

October 2012

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
Raymond Mulholland
Paul Pyatt

Office Closings

Veterans Day,
Monday, November 12

Thanksgiving,
Thursday, November 22
Friday, November 23

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.



Co-op Month Sets Stage for Year of Cooperatives

Each October, cooperatives all across America celebrate the role, accomplishments and contributions of our nation's co-ops. Celebrating Co-op Month started in Minnesota in 1948, and the month-long event gives cooperatives a chance to come together and share what we do.

This year, the Co-op Month celebration is part of a building wave of opportunity to share the cooperative message on an unprecedented scale in the United Nations' International Year of Cooperatives, set for 2012. The theme of the 2012 Co-op Month celebration and that of the International Year is the same: "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World." The theme reflects the contributions that cooperatives make to their members and communities.

The UN is interested in co-ops because of their potential to foster economic development and build social capital. Cooperatives drive economic growth as local businesses that keep wealth in the community.

Cooperatives also build a better world by providing the opportunity for people to practice real grassroots democracy. Co-ops are democratically-controlled enterprises that exist to serve their members, whether they are the customers, employees or the local community.

Unlike most enterprises where control is tied to the level of investment, co-ops are governed on the basis of one member, one vote. As well as getting the products and services they need, members help

shape the decisions their cooperative makes. Rather than rewarding outside investors, a cooperative shares its profits among the members.

But like other enterprises, cooperatives seek to trade successfully — they are businesses, not charities, after all. Members, such as farmers or hardware store owners, food aficionados or taxi drivers, can often do better working together.

This mix of self-help and mutual aid has made cooperatives an international force for good. Across the United States, cooperatives are owned by more than 130 million people — and these numbers are growing. Worldwide, 100 million people are employed by cooperatives, while 800 million are members.

Here is a small sample:

- Three-quarters of the US land-mass is powered by electric co-ops, which went where investor-owned utilities would not go.
- Kenyan farmers trade their coffee for a fair price only because they are members of cooperatives.
- In Spain, the fans of Barcelona have a say in their football club because it's owned by them.

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Jim Riddle

Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



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

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In the United States, cooperatives will celebrate Co-op Month throughout October. This year, Co-op Month is being coordinated with other events including Co-op Week – which is scheduled for Oct. 16-22 and features many open house events – and International Credit Union Day on Oct. 20

This year's Co-op Month events include a celebration hosted by the US Department of Agriculture on Oct. 19 in Washington, D.C. At this event in the department's headquarters, USDA staff will talk about co-ops and recent co-op study results as well as recognize the contributions cooperatives in various sectors have made to their communities and the economy.

Information about cooperatives is available anywhere and anytime on the Internet. The National Cooperative Business Association's website at www.ncba.coop is a good starting point for research. And www.go.coop provides stories of how co-ops are changing lives. Finally, www.2012.coop is the central online source for information about the International Year of Cooperatives.

Cooperatives are ethical businesses, born out of self-help and responsibility, dedicated to serving the needs of their member-owners. The seven cooperative principles guide cooperatives' structure, governance and efforts. It's not just that a co-op is a "good citizen." Any enterprise can choose to do that. It's that a co-op is a good citizen *because it's a cooperative.*

That's an enterprise worth celebrating.



Seven Cooperative Principles

Adherence to the seven cooperative principles is what makes cooperatives different.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership -

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control -

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3. Members' Economic Participation -

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with

the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence -

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, Training, and Information -

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives -

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

7. Concern for Community -

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.



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

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

Indoor Air

As a child growing up in the '60s, we spent nearly every waking minute outdoors. Televisions were black and white and we could only get three channels and we didn't have DVD's or computers to watch movies with so we played outside. We didn't have cell phones or email so if we wanted to talk with our buddy, we hopped on our bike and rode to his house. Some reasons were not by choice; chores like taking out the trash, mowing the yard, and painting the fence forced us to be outdoors. With new technology providing choices and alternatives, with vinyl fences and porch posts, we and our children spend more time indoors than the generations before them.

We not only spend more time indoors today, but our homes are much different. To save energy after the first energy crisis of the 70s, we tightened up our homes with better doors, windows, construction methods and mechanical systems. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), indoor air can be more polluted today than the air outside. Tight homes don't necessarily cause indoor air quality (IAQ) issues; they just don't dilute the pollutants with air leaking in from outdoors. Leaky homes can often contribute to IAQ issues by allowing dust, humidity and things like car exhaust to enter the home. IAQ problems tend to come from three categories—poor construction design and techniques, mechanical systems and human.

Construction

A common construction design that tends to be associated with IAQ problems are homes with crawl spaces. Quite often homes are built with crawl spaces because the site has poor drainage and will not allow for a basement or slab construction. Poor drainage causes water to pool under the home in the crawl space

where it is 'out of sight and out of mind'. Standing water or high moisture levels in a crawl space can cause a myriad of problems from mold to out-right decay of wooden construction members.

Even where there is good drainage, vented foundations allow high humidity air into the crawl space during the summer months where it cools and has an even higher relative humidity. Relative humidity (RH) over 70 percent spurs mold growth and a RH over 50 percent allows for dust mite growth. Unless the floor is completely sealed from the area above, air from the crawl space will be pulled into the living area above by air leaking out the upper portions of the home (called stack effect and is caused by the rise of warm, lighter air).

Today's homes also differ from homes built in the early portion of the last century in that nearly all of them have an attached garage. Building science is finding that many of today's homes suffer from high levels of carbon monoxide caused by car exhaust fumes leaking into the home.

Mechanical Systems

Mechanical systems if installed correctly can help reduce pollutants and improve IAQ. Installed or designed improperly, they become a large contributor. Return air ducts are under negative pressure and any that pass through a crawl space, garage (actually, no ductwork should ever be installed in the garage) or attic and are not completely sealed with duct mastic can suck pollutants into the home. Ductwork that leaves the building envelope should be sealed with mastic designed for ductwork and not with duct tape. Some mechanical systems pose immediate threats to life and safety. A gas water heater that is enclosed in a somewhat air tight room with a dryer can introduce carbon monoxide through back drafting. This

occurs when the dryer discharges air through the vent to the outdoors resulting in negative air pressure in the room. As the water heater vent is an unobstructed path to the outside, air is drawn down the vent into the room, pulling combustible gases from the water heater with it.

Human

Many of the pollutants in our home are caused or introduced by human actions. Furniture, cabinets and many building materials used today are constructed with glues containing formaldehyde. Other volatile organic compounds (VOC) can be found in paints, carpets and other adhesives used in the construction process. To find products that can be substituted for those with VOC's can be found at www.usgbc.org or www.greenguard.org.

Paying attention to detail and proper planning are a must to achieve a home that is energy efficient and healthy to live in. Cutting corners to save upfront costs (like not sealing ductwork) may appear to lower construction costs, but most likely will have a higher cost to your health or to repair later on. Here are some tips for making sure your home is a healthy one to breathe in.

1. Poorly flashed windows and doors can allow moisture to enter the living space, raising the RH and contributing to dust and pollen. Install proper flashing and integrate the housewrap with doors and windows.
2. Gaps or holes in building construction allow air and moisture to leak in. Seal all perforations in walls, floors and ceilings, including top and bottom plates with caulk or spray foam.
3. Basements or crawlspaces with moisture problems increase the RH and promote mold and decay. Proper foundation drainage is a must for basements and

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

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- crawlspaces. Crawlspaces must have an air-tight vapor barrier applied over the soil. Existing crawlspaces with standing water at any time should have a sump pump system installed.
4. Cracks in a basement wall can allow radon to enter the house. Seal cracks around the perimeter and drainpipes and test for the presence of radon.
 5. Clothes dryers remove loads of moisture from clothes and should be vented outdoors with approved ducting, never to the indoors or into the attic or crawlspace. Dryers draw up to 150 cfm of air out of the home when running. Make sure natural-draft appliances (like gas water heaters) are not back-drafting.
 6. Leaking duct systems outside the building envelope, like attics, unconditioned basements and crawlspaces, can draw contaminants into the home and are extremely inefficient. Seal all duct joints with duct mastic.
 7. Unvented or vent-free appliances such as gas fireplaces can add carbon monoxide and moisture (a by-product of combustion) into the home. Opt for units that use outdoor air for combustion air.
 8. Install a heat recovering ventilation (HRV) system. HRV's remove stale air from indoors and introduce fresh air from outdoors while recovering the energy from the indoors.
 9. Look for low VOC building components. While an HRV can lower the level of VOC's, it is best to use products without VOC's or have low emission levels.
 10. Cooking emits odors and moisture into the home. Range hoods should exhaust to the exterior (not directly into the attic as this can create an extreme fire hazard) and not recirculate the air.

Classroom Empowerment Grants A Commitment to Our Schools

Empower

Egyptian Electric Cooperative is offering Classroom Empowerment Grants for schools located within the Cooperative's territory.

We know adequate funding for many school systems has been a challenge. We are committed to the communities we serve and want to provide assistance to them.

Six Classroom Empowerment Grants of \$500 are being offered to public and private K-12 schools to help them with projects that will improve educational opportunities for students.

To apply for grants, visit our Web site at www.eeca.coop to download instructions and a grant application.

Requests must be received no later than November 5, 2012.



Your School

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.