



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

October 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
- Steven Prest
- 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.



October is National Cooperative Month
Cooperative Strength

You've probably heard the saying, "There's power in numbers." I have to agree. Cooperation is a key word for electric cooperatives, and a concept vital to our form of business.

Consumer-owned cooperatives like Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) operate under seven key guidelines, including the Sixth Cooperative Principle, "Cooperation Among Cooperatives." In short, electric cooperatives serve their members best when strengthening the overall cooperative movement by working together.

At the most basic level, electric cooperatives support one another in times of crisis. If a storm or other disaster hits one of our sister cooperatives, we offer whatever help we can to ensure that service gets restored as quickly as possible, just as we did when Hurricane Katrina struck many of our cooperatives in Louisiana. If we need help, the electric cooperative "family" will be there for us; and they came through for us in May 2009 when the derecho hit our region.

We also collaborate with other cooperatives to better serve you, our members, and communities we serve with programs like the Rural Youth to Washington program, or the TogetherWeSave.com program from Touchstone Energy.

By working together with other electric cooperatives in the region, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative was formed in the late 1940's and in the early 1960's the Lake of Egypt



and the power plant was built. This plant has provided reliable and economic energy for our members for many years.

When it comes to local and statewide issues, electric cooperatives in Illinois combine forces through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), our statewide association. The results show that when small organizations such as electric cooperatives use the power of aggregation, we grow in clout, efficiency, and economy. By working together, good things happen.

The power of numbers gives us a louder voice at the state capitol when legislators make decisions that affect us. We share safety training resources and expertise. By working through the AIEC, we lower printing and production costs of this publication through economies of scale.

We also save money through our cooperative membership in the United Utility Supply Corporation

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Jim Riddle

Executive Vice President/
General Manager



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

■ Continued from page 16a

when purchasing transformers and equipment and on our insurance costs through our insurance cooperative, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.

To reduce the costs of borrowing funds to build new lines, substations, and power plants, cooperatives banded together many years ago to form the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation to ensure the cost of borrowing would not include a profit element.

Nationally, we collaborate with other electric cooperatives through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Arlington, Va.-based national service organization representing more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, public power districts, and public utility districts in the United States. NRECA presents a unified consumer voice, particularly through the Our Energy, Our Future campaign, a grassroots movement among electric cooperatives and their members urging lawmakers to create legislation that's in the best interest of electric cooperatives. Not only does the organization have the ears of Washington, D.C., decision-makers, it also represents cooperative interests before federal regulatory bodies. And through NRECA's Cooperative Research Network, we receive information about new technologies that can help us control costs, improve productivity, and deliver superior service to you.

We also belong to Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, a national marketing and trade group for electric cooperatives that provides us with communications and advertising support, programs like the Cooperative Connections® membership card, and tools like an online energy calculator.

Our participation in Touchstone Energy extends the benefits of cooperation even further and delivers greater value to you, our member.

Even if we were in this alone, Egyptian Electric Cooperative would still provide you with the very best service at the lowest price

possible. But when we pool our resources—working cooperatively—we offer you the best value possible. By adding our voice to a grand chorus of fellow cooperatives, our message gets heard loud and clear by legislators. And that's the cooperative difference!



Looking for activities to help your kids learn about electric safety and energy efficiency?

Visit the KID ZONE at www.eeca.coop



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.

EECA Payment Options

Paying bills are never fun, especially when it is inconvenient and takes up our time. We know there is no program that fits everyone's needs, so we have several options available.

EasyPay

EasyPay is a pre-payment option that allows you to better budget your usage and payments. With an EasyPay display in your home, you know how much energy you're using and how much you have left. Kind of like the gauge in your car that tells you how much gas there is.

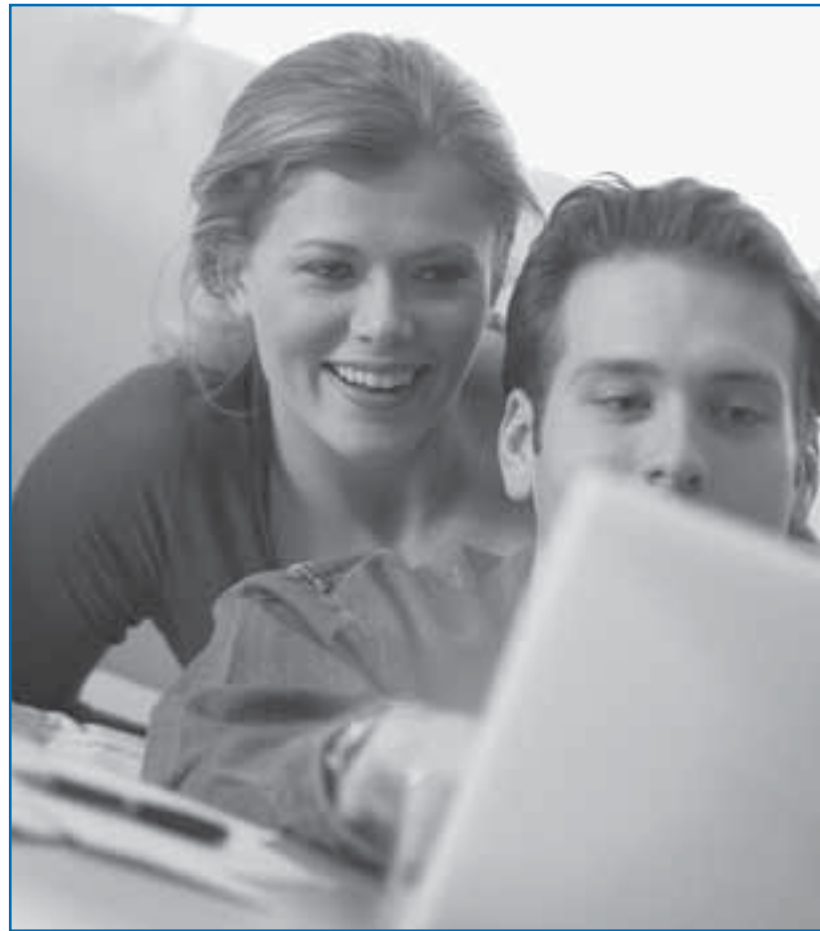
This is a great program for travelers as you pay before you leave and monitor your usage by internet from either a computer or smart phone.

Some members find it easier to make smaller weekly payments rather than one large monthly payment and the EasyPay system is great for that. Payments can be made in any traditional manner and by electronic payments with credit cards or electronic checks.

E-bill

E-bill has several options to make payment easier for you. Looking for a "green" option? Then sign up to go paperless and get your bills by e-mail. You can then make payments in any traditional payment method, mail, in the office and by check or credit card.

You can also set up an e-bill account to make payments on your account. All you need is a computer and your account number as shown on your bill. Go to our web-site at www.eeca.coop and click on the Online Bill Pay box. This takes you to the e-bill site. To set up your account, just click on the line to sign up for online account access. Just follow the instructions to set up your e-bill account. From then on, you can pay your bill with a credit card or e-check, any time of day, any day of the week. And in the near



future, we'll even let you set your account up to automatically charge it to a credit card if you wish.

This is a secure site so you can make payments with confidence and is actually the same page our CSR's use when you call into our offices to make a payment with a credit card. In other words, rather than having to make a call during our office hours, you can set up your account and make payments when it is convenient for you.

You can also see your past payment and usage history for the last two years. And if you need a copy of an old bill, you can actually print one out at any time. E-bill is a time saver for many members.

ACH

Signing up for ACH or automatic payments means you'll never have to

mail a check or be late again. Your monthly bill will be debited to your account each month. Combine ACH with e-bill and you can get your bill by e-mail and have payments made electronically, eliminating all paper in both directions. This is truly the "green" option.

Levelized Billing.

Levelized billing takes the highs and lows out of monthly billing. We average your past bills, making it easier for you to manage your budget.

Visit our web-site www.eeca.coop or call one of our CSR's today to find out what billing option works best for you. Making it easier for you, that's the co-op way.

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

HVAC Upgrades: How Does Your System Measure Up?

Modern heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are more efficient than older models; especially units that are more than 10 years old. When the time comes for replacement, it is important to choose a unit that is sized properly.

Oversizing is one of the most common mistakes when installing a new system. In fact, oversized units are more expensive to install, less efficient, more costly to operate, may have a shorter life-cycle and have a tendency to break down. When installing a new HVAC unit, home owners should make sure the replacement system matches the current needs of the facility.

Sizing a new system

In the past, homes were not designed and built with the tight construction that is customary today; installing oversized systems was acceptable. When sizing new systems, contractors often check the nameplate of the old system and install units of a similar size. If the homeowner has made improvements to the home such as additional insulation, window and door improvements and air-sealing, the new system may be way over-sized. To size a heating and cooling system correctly, a number of factors must be considered:

- Local climate conditions
- Size, shape and orientation of the building
- Current insulation levels
- Location and types of windows
- Air infiltration rates
- The number of occupants
- Occupant comfort preferences
- The types of major equipment and appliances that give off heat

Another sizing method is to install a system based on the size of the home and charts from the unit manufacturer. This can provide a good first size estimate, but it should not be used as the sole method for determining system capacity.

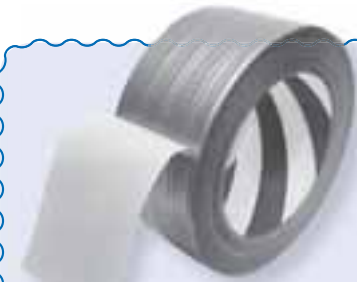
Matching load requirements

To size a system accurately, it is important to match it to the home's current HVAC requirements or load. The HVAC load is affected by the size and condition of the home, the home type and the needs of the building occupants.

Walls, ceilings and floor space should be measured to determine the home's total volume. It is also important to estimate the total thermal resistance or R-value of the insulation, windows and construction materials. Average outside temperatures and humidity levels can affect system demand along with the orientation of the building and overhangs.

Air leakage impacts a building's load requirement as well. Performing an energy audit will help you to locate air leaks and seal them before the new system is installed. If it is a forced air system, inspect the location, size, joint seals and insulation of distribution ducts, as well as the placement of supply and return registers.

Sizing a system properly requires good communication between the home owner and the contractor. Asking the right questions will help to ensure that your new HVAC system is sized appropriately.



Duct Tape On Ducts? ©

Which tape on ducts?
Duct tape on ducts!
It makes good sense:
Duct tape on ducts.

Should we use duct tape on ducts?

A rig we built to quickly test,
Which kind of seal would be the best.
First cold & hot then hot and cold,
Soon we'd make the sealants old.
Blow hot & cold; blow cold and hot,
Most seals did work, but duct tape **not!**

The cloth will hold; the goo will stick,
Until the heat makes duct tape slip.
We should not use duct tape on ducts.
We should not use it; 'twon't stay stuck.
Oh! Duct tape you like, so you say.
Use it, Use it. Find a way.
Use it, Find a way, I say!

Can we use it on a mouse?
Can we use it *in* the house?
Can we use it here or there?
Can we use it anywhere?

You can use it on a mouse.
You can use it in the house.
You can use it here and there!
You can use it ('most) anywhere.

To close a jar or tie a goat.
To fix a car or patch a boat.
To seal a box or in a train
You may use it, that is plain

For all such use, duct tape is great,
But for one we hesitate.
You should not use duct tape on ducts.
You should not use it; 'twon't stay stuck!

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Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.