



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

HOMEPAGE

www.enerstar.com | A monthly newsletter for co-op members of EnerStar Electric Cooperative

Wabash Valley Power The Who, What, and Why

As a reader of this magazine, you often hear us refer to Wabash Valley Power. But do you really understand who they are and the role they play in your electricity?

Cooperatives are passionate about their business model: not-for-profit, locally-controlled, and one member receives one vote. They are so passionate about the unique business model that they often form other co-ops to provide the goods and services they need to operate efficiently. EnerStar belongs to a financial cooperative for its banking needs, a software cooperative for its billing and accounting needs, and a generation and transmission cooperative for its electricity and infrastructure needs. That is where Wabash comes in.

Wabash Valley Power Association, located in Indianapolis, is a generation and transmission electric cooperative made up of 23 electric co-ops across Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. They generate and transmit the electricity EnerStar needs to distribute electricity to you.

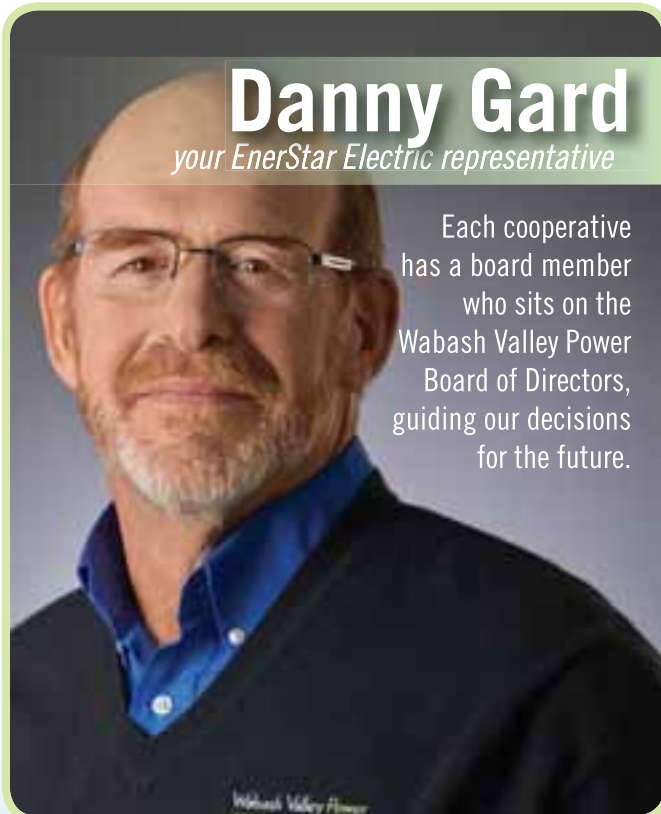
According to Wabash, "Being member-owned means there is no US without ALL OF US. Every Wabash Valley Power member co-op, every home and business, school and farm — every life we ultimately power is who we are. We came to be so that electricity itself could become a reality for people on the outskirts. And we've learned to use creative strategies and a spirit of informed innovation to do that job better than ever."

Wabash shares the cooperative spirit with EnerStar — existing not to enrich the bank accounts of outside investors, but to give back to members — to keep reliable and affordable electricity at the heart of the co-op mission. That means finding ways to balance demand for electricity with costs, and it means helping you make informed decisions about how you use electricity. When you save electricity, everyone saves, because they can subtract the kilowatt-hours needed from their power supply plan. Collectively, the energy savings add up and delay or eliminate the need to build additional power plants.

One of the ways Wabash keeps costs lower is

through POWER MOVES®, an energy-efficiency program in which EnerStar participates. Nearly 40,000 co-op members have earned incentives or rebates through the POWER MOVES programs by making their home or business more energy efficient. As a result, Wabash has saved more than \$5 million in power supply costs, keeping everyone's costs lower. And, for members who have made energy efficient changes, lower energy use equals money in the bank. To learn more about rebates and incentives for which you may be eligible, visit PowerMoves.com or call EnerStar's Tim Haddix at 1-800-635-4145.

Being responsive to our members' needs, both EnerStar and Wabash will continue to serve the membership with its electricity needs. We're all in this together!



Danny Gard

your EnerStar Electric representative

Each cooperative has a board member who sits on the Wabash Valley Power Board of Directors, guiding our decisions for the future.

Good News for EnerStar Members

Co-op Issues Member Rebate

As reported by EnerStar CEO Mike Clark at the Annual Meeting in March, upon review of the cooperative's financial position, the Board of Directors voted to return approximately \$400,000 in excess margins to the members.

"We had a favorable year and expenses were below budget in 2015," said Clark.

Clark explained that since 2005, the cooperative's focus has been on improving the utility's infrastructure while at the same time, improving the co-op's financial condition.

"While members are enjoying improved service reliability, fewer power outages mean we are spending less on expenses like transportation, maintenance and labor and overheads," said Clark. "The result is higher margins or profits for our members." He added



For the second year in a row, EnerStar will be issuing Member Rebates totaling \$400,000

that expenses down were also due to favorably low interest rates and low inflation, causing metals to be cheaper than expected.

Therefore for the second year in a row, EnerStar will be issuing Member Rebates totaling \$400,000.

The rebates will be based on patronage capital, the monies that each member contributed to the co-op for electricity, in 2015.

Clark pointed to the member rebate being a highlight of the cooperative difference from other electric utilities. "The third cooperative principle is members' economic participation. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative," said Clark. "The board of directors, who are co-op members democratically elected to serve the membership, felt it important that current members receive these excess margins as they were a direct result of business activities in the past year."

Clark told members to expect their rebate checks sometime around May 1.

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, such as 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.

PowerShift credits on October electric statements

Electric Water Heaters.. \$27

Central Air Conditioners \$45

Fixed Pool Pumps..... \$45

POWER MOVES

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.



COOPERATIVE HEADQUARTERS
EnerStar Electric Cooperative
11597 Illinois Highway 1
Paris, IL 61944

TELEPHONE
800-635-4145
PAY BY PHONE
888-999-4201

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Serving the Illinois counties of Edgar, Clark, Vermilion, Douglas and Coles.

EnerStar Makes the Switch to LED Outdoor Lighting

EnerStar crews have been busy replacing outdoor lighting that members rent from the cooperative to brand new, highly efficient LED outdoor lights. At the time of publication, about 1,100 lights had been replaced with another 80 left to complete.

"We are very excited to move in this direction. This all became economically feasible with an energy efficiency grant from our wholesale power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association," said EnerStar CEO Mike Clark.

There are many environmental benefits to using LED technology. LEDs use 2.5 times less energy than a High Pressure Sodium (HPS) light and 4 times less energy than a Mercury Vapor (MV) light. "That is significant energy savings," said Clark.

"Members will be pleased with the brighter white light," said Clark.

"They are not an orange light like the sodium vapor lights." The illumination can be directed so that light pollution is minimized. LED lights are not sensitive to humidity or low temperatures and are an "instant on" technology.

The additional benefit to the co-op is that the life span of the LED is expected to be greater than traditional yard lights, around 12–14 years, and require fewer service calls.

Clark concluded by saying, "Overall, this is a green program whether that is energy savings or less windshield time on our trucks and we are pleased to be offering this service."

Beginning with the April 2016 billing statement, the monthly charge will decrease from \$11 per month to \$9 per month

LED Lighting: Purchase and Rentals Available

With new LED outdoor lighting decreasing the co-op's operating costs, EnerStar announced at the recent annual meeting a change in the monthly rate that members pay for rental outdoor lighting. Beginning with the April 2016 billing statement, the monthly charge will decrease from \$11 per month down to \$9 per month.

"We are very pleased to pass on the savings to our members," said EnerStar CEO Mike Clark. With a rental light, all energy used is included in the monthly charge. The co-op installs and maintains the light free of charge.

Members can also purchase LED lights from EnerStar. The purchase includes free installation, but the energy used is billed on the monthly billing statement and there is a service charge if you call EnerStar to perform repairs.

There are some restrictions that apply on the two outdoor light options so Clark encouraged members to call the office at 1-800-635-4145 for further details.

Members-Only Pricing



Cooper Caretaker

\$125 plus tax

5-year warranty



Evluma

\$200 plus tax

10-year warranty

Purchase or rent for just \$9 per month

Idle Services and Line Retention Procedures Get Overhaul



EnerStar Electric has been working to identify the idle services in our service territory as part of our annual line inspections. An idle service is defined as an installation where electric power is available, but not being utilized. The installation may consist of facilities such as primary lines, poles, transformers, service drops, and meters. Enerstar has the sole ownership of these facilities.

Idle services carry costs to the cooperative in the form of line loss, maintenance, potential public liability, and administrative costs. These costs are shared by active members through their monthly facility charge. Because of these costs and potential liabilities, the Board of Directors has instructed management to remove idle services as soon as practical.

Enerstar will identify services that have been idle for a certain

period of time and that are in need of repair or pose a potential liability. Landowners will be notified if possible. If the landowner desires to have the line left in place but has no immediate need of electric energy, and is the only one affected by the service, he or she will be given the opportunity to retain the services by paying a monthly line retention fee of \$34.00. The co-op will then maintain or upgrade the line or service.

If the landowner is not interested in retaining the idle service, then the service will be removed by the co-op at no cost.

Removal or upgrade of these idles services will help maintain the most reliable electric distribution system possible for all Enerstar members. We thank you for your help!



Find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/Enerstar

Follow us on Twitter!

twitter.com/enerstar

Annual Meeting News

Highlights of the 77th Annual Meeting of Members held on March 12, 2016, will be published in the May 2016 issue of this publication. Submission deadlines for this issue fell before the Annual Meeting.

