

January 2013

Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life of our member-owners.

James B. Riddle
Executive Vice President/
General Manager

Board of Directors

Kevin Liefer, President
Randall Campbell, Vice President
Ken Jarrett, Secretary-Treasurer
Larry Ebers
Allen Haake
Paul Hicks
Gilbert Kroening
Paul Pyatt

What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers to ensure none of them have tripped.
2. Look at your meter. If you can read the numbers on the LCD display, there is power to the meter; you will need to check further for a breaker that has tripped or a fuse that has blown. If there are no numbers present on the display, there is no power to the meter.
3. To report an outage, call 800-606-1505
4. Make sure you have the name as listed on the account and if possible, the account number.



HomE Lite – An Energy Efficiency Rebate Program



In 2010 - 11 the electric cooperatives of Illinois received \$2.5 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's State Energy Plan. Those funds were in turn distributed to Illinois co-op member-owners for energy efficiency projects through the HomE Energy Efficiency Rebate Program. The program made rebates to 151 Egyptian Electric Cooperative members in the amount of \$128,112. These rebates generated \$1,215,088 in actual energy efficiency improvements to our members' homes. That investment will provide real dividends for our members for many years.

The HomE energy efficiency rebate program was so successful in creating new jobs for heating and air conditioning contractors, plumbers and insulation installers, plus saving energy for co-op member-owners, that it is being repeated for a second but very limited time as the HomE Lite program. The funds for the new program are from the Illinois State Energy Office and are considerably less than for the initial program.

If you didn't have an opportunity to participate in the first round of HomE rebates you now have a second chance. The rebates are available until funding runs out, or until June of this year, whichever occurs first.

HomE Lite Incentives Include:

- Geothermal systems - \$1,500
- Air-Source Heat Pumps (16 SEER or higher) - \$1,000
- Insulation and Weatherization - 50 percent of total project cost, up to \$1,000
- Heat Pump Water Heater - \$250
- Commercial installations - \$500 per ton of capacity, up to a maximum of \$10,000 for geothermal and air source heat pumps.
- Energy Audit by BPI certified auditor - \$300

To receive a rebate, the member performs the work and submits copies of the invoice(s) to Egyptian Electric along with a rebate application form that can be downloaded from our website or is available at our offices. We will then submit the rebate request to our statewide association in Springfield who will submit the rebates to the state of Illinois. As soon as funds are transferred to us, we will issue rebate checks to our members. The rebate process could take 8 - 12 weeks from the time the application is submitted to us.

Although no energy audit is required with the HomE Lite

► Continued on page 16b

Jim Riddle

Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



Integrity : We are credible, trustworthy, honest and believable.

■ Continued from page 16a

program, if you are not sure what the best energy efficiency measures for your home are, we will be more than happy to do a walk through audit. This audit does not include any diagnostic procedures, such as blower door testing for air leaks, but if you have questions as to how you can best reduce your energy consumption, this may be an insightful resource for you. If you would like a complete diagnostic energy audit performed by a BPI certified auditor, you can also apply for a \$300 rebate to be applied to the cost of the audit.

There is also a commercial option with the HomE Lite program. Commercial accounts can install geothermal or air source heat pumps with a 16 SEER or higher rating and receive a rebate of \$500 per ton up to a maximum rebate of \$10,000.

Reporting Outages by Texting

I've mentioned several times that when technology allows us to serve you better with reduced costs or increased efficiency we should consider implementing it. The ability for members to report their outage to us via a text message is one of those cases.

This service is offered to us through our after-hours dispatch service. It is more economical for them to process outage notifications electronically rather than having operators answer calls allowing them to offer this at virtually no cost.

Once your cell phone has been paired to your account(s), simply typing the word 'Outage' and texting it to 55050 notifies us that you are out of power. And you get a return text message that your outage has been reported. When we restore service, you'll get a message that service to your area has been restored, but if you are still without power, please call us at 1-800-606-1505.

To enable you to set your account



up for outage texting, we must have your cell phone number in our billing database. Below your name and address on your billing statement, we print your home and cellular phone numbers. If there is no number after the 'C' or it's the incorrect number, please contact our office and give them the cellular number you would like us to use as your primary cellular number. Wait at least 24 hours before setting up your outage texting service so the system can transfer it to the dispatch service.

To set up your service, just go to our website and find the 'Outage by Text' page under the MyService tab. On that page you will find a link to an instructional video as well as the link to set up your service.

Once you've activated your texting service, you can add additional phone numbers for other family members or business associates, and add additional service locations you may have. When you have more than one service location, you will be asked to give each a keyword like "home", "grain bins", "barn", etc.

When you report an outage by text,

just include the keyword after 'outage' and the system will know which service is out of power. I suggest you save the outage texting phone number and keywords in the contact section of your cellular phone for later reference.

Reporting outages by texting not only makes it easier for you, it also provides us with increased information as to how many members are out of power and how large the affected area is. In responding to storm damage, this assessment is critical.

I do want to remind everyone that texting should only be used to report service outages. If you are experiencing blinks, partial power or a safety issue, you will need to call the 800-606-1505 number. Also, remember that if you can see digits on the meter's LCD display, there is power to your site and you most likely have a breaker tripped or fuse blown. Remember, you should never text and drive, and usage and texting charges from your wireless provider may apply.

Accountability : We act in accordance with our core purpose and values.

Residential Energy Codes

With little fanfare, a new law went into effect on January 29, 2010, that will change home construction in Illinois in a positive way. Public Act 096-0778 amended the Energy Efficient Commercial Building Act to include residential buildings. The Act was written with wording that requires compliance with the current version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). That version goes into effect on January 1, 2013. The reason the Act will dramatically change home construction is that the current IECC 2012 code was written to achieve a 15 percent improvement in home efficiency from the prior IECC 2009 Code.

The Act requires communities and counties with a building permit and enforcement program to enforce the current IECC standard. For those areas outside of communities or counties with an enforcement

program, Bruce Selway with the Energy Office of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) indicates the Act still applies. "The Law does require design and construction professionals to follow the latest published edition of the IECC. While communities and counties with compliance programs must mandate compliance, all other construction must still comply with the Code."

There are other significant changes in the Code.

Air Leakage

The Code requires significant reduction in air leakage through the building thermal envelope. To ensure this, the Code requires testing of the building envelope (by use of a blower door test) with leakage not to exceed specified limits.

To achieve this, a continuous air barrier must be installed in the

building envelope, with all joints and seams sealed. The rough opening around doors and windows are required to be sealed. Duct shafts, utility penetrations, flue shafts or other openings between conditioned and unconditioned areas must also be sealed.

Heating and Air-Conditioning

There are significant new requirements in the Code concerning heating and air-conditioning systems. One component with significant changes is duct systems. Under the new Code, if any of the duct system is outside the building envelope, such as an attic, it must be tested to air leakage criteria. Generally this requires testing similar to a blower door system.

To remain below the air leakage criteria, duct systems outside the building envelope must be sealed and insulated to R-8 for supply ducts and R-6 for all others. The air handler component of a heating or air-conditioning system must have a manufacturer's designation for air leakage that is less than or equal to two percent of the design air flow of the air handler.

One item that will increase the cost of new heating and air conditioning systems is that building framing cavities can no longer be used as a part of the duct or plenum system. In the past, a common practice has been to use floor joists as a part of the return air system by what is called "panning". Basically, installers would nail a piece of sheet metal to the bottom of floor joists and then use the space created as a return air plenum. Under the IECC 2012, this is no longer allowed.

Installers also frequently use the space between interior wall studs to form a cavity for return air vents located near the ceiling. In the interest of improving conditioned air delivery with less leakage, the 2012

► Continued on page 16d

Here is a list of some key changes in the Code.

Ceilings	R-49	If the trusses are raised heel trusses that eliminate insulation pinch at the eaves, then R-38 insulation is the minimum level required.
Walls	R-20 or R-13 + 5	Basically, exterior walls will have to be 2 x 6 or 2 x 4 with 1" of foam sheathing on the exterior. Corners and headers must be insulated.
Floors	R-19	
Basement Walls	R-10/13	R-10 if continuous insulation, such as foam board on the interior or exterior, R-13 cavity insulation if the wall is framed out. This applies to conditioned and un-conditioned basement walls unless the ceiling above the un-conditioned area is insulated to R-19 and other steps taken.
Concrete Slabs	R-10, 2'	Perimeter edge insulation of R-10 must extend to the bottom of the footing or 2', whichever is less. This would include walk-out basement edges.
Crawlspace	R-10/13	Same as basement walls.

Commitment to Community: We show compassion, care and courtesy to our members and the communities we serve.

■ Continued from page 16c

IECC does not allow for this type of construction.

To ensure building occupants are breathing healthy air, all homes must be equipped with mechanical ventilation that meets the standards of the International Residential Code (the Code that specifies how homes will be built) or the International Mechanical Code.

Finally, heating and cooling systems must be sized according to Manual J of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America standards.

Most quality heating and air conditioning contractors have discontinued sizing systems by square footage, but the Code now mandates they be sized by an industry recognized calculation method.

While these new Code requirements may seem restrictive to some, in the long run they will ensure that our homes are energy efficient, sustainable and healthy. While they may cost more to build initially, with reduced energy consumption, they will be less costly to live in.

Anyone who is involved in the construction industry should make sure they are educated and informed about the new Code as it becomes applicable on January 1, 2013, and this article is not a complete listing of requirements of the IECC 2012. The Energy Office with DCEO has been offering free training sessions for those involved in the construction industry. If you are interested in attending a session, please visit www.ildceo.net/energycode.

Make this summer a memorable one

Arlington National Cemetery; the Gettysburg Battlefield; the Smithsonian Museums; the Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima Marine Corp War Memorial; a cruise on the Potomac River; the White House and the Capitol. These historic sites are viewed by many each year. For four sophomores or juniors from high schools in our service area, it could happen this summer!

While in Washington D.C., they'll visit all of the sites mentioned above, plus more. They'll meet with Illinois Congressmen and Senators. They'll make friends they will keep forever. Most importantly, they'll have an experience that will influence and open doors for them for the rest of their life.

To apply for the Youth to Washington program, visit our Website www.eeca.coop. Under the Misc tab, go to the Youth to Washington section to find access to the application and rules of the program. If you do not have access to the Internet or our Web site, just contact one of our offices and we'll be happy to mail an application to you.

One student from each high school in the Egyptian Electric Territory will be selected to represent the Cooperative at Rural Youth Day in Springfield on April 17.

While in Springfield, the four students selected to go to Washington D.C. will be announced.

For past Youth to Washington alumni from Egyptian, check out two new pages on Facebook, Egyptian Electric Cooperative

Youth to Washington Alumni and Illinois Youth to Washington Tour. Join in and let everyone know what you are up to. Parents, if your son or daughter was a past participant, pass the word on to them. We'd like to hear from them.



Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.