

### Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life of our member-owners.

**James B. Riddle**

*Executive Vice President/  
General Manager*

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### 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.

## Wise investments in energy efficiency

The economic uncertainty we're facing these days has many of us putting money into something we feel comfortable with—our homes. Making a few upgrades around the house can pay big dividends in energy savings. As energy efficiency upgrades save you dollars, they generally increase comfort while lowering your carbon impact, making the decision a no-brainer.

For qualifying energy efficiency work made at your residence during this year, Uncle Sam will foot 30 percent of the bill – not a bad deal! Through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – better known as the stimulus bill – the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) offers a personal tax credit of up to \$1,500 for energy efficiency improvements made to existing homes during 2009 and 2010.

The credit covers 30 percent of the cost of adding insulation materials and exterior doors, windows, and roofs designed to help reduce a home's heat loss or gain. It also includes energy efficient central air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, furnaces, hot water boilers, and biomass stoves. If you install a geo-thermal heat pump, there is no cap. Essentially, you get a 30 percent discount on the cost of installing a geo-thermal heat pump!

For weatherization-related work the credit covers only the cost of materials. With heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems as well as biomass stoves installation costs also count toward the credit.

How does the math work? Say you spend \$1,000 on new insulation. You would get, in the form of a tax credit,

\$300 back. If you spend \$3,000 to purchase a new HVAC system and have it installed, you'd have a \$900 tax credit to show for it.

To take advantage of the program, a home improvement must have taken place after Feb. 17, 2009 (the day the stimulus bill was signed into law), and products must meet specific energy efficiency criteria. A few rules of thumb will help you determine those criteria.

For exterior windows and skylights, rely on the Energy Star label. For other efficiency upgrades, request what's called a "Manufacturer Certification Statement" that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit. Many manufacturers post these on their websites, but be sure to verify that the product does qualify before making a purchase. You can also visit [www.irs.gov/recovery](http://www.irs.gov/recovery) to review guidelines for eligible purchases.

Energy tax credits reduce taxes owed, dollar for dollar, and can be carried forward to following years. While they can help boost any refund you receive, you won't receive a check directly for the credit amount. You can file for energy tax credits using IRS Form 5695, with a total maximum value of \$1,500 (except for geo-thermal heat pumps) for improvements made in 2009 and 2010.

*Continued on page 16b*

**Jim Riddle**

*Executive  
Vice President/  
General Manager*



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

Continued from page 16a

In addition to tax credits, members of Egyptian Electric can apply for rebates through our new HomE rebate program. Rebates for specific energy efficiency improvements are available for homes of our members that are their primary place of residence.

Funds for the program are coming from the ARRA through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Energy Office. For more information on how the HomE program works, read the article on that topic in this section of the

Illinois Country Living magazine or visit our web site at [www.eeca.coop](http://www.eeca.coop).

With federal tax credits and rebates through the HomE program, there couldn't be a better time to make a wise investment in energy efficiency.

## Illinois adopts Energy Code

**O**n Aug. 28, 2009, Public Act 096-0778, entitled the Energy Efficient Building Act, was signed into law and became effective on Jan. 29, 2010. This law actually amended a previous law entitled the Energy Efficient Commercial Building Act.

By enactment, Illinois now requires all residential buildings in the State, for which a building permit application is received by a municipality or county, to meet the standards of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code. Local governments may not enforce standards either more or less stringent than the Code unless the unit of government had on or before May 15, 2009, adopted or incorporated energy efficient building standards for residential building that were equivalent to or more stringent than the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code.

What does the standard mean for our region? Actually not much more than what builders should be doing now. Attics must have an R-38 insulation, wood framed walls an R-13, basement walls R-10 continuous insulated sheathing on the interior or R-13 cavity insulation if wood studs are used. Concrete slab floors (including the on-grade portion of walk-out basements) are R-10 for the depth of the footing or 2 feet, whichever is less. If the slab is heated, then R-5 shall be added to the required slab edge R-value.

There are several interesting items that I've been urging members to do

for some time that are now a part of the Code. For instance, the Code requires access doors from conditioned spaces to unconditioned spaces (attic hatches and knee wall doors) to be weatherstripped and insulated to a level equivalent to surrounding surfaces. In other words, attic hatches indoors will need to be insulated to an R-38.

Crawlspace insulation is another one. If the crawlspace is not vented to the outside, then the crawlspace walls will be insulated (same level as a basement wall) by permanently fastening the insulation to the wall and extending downward from the floor to the finished grade level and then vertically or horizontally for at least an additional 24 inches. Exposed soil in an unvented crawlspace must be covered by a continuous Class I vapor retarder. The joints of the vapor retarder should overlap by 6 inches and be taped or sealed. The edges of the vapor retarder should extend 6 inches up the side of the wall. If the crawlspace is vented, then the floor must be insulated to R-19.

One item that will surprise many folks is that homes heated with forced-air furnaces must have a programmable thermostat installed. And, for heat pumps with supplementary electric-resistance heat, controls must be installed that, except during defrost, prevent the supplemental heat from operating when the heat pump compressor can meet the heating load.

There are some that might say Government should not be mandating how we build our homes, and typically, I'm one that believes too much government regulation is not a good thing. In this case however, I am actually glad to see the State stepping up and regulating construction. Over the nearly 30 years I've spent with the Cooperative, I've done many energy audits for our members. Unfortunately, quite a few of these have been repeats to the same home. The homeowner is not willing to make the financial investment needed to reduce energy consumption, but rather sells the home to the next unsuspecting member. Had the home been insulated properly when built, the energy consumption would have been reduced for every owner in the history of the dwelling.

Even if you are not building your home within a municipality or county that has a building permit program, I urge everyone to build to the new standards. From a builder's standpoint, this puts everyone on the same playing field and ensures that at a time when energy costs are on the increase, no one uses more energy than they should, thereby increasing everyone's costs.

*- Bryce Cramer*  
District Office and Member  
Services Manager

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

## HomE to promote energy efficiency

**H**omE (pronounced home E) is our program to help our members become energy efficient. By making our energy efficiency knowledge available to our members and by providing rebates for improvements, our members can save energy while improving their home performance.

Through our statewide organization, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), the Illinois Electric Cooperatives will be distributing \$1.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for energy efficiency improvements to existing homes. The program will continue until funding is exhausted.

All residential members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative except those eligible for the LIHEAP Weatherization Assistance Program are eligible to participate in the HomE rebate program. The home must be served by us and be the member's primary residence.

To start the HomE process, contact us to arrange an energy assessment by one of our energy experts. We'll take

your name and contact number in the order we are contacted.

As we near your turn, we'll contact you to schedule an assessment. Assessments will be scheduled M-F, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. An adult member of the home must be present. There is a \$25 fee for the assessment that will be billed to your account with the Cooperative.

We will provide you with a report of recommendations on how you might best improve your home's energy efficiency, performance and comfort. Based on the recommendations we make, you could be eligible for a rebate up to \$1,500 per residence per member.

Once you have your recommendations, you decide what is best for you. You will then submit a proposal form and estimate to us. We will return a signed copy to you, indicating that funds have been set aside for you. You will then have 60 days to complete your project.

Once you have made your purchase or completed your project, you will send us a completion form with copies of the paid receipts. We will

then issue a check to you. Rebates could take 4 – 8 weeks to process. Rebate amounts are as follows:

Geothermal Heat Pumps	\$1,500
Air-source Heat Pumps	\$1,000
Central Air Conditioning	\$350
Natural or LP Gas Furnace	\$350
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$250
Insulation/Air Sealing	30% of Project Costs

The maximum total rebate is \$1,500 per cooperative/residence. Rebates will be approved for central air conditioning or gas furnaces, but not both. Rebates are eligible for insulation and a heating/air conditioning upgrade to the maximum of \$1,500. All heating/air conditioning upgrades must meet the applicable Energy Star standards to be eligible. For more information, visit our web site at [www.eeca.coop](http://www.eeca.coop).

## Energy service for our business members

**D**o you need help with making energy decisions? Let us point you in the right direction. Questline is a complimentary electronic newsletter we offer our business members that can provide the tools you need to make energy decisions for your business.

Twice a month you will receive an e-mail from us as an electronic newsletter. Each issue has four articles of importance. Topics range from energy and fuel price outlooks to solving power quality problems to LED technology; all articles that are current and expertly written.

Need to research a problem? Research past articles or the e-library.

If you can't find your answer there, you can ask an expert. Just click on the Ask an Expert link, type in your question and hit the submit button. Within days, you'll receive a detailed report back. Questions can range from company profiles, patent searches, MSDS questions, materials and machining information to military specifications and standards.

Do you wonder how you compare to others in your business? Click on the Tools You Can Use link and you will find commercial energy benchmarks, industrial energy benchmarks, energy efficiency benchmarks, workplace and energy posters, fuel cost calculators, per-

formance benchmarking and motor calculators.

How do you access this invaluable tool for your business? Just send an e-mail to [bcramer@eeca.coop](mailto:bcramer@eeca.coop) with your e-mail address and we'll add you to the list of members already receiving the e-newsletter. Your e-mail address is not given to anyone else nor used by any third party. If you decide at some later point that you no longer want the service, just unsubscribe at any time.

In today's tough economy, you need every edge you can get to stay competitive. Questline might just be the tool that makes a difference for you.

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

## Youth to Washington

Seven area high school students have been selected to represent Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association at the annual Youth to Washington program sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Washington, D.C., from June 11-18, 2010. The seven were selected at a banquet held April 27, at the Student Center on the campus of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

The students selected were: Kira Browning, Father's Heart Christian School, Chester; Mallory Engelage, Brittney Huff and April

Miller, Coulterville High School; Dennis Froemling, TRICO High School, Campbell Hill; and Kyle Jones, Marissa High School.

At the banquet, the ten semi-finalists were judged on six categories, including an oral recitation. The judges were: Kevin Bame, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, SIUC, and Kathy Lively, CEO Man-Tra-Con Corporation and Executive Director, Connect SI. The topic for their essay was, "Are Entitlements Leading to a Budget Crisis?"

The seven finalists will join over 60 other high school youth from Il-

linois and nearly 1,800 nationally to see various historic D.C. sites. The students will also have the opportunity to visit the Illinois Congressional Delegation while in D.C.

Sophomores and juniors in high schools in Jackson, Perry and Randolph counties within the service area of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association are eligible to participate in the annual program. NRECA has sponsored the national Youth to Washington program since the late 1950s. Egyptian Electric Cooperative participated in the program in the initial years and has once again sent students since 1989.



L-R: Gilbert Kroening, President, EECA Board of Directors, Dennis Froemling, Campbell Hill, Brittney Huff, Coulterville, Kyle Jones, Marissa, Calvin Kolar, Makanda, Mallory Engelage, Coulterville, April Miller, Coulterville, Kira Browning, Chester, and EECA Executive Vice President/General Manager Jim Riddle



**D.C.**  
Live!

*Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.*