



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# HOME PAGE

[www.enerstar.com](http://www.enerstar.com) | A monthly newsletter for co-op members of EnerStar Electric Cooperative

## Time matters. Register for Power Shift by May 15 and earn up to \$117.

The time of day that you use power changes how much that power costs your electric cooperative. It's like going to a movie: Evening shows cost more because that's when more people want to see movies. Use power when everyone else is, like when the afternoon is hottest, and that power costs more for everyone.

**Power Shift** helps everyone save by shifting energy usage to off-peak times.

Have us install a switch on your air conditioner, electric water heater, or pool pump. The switch may be activated to turn off your appliance when demand is up—typically in the afternoons, and for no longer than 15 minutes an hour on your air conditioner. We won't activate the switch on weekends or holidays, and most people don't even notice the difference.

You'll stay cool (and keep your water hot) while you save energy and help out your community. That's time well spent.



To sign up for PowerShift or for more information, contact EnerStar Electric Cooperative at 800-635-4145.

### PowerShift credits on October electric statements

Electric Water Heaters	\$27
Central Air Conditioners	\$45
Fixed Pool Pumps	\$45

### POWER MOVES



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Highlights of the 75th Annual Meeting of Members held on Saturday, March 15, 2014, will be published in the May 2014 issue of this publication. Submission deadlines for this issue fell before the annual meeting.

Illinois Country Living • April 2014 • 16a

# All-of-the-above strategy needed

You may have heard how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed to limit carbon dioxide at new power plants. This is concerning because these regulations, along with the ones the EPA has in store for existing plants, have the potential to drive up electric bills for our co-op members. Electric cooperatives across the nation are disappointed-but not surprised-that in September, the Administration officially abandoned an all-of-the-above energy strategy for a new, all-but-one approach that effectively removes coal from the nation's fuel mix in the future.

Electric co-ops have invested billions to reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency and generate renewable electricity. For several years, cooperatives have tested carbon capture and storage as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the technology does not make financial sense. It has never been used on a commercial scale at a power plant over a prolonged period to demonstrate its viability or costs. In a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report, engineers estimate it would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75%.

The Administration's switch to an all-but-one energy approach would limit Americans' access to coal, which is plentiful and affordable, with historical price stability. The U.S. Energy Information Agency reports that the United States has 236 years remaining of recoverable coal reserves. Coal generates 58% of the electricity for America's electric

cooperatives-our biggest energy source by far. We should not gamble with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation's economy.

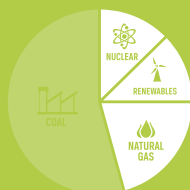
Now is the time for co-op members to send a clear message to the EPA: please remember consumers

as you are writing these regulations. Stand with us as we fight to keep electric bills affordable. Raise your voice through the Cooperative Action Network at [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop). Tell the EPA we need a realistic energy policy.



**Don't have internet access? Stop by our office or call us at 800-635-4145 and we will send you a postcard to mail in so your voice can be heard too!**

1.



### ABANDONS ALL-OF-THE ABOVE

The Administration is reversing course: **ditching our All-of-the-Above energy strategy** for an **All-But-One** approach that bans new coal plants.

2.



### TECHNOLOGY GAMBLE

New regulations essentially require technology that's **not commercially viable and prohibitively expensive**—leading to higher bills down the line.

## TOP 4 FACTS

ABOUT THE EPA'S NEW CLIMATE REGULATIONS

3.



### LIMITS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, DOMESTIC ENERGY

By banning new coal plants, Americans forfeit a **236-year domestic source of energy** with a historically stable price.

4.



### HISTORY REPEATS: ALL-BUT-ONE DOESN'T WORK

A 1978 mandate prevented use of natural gas & forced utilities into coal or nuclear—before common sense prevailed and it was repealed 9 years later.

# An old refrigerator can eat up energy and money

Does this sound familiar? You bought a new ENERGY STAR-qualified refrigerator and moved your old fridge to the garage or basement to keep a few drinks cold. EnerStar would like to offer a few tips that can help you save energy and money.

“Old refrigerators, especially those more than 17 years old, tend to use a lot of energy,” says Angela Griffin, EnerStar’s Manager of Member Services. “A refrigerator bought before 1993 uses more than twice as much energy as a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator. So you’re spending a lot of money to keep that refrigerator running.” She added that over time, the refrigerant wears out

and seals start to deteriorate, causing a decline in the performance of an older refrigerator.

According to Griffin, if you have moved your old refrigerator to an uninsulated location, such as a garage, it will use even more energy during hot weather. A fridge in a 90 degree environment, for example, uses nearly 50 percent more energy than one in a 70 degree environment.

The opposite can happen in the winter. If the temperature falls below about 40 degrees, the refrigerator’s thermostat may not run its cooling and defrost cycles for the appropriate amount of time.

So just by pulling the plug on

that old refrigerator, you can save up to \$150 a year.

Griffin encouraged members to take advantage of EnerStar’s fridge recycling program. The cooperative can arrange to have the fridge, or freezer, picked up free of charge by a company that will recycle up to 95 percent of the unit.

And to make it an even bigger savings, members will also receive \$35 for up to two units. Some restrictions apply so call 1-877-395-5535 for complete details.

For other tips on how to save energy and see how the little changes add up, visit [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).



## Rethink. Recycle. Reward.

Chances are the older refrigerator or freezer in your basement or garage is running up your utility bill by an average of \$150 a year. Recycle it, reduce your energy use and keep harmful materials out of landfills. We'll pick it up and you'll pick up \$35.

For a **FREE** pickup call **1-877-395-5535** or visit **[www.powermoves.com](http://www.powermoves.com)**.

GET  
**\$35**

SAVE UP TO  
**\$150** /YR  
IN ENERGY COSTS



Refrigerators and freezers must be in working condition, and must be between 10 and 30 cubic feet in size, using inside measurements. Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA) contracts with JACO Environmental, an appliance recycler, to pick up and recycle refrigerators and freezers that are in working condition. This program is funded by WVPA and is available to residential electric customers in EnerStar territory on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is expended. Customers must own the unit(s) being recycled. Limit two units per residential address. A check will be mailed to participants within 4-6 weeks after the appliance collection. Some restrictions apply.

**POWER MOVES**



**Office will be closed on Friday, April 18 in observance of Good Friday. Have a wonderful Easter!**

# When temperatures plummet, energy usage increases

You don't need to be a meteorologist to know that this winter was particularly blustery and fierce; sub-zero temperatures were quite common. Since most of the home's energy use is related to heating during the winter, many of us will feel an extra chill when we receive our winter energy bills.

The extremely cold weather means our heating systems have been running a lot harder to keep us warm. And with all the snow days, chances are your family has been stuck at home more often than usual, too. Staying home using lights, televisions, video games and appliances will also add to your electric bill.

To see your own electric usage compared to previous months,



To access SmartHub from your desktop, simply click "Manage My Account" at [www.enerstar.com](http://www.enerstar.com). To set up an account, you will need your email address, password, and your account number.

log in to your SmartHub account at [enerstar.com](http://enerstar.com) and click on the "Manage My Account." You can also overlay temperature data with your usage to see how the weather plays a significant role in your energy usage.

SmartHub is also available on your mobile devices such as tablets and smart phones. And if you have not done that yet, we strongly recommend you do that. It is a great resource for you!

## Years of service recognized

EnerStar is fortunate to have employees with many years of experience. At the 75<sup>th</sup> annual meeting held in March, five employees were recognized for their years of service. Front row: Angela Griffin – 25 years; Tim Haddix – 25 years; and Russ Camp - 5 years. Back row: Chad Cornwell - 15 years and Mike Huddleston - 15 years. Thank you for your commitment to our electric cooperative!



Mission statement

EnerStar Electric Cooperative exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.