



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

April 2011

P.O. Box 38
Steeleville, IL 62288
(618) 965-3434
(618) 965-3111 fax

10169 Old Highway 13
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 684-2143

(800) 606-1505 after hours
www.eeca.coop

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life of our member-owners.

James B. Riddle
Executive Vice President/
General Manager

Board of Directors

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

What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole or pedestal. If you have breakers, make sure they are "on" by first pushing to the 'off' position and then pushing them to the 'on' position. If you live in a mobile home, codes require a main disconnect near the meter. If you have a dusk-dawn light and it is working, you have a breaker or fuse out.
3. Check with your neighbors. If they are out of power also, the main line is most likely out.
4. During office hours: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143 or (800) 606-1505 for either office. After office hours call (800) 606-1505.
5. Make sure you have the name on the account and if possible, the account number.

**We're Different
We're Looking Out for You**

Cooperatives are different from other businesses you deal with. To tell you the truth, at Egyptian Electric Cooperative, we like being different. And the fact that you're reading this article shows you like that difference, too.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative is different because we're *Looking Out for You*. Now, more than ever, that's important because we need to work together to keep your electric bills affordable.

Congress did not pass a comprehensive climate bill last year. In January, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began regulating greenhouse gasses — an action made possible by a 2007 Supreme Court decision, followed by rulings allowing the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions. Policies dealing with coal ash, even more stringent controls on other power plant emissions, and state renewable energy requirements could also lead to higher costs. It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain: Government regulations are going to increase the cost of doing business.

Our generation and transmission cooperative, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), has always strived to be a good steward of the environment. Instead of purchasing credits that would have allowed them to put more emissions into the environment, they invested in pollution control equipment way before they were required to. We believe this was the prudent thing to do and something you would want them to do.

SIPC currently spends approximately 18 percent (\$27 million) of their annual operating budget on environmental concerns. That cost to EECA members is nearly 1.25 cents per kWh. Should the EPA regulate coal ash as they wish to, SIPC could stand to see an increase in environmental compliance costs of nearly \$11 million.

New regulations won't be the only culprit causing increased costs. Prices for fuel, materials and equipment continue to rise. Although the recent economic slump and corresponding drop in electricity use provided some much-needed breathing room, the nation will soon need to build new power plants, requiring a significant, long-term investment of time and money. As I mentioned last month, SIPC has already taken advantage of an opportunity to increase capacity with its purchase of a portion of the Prairie State Energy Campus near Marissa.

We're committed to keeping you informed about policy changes that will impact your electric bill through channels like our newsletter in the Illinois Country Living magazine. We're going to do everything we can to keep your electric bills affordable. We're even planning to use an affordable means of communication with

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Jim Riddle

Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



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

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many of our members. We intend to send updates and information about legislation and other issues that might negatively affect your electric bill by low cost email messages. If you would like to be included in this mailing and not sure if we have your email address, just send an email to info@eeca.coop and we'll make sure you are included. If you prefer we not send you e-mail messages, just send us an e-mail at the same address with EXCLUDE in the subject line.

To help keep electric bills affordable, we're controlling costs through innovation. Our energy efficiency programs, like the Home Energy Efficiency Program, has helped many of our members learn the best way for them to reduce their energy needs and has even provided some financial incentives for them to do so. Touchstone Energy's website www.TogetherWeSave.com shows how little changes like sealing your air ducts, replacing old appliances, or improving your home's insulation can add up to big savings on your electric bill. We also offer home energy audits to make sure you're getting the best value out

of the energy you use every month.

Deploying state-of-the-art solutions like our automated meter infrastructure system helps us control operating costs and improve service reliability. In the not too distant future, we plan to give you access to your daily usage on the Internet; you can't control what you don't measure.

Nationally and at SIPC, cooperatives are meeting members' power needs with a diverse fuel mix, including renewable energy. And SIPC continues to look for additional renewable energy opportunities through its membership in the National Renewables Cooperative Organization (NRCO).

While we're affordable and innovative, above all else we're member focused. No matter what comes our way we'll continue to put you, our members, first. Egyptian Electric Cooperative is member controlled and locally operated. As a member, you have a voice in how your cooperative operates. At our annual meeting each year you have the opportunity to elect fellow members to our board of directors to represent your best interests.

Don't miss our next meeting on July 21 in Steeleville.

Member control means we are accountable to those we serve, and we are dedicated to assisting our communities — your money is at work close to home. Costs are rising for all of us, but when it comes to your electric bill, our rates are set simply to cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders.

The bottom line? We exist only to serve you and meet your needs for safe, reliable, and affordable power.

As you can see, we're different. We're working together to keep your electric bills affordable. We're controlling costs through innovation. And we're continuing to put you, our members, first. No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain. We're *Looking Out for You*.



Cut Here

Don't get left in the DARK

Decisions being made in the nation's capital will impact your electric bill in the future. To stay connected to the latest news with e-mail updates from Mr. Riddle (EECA Executive Vice President/General Manager), return this form with your next payment.



PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Account Number: _____

E-mail: _____

I wish for Egyptian Electric Cooperative to alert me regularly about developments in Washington, D.C., and other important cooperative news.

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

Programmable Thermostats

Programmable thermostats, when used correctly, have the potential to save up to \$180 a year on your heating and cooling costs, according to ENERGYSTAR.gov. If you're considering purchasing a programmable thermostat, it's important to install and program it correctly if you wish to save the most energy and money.

Installation

First, your thermostat should be situated on an interior wall, about five feet above the floor and away from heating and cooling vents and other drafty places, such as doors and windows. Also keep it away from skylights, direct sunlight, or lamps. If your thermostat is not properly situated, consider having an electrician or heating and cooling technician move the location.

Next, shut off the electricity before you begin the replacement. Programmable thermostats require a low-voltage wiring installation and will have two to 10 wires, according to ENERGYSTAR.gov.

"As with any home-wiring project, safety should be the number one priority," says Bryce Cramer, District Office and Member Services Manager. "Be sure to read all instructions carefully and exercise caution throughout the installation."

And if you are replacing an old thermostat that has a mercury switch, take care not to break the tube that holds the toxic metal.

Refer to the instruction manual on how to wire your new thermostat. Two handy tips before you begin disconnecting wires: Using a piece of tape, label each wire with the letter of the wire's terminal (printed on the thermostat), as these wires are not color coded. And once your old thermostat is removed from the wall, wrap the

wires around a pencil to keep them from falling back into the wall.

If the project is more complicated than a basic replacement, contact a certified HVAC technician to make sure the thermostat is installed properly and safely.

To see a start-to-finish thermostat replacement, check out this Home Depot video on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owV0t_8zNpk.



Choosing the right thermostat

Programmable thermostats are not for everyone. They're best for families who are away during the day and homes with HVAC systems other than heat pumps. When a heat pump works in its heating mode, setting back the thermostat can cause the unit to operate inefficiently, thereby canceling energy savings achieved by lowering the temperature. Maintaining a moderate setting is the most cost-effective practice for homes with heat pumps.

If you decide a programmable thermostat is right for your home, consider which type best suits your lifestyle:

- 7-day models allow you to set different programs every day and provide the most flexibility.
- 5+2-day models follow the same schedule during the week and a different one for weekends.
- 5-1-1 models keep the same schedule during the week and different ones for Saturday and Sunday.

Many units come with multiple features, such as telling you when to change your HVAC's air filter, settings for vacations and voice programming options.

Getting the most savings

Programmable thermostats enhance

your home's efficiency only when set properly. To be sure to save, set the temperature back for at least eight hours at a time — for example, when you're at work during the day or asleep at night. You can save 5 percent to 15 percent per year on your heating bills by setting your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees over that period.

Program the thermostat to begin warming or cooling to your desired temperature shortly before you get home or wake up, so your home is comfortable when you need it to be.

"The most important thing to do is set it and then leave it alone," remarks Brian Sloboda, senior program manager for energy efficiency at the Cooperative Research Network, the research arm of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. "You'll see energy savings without doing another thing to it."

To see how much you can save by installing a programmable thermostat, use ENERGY STAR's savings calculator: http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/bulk_purchasing/bpsavings_calc/CalculatorProgrammableThermostat.xls.

Sources: ENERGYSTAR.gov (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), EnergySavers.gov (U.S. Department of Energy), Home Depot, Cooperative Research Network



Follow EgyptianCoop on Twitter to keep informed of outage status & important things you should know about your electric cooperative!

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

Simplify your life.....

pay your bills online.....

any time of the day.....

day or night....

weekend or weekday.....

at www.eeca.coop



Secure payment system; you use the same system our employees use when you call in to make a credit card payment. You can use Visa, MasterCard or Discover. Or you can write an electronic check right from your checking or savings account.

Setting up your online payment is easy as 1,2,3.

Go to www.eeca.coop and click on the [Online Bill Pay](#) in the Quick Links section on the right side. As a new user, go to [Click Here to sign up for online account access](#). You will need your account number from the top right of your bill. On the next page, click on the [View/Pay My Bill](#) box and follow the directions from there.

Just remember – do not click on the back button on your browser once you hit the [submit](#) button. It will take a moment for your transaction to process. Once the transaction is completed, you will be notified as such and given a transaction ID to verify payment.

Easy as 1,2,3!

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.