



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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(888) 554-8181 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

April 2012

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

Office Closing

Good Friday,
Friday, April 6

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. During office hours, call:
Steeleville..... 618-965-3434
Murphysboro..... 618-684-2143
After hours, call..... 800-606-1505
4. Make sure you have the name as listed on the account and if possible, the account number.



2012—The International Year of The Cooperative

If I asked you what the United Nations (UN) does, your first response would likely be ‘they help maintain international peace and security’. With that answer, you would be naming the most publicly known activity of the United Nations. But the United Nations has three additional main goals:

- To develop friendly relations among nations;
- To help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect of each other’s rights and freedoms;
- And to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations to achieve these goals.

To further its progress on the latter three goals, the UN has declared 2012 as *The International Year of the Cooperative* with the passage of United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/136. Isn’t it interesting the type of organization that brings you light, heat, air-conditioning, entertainment and energy to power businesses is considered an organization that can improve the conditions of our world?

The UN has recognized that cooperatives are member-driven, not profit-driven. They are business enterprises (not social or capitalist enterprises) that are owned by the very members they serve. Decisions are made and balanced not by a need to pursue profit for stockholders, but by the need for sound business



decisions that serve the needs of the members.

This does not mean cooperatives can just give their services or products away as a social organization might. The funds cooperatives use to enable them to provide the service or product come from organizations (profit or not-for-profit) that expect to be repaid at some point.

The UN has recognized that the Rochdale Principles that guide cooperatives can lead to nations working together to improve lives and rights and freedoms. Just look at the seven principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information

▶ Continued on page 16b

Jim Riddle

Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



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

▪ Continued from page 16a

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

7. Concern for Community

I would challenge anyone to show where any one of these principles would not help a developing nation, or a developed nation for that point, become a better place to live where lives could be free of hunger, disease and illiteracy with respect for the rights of all.

While the UN's concern may be tipped toward undeveloped nations, cooperatives still have a vital role in developed nations. While cooperatives cannot rest on their history, rural areas would not have received electricity in the 1930s and 40s had it not been for rural residents bann- ing together to form electric coop- eratives. Those residents that could afford to pay the fee of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per mile of line required by the power companies, then paid 12- 15 cents per kilowatt-hour for the electricity they used (our new rate is 10.3 cents per kilowatt-hour.)

Still today, electric coopera- tives are guided by the Rochdale Principles and Touchstone Energy Cooperative's (our national brand- ing cooperative) four core val- ues of Integrity, Accountability, Commitment to Community and Technology.

Some local cooperatives

Neighborhood Co-op Grocery – Carbondale
Southern FS
Illinois Farm Bureau
Various Credit Unions

Do you know these cooperatives?

Welch's Grape Juice
(owned by The National Grape Cooperative Association)

Land O'Lakes
Blue Diamond Almonds
Sun-Maid Raisins
Sun Sweet Prunes

While cooperatives do not op- pose capitalism, we do believe that in many instances cooperatives may be a better alternative or at least a check and balance to the capitalist form of business.

The need that created rural electric cooperatives has not been fulfilled. Yes, the majority of rural America does now have electric service. But the original need of improving the quality of life in rural America and ending the disparity between life in rural America and our cities is still our mission today.

The United Nations recognizes

the value cooperatives place on improving society and has urged all relevant stakeholders to take advantage of the International Year of The Cooperatives to promote cooperatives and to raise awareness of their contribution to social and economic development and to pro- mote the formation and growth of cooperatives.

Join us today as we urge you to seek out local and national coopera- tives to provide you with goods and services you need. Remember, they too are member-driven and focused on you.

Economic Impact of Cooperatives in the United States

Aggregate Impacts by Sector (not including housing cooperatives)

Sector	Revenue	Income	Wages	Employment	Firms	Establishments
	(million dollars)			(jobs)		
Commercial Sales and Marketing	201,207	37,737	13,810	422,505	3,463	5,695
Social and Public Services	7,525	2,213	1,690	424,505	11,311	11,311
Financial Services	394,363	100,661	51,176	1,133,353	9,964	50,330
Utilities	49,808	13,392	8,292	162,873	4,546	5,657
Total	652,903	154,002	74,969	2,143,236	29,284	72,993

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

2012 Residential Energy Codes

With little fanfare, a new law went into effect on Jan. 29, 2010, that dramatically changed 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 most current version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC®) published by the International Code Council. The reason the Act has dramatically changed home construction is that the 2009 IECC achieved a 15 percent improvement over construction practices just three years ago, and the most current 2012 IECC will achieve a 15 percent improvement in home efficiency from the prior 2009 IECC.

The Act currently requires communities and counties with building permit and enforcement programs to enforce the 2009 IECC code. While some believe these jurisdictions are the only area where compliance is mandatory, the Illinois State Energy Office - Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), interprets the statute otherwise. "While communities and counties with

compliance programs must mandate compliance, the Act requires all homes to be built to the most current IECC standard," says Bruce Selway, Program Manager of Energy Efficiency Education & Codes.

There are other significant requirements 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) to a leakage level less than 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 be 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 portion of the duct system is located outside of the building thermal envelope, such as in a naturally-ventilated attic, it must be tested to air leakage criteria. Generally this requires testing similar to a blower door system, yet sized for lower quantities of air – a duct-blast test.

To remain below the air leakage criteria, duct systems located outside the building thermal envelope must be sealed and insulated to R-8 for supply ducts and R-6 for all other ducts. 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 2 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

► Continued on page 16d

Here is a list of some key changes you will find forthcoming in the 2012 Edition of the Code:

Ceilings	R-49	R-49 can be reduced to R-38 when raised-heal roof trusses are installed.
Walls	R-20 or R-13 + 5	Exterior walls will have to be 2 x 6 (R-20) or 2 x 4 (R-13) with 1" of foam sheathing on the exterior. All corners and headers will be insulated and the junction of the foundation and sill plate will be sealed.
Windows	U-0.35	U-0.35 primarily in Southern Illinois
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 unconditioned basement walls unless the ceiling above the unconditioned area is insulated to R-19.
Concrete Slab-edges	R-10, 2'	Perimeter edge insulation of R-10 must extend from top of foundation wall to the bottom of the footing or 2', whichever is less. Includes walk-out basement slab-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.

Illinois Country Living • April 2012 • 16c

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 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 loads are to be calculated in accordance with ACCA Manual 'J' while the systems themselves along with ductwork must be sized and designed according to Manual 'S' and 'D' of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America, respectively. Most quality heating and air conditioning contractors in our area 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 home construction industry should make sure they are educated and informed about the new code as it becomes applicable on June 30, 2012, and this article is not a complete listing of requirements of the IECC 2012. The DCEO has been offering free training sessions for those involved in the housing industry. Visit www.ildceo.net/energycode for more information and for a listing of training opportunities.

How Do We Compare?

Did you know Americans on average use twice as much energy as citizens of European nations? Many people believe this is because European countries are more advanced in energy efficiency than we are.

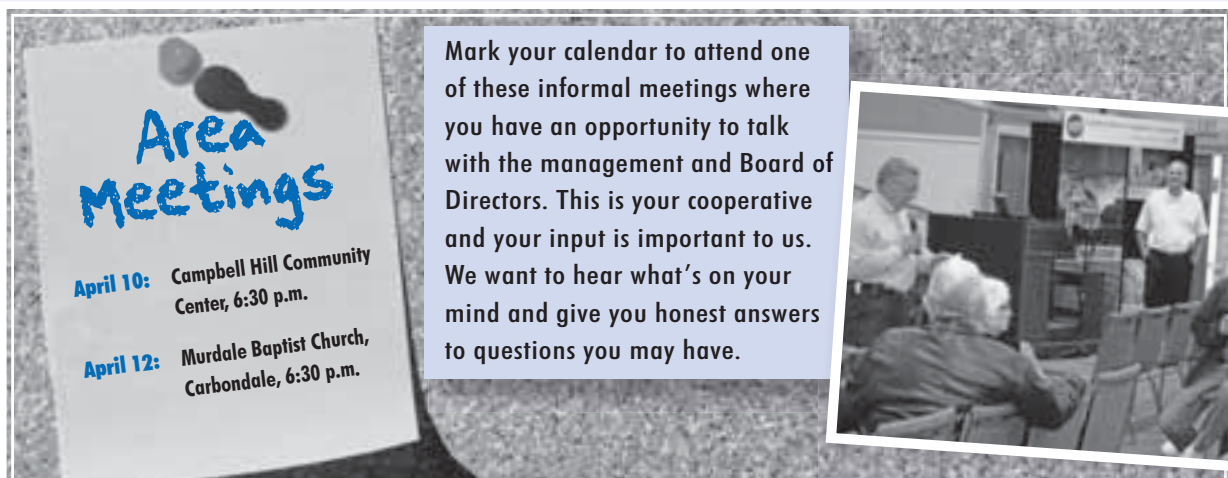
Recent article in Home Energy magazine reported there is actually another reason their consumption is lower than ours. In the U.S. the average home is 2,300 square feet while in France it is 1,215 and in the UK, 818. They also drive vehicles with an average of 43 mpg while here in the States we average 24. You won't find many SUVs in Europe either.

Older homes in European nations are mostly built without wood framed walls, using brick and concrete instead. This makes it hard to insulate exterior walls. Instead, Europeans have focused on ensuring the appliances and heating systems they use are the most efficient available. Their product energy guides use a rating guide from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient).

Many European countries are pushing initiatives to better insulate their existing housing inventory, as well as new homes. The Passive House program for new home construction results in homes that

consume one-fourth the energy of the average new home that is a non-Passive House.

With much of their energy resources imported from other countries, there is a pressing desire to reduce energy consumption in Europe. The price of electricity in many European countries reflects the imports. Electricity prices range from a low of \$.12 per kWh in Bulgaria, to \$.17 in France, \$.21 in the UK and \$.33 in Germany. Maybe that's another reason they use half the energy we do!




Area Meetings

April 10: Campbell Hill Community Center, 6:30 p.m.

April 12: Murdale Baptist Church, Carbondale, 6:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar to attend one of these informal meetings where you have an opportunity to talk with the management and Board of Directors. This is your cooperative and your input is important to us. We want to hear what's on your mind and give you honest answers to questions you may have.



Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.