustees shall manage the business affairs and property of the Co-operative, authorize contracts, fix charges for its services for furnishing electric energy to its members, and for other services rendered for and to its members, and shall otherwise manage the affairs of the Co-operative in such manner as may be necessary, convenient or proper in order to carry out its objectives and purposes; provided, however, that the Co-operative shall not be operated for pecuniary profit either to itself or to its members.

SECTION 2. Qualifications and Tenure.

(a) The persons named as Trustees in the certificate of incorporation of the Co-operative shall compose the Board of Trustees until the first annual meeting or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. At each annual meeting of the members beginning with the year 1941, Trustees shall be elected by ballot, by and from the members, as hereinafter provided, to serve until the next annual meeting of members or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified, subject to the provisions of these Bylaws with respect to the removal of Trustees. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a Trustee, or to hold any position of trust in the Co-operative who is not a member and is not presently residing in the area served or to be served by the Co-operative, and in addition thereto is not a bona-fide resident of the district from which he is elected, or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Co-operative, or a business primarily engaged in the selling of electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Co-operative. When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected a Trustee; provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a Trustee or to hold a position of trust in the Co-operative unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth. Nothing in this section contained shall be construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Trustees. **(As amended July 14, 1978)**

(b) At the first Annual Meeting of Members following the meeting held in the year 1947, three Trustees shall be elected for a term of one year; three for a term of two years; and three for a term of three years; and all nominations made for Trustees to be elected at this meeting, regardless of the method by which said nominations are made, shall specify for what terms said person is being nominated, and no person shall be nominated for more than one of the alternative terms. Thereafter, at each Annual Meeting of the Members, three Trustees shall be

elected each for a term of three years, to succeed those Trustees whose term is then expiring. **(As amended February 11, 1947)**

SECTION 3. Nominations.

(a) For the purposes of nomination of candidates for the office of Trustee, and to determine the number of Trustees elected to represent each district, the following districts and number of Trustees representing each district are established as follows:

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF TRUSTEES
District I to include Bible Grove Township, Clay County; Lucas Township, Effingham County; and South Muddy Township, Jasper County	1
District II to include Blair Township, Clay County and Union Township, Effingham County	1
District III to include Larkinsburg Township, Clay County; Mason Township, Effingham County; and LaClede Township, Fayette County	1
District IV to include Pixley Township, Clay County; and Noble Township and Denver Township, Richland County	1
District V to include Hoosier Township and Louisville Township, Clay County	1
District VI to include Oskaloosa Township and Songer Township, Clay County; and Meacham Township and Omega Township, Marion County	1
District VII to include Clay City Township and Stanford Township, Clay County; and Keith Township, Wayne County	1
District VIII to include Harter Township, Clay County; and Keith Township and Indian Prairie Township, Wayne County	1

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DISTRICT	NUMBER OF TRUSTEES
District IX to include Xenia Township, Clay County; Iuka Township and Romine Township, Marion County; and Garden Hill Township and Orchard Township, Wayne County	1

(as amended July 14, 1978)

(b) Any qualified member, a member meeting the requirements of Article III, Section 2 of these Bylaws, from the required District, may be nominated for Trustee by official petition of not less than fifteen (15) members of the Co-operative from the required District. Official petition forms will be available at the Co-operative Headquarters no more than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the date of the meeting for the calendar year in which Trustee's terms expire.

(c) All candidates' nomination petitions, together with such additional information as may be requested by the Secretary of the Co-operative, shall be submitted by the prospective candidate to the Secretary at the Co-operative headquarters building, not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the meeting at which Trustees will be elected. At the time of delivering the signed written petition to the Secretary, the prospective candidate shall also deliver to the Secretary a completed Statement of Qualifications demonstrating that he or she is qualified to serve as a Trustee under the terms of Article III, Section 2 of the bylaws. All petitions filed by persons waiting in line as of 8:00 a.m. on the first day for filing, or as of the normal opening hour of the headquarters building on that day, shall be deemed filed as of 8:00 a.m. or the normal opening hour, as the case may be. Petitions filed by mail and received after midnight of the first day for filing and in the first mail delivery or pickup of that day shall be deemed as filed as of 8:00 a.m. of that day or as of the normal opening hour of such day, as the case may be. All petitions received thereafter shall be deemed as filed in the order of actual receipt. Where 2 or more petitions are received simultaneously, the Secretary shall break ties and determine the order of filing, by means of lottery or other fair and impartial method of random selection approved by the Secretary. Such lottery shall be conducted within nine (9) days following the last day for petition filing and shall be open to the public. Seven (7) days written notice of the time and place of conducting such random selection shall

be given by the Secretary and such notice shall be posted at the Co-operatives headquarter building.

(d) The Secretary shall review all candidate nomination petitions to insure that the candidate is qualified to be a Trustee and to insure that the requisite number of qualified signatures (signatures of members residing in the required District) are contained in the petition.

(e) The Secretary shall cause to be posted a list of all qualified nominations at the Co-operative's headquarters building thirty (30) days before the meeting and shall cause to be mailed with the notice of meeting or separately, but at least five (5) days before the date of the meeting at which Trustees are to be elected, a statement of the number of Trustees being elected, the names and addresses of the candidates, and the Districts in which they are candidates. The ballot to be used at the election, if needed, shall list the names of the candidates nominated and the District in which they are candidates. Further, the order of candidates on the ballot shall be determined as follows: for each district, all candidates shall be listed in the order in which their petitions have been filed; where candidates have filed simultaneously, they shall be listed in the order determined by lot and prior to candidates who filed for the same District at a later time.

(f) In the event petitions are received only for the number of Trustees to be elected in a District and the Secretary determines the petitions are in order and the candidates qualified, no further election process shall be held and those candidates nominated shall be declared elected as Trustees at the meeting.

(g) Nominations by petition is the only means or method of becoming a candidate for Trustee. No nominations shall be made by nominating committee nor from the floor of a meeting at which trustees are to be elected.

(h) In the event the term of Secretary of the Co-operative expires at an upcoming meeting, the duties of the Secretary for the nominating process will be assumed by the President or Vice-President of the Co-operative. If all three officers' terms expire in the same year, another Trustee will be appointed to oversee the nominating process. **(As amended September 2, 2010)**

Districts with terms expiring in 2013 are District I, District III, and District IX. Petitions available May 6, 2013. Deadline to return petitions is July 22, 2013

Clay County Water Update

Clay County Water, Inc. is nearing the end of the construction of the Phase 3 waterline project. Meters will be set once the lines have all been pressure tested, disinfected, and Clay County Water has obtained the necessary operating permit required by the Illinois EPA.