



HOMEPAGE

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

Member Benefits:

Get cash back when you buy ENERGY STAR® LEDS

Energy efficient lighting has come a long way from the buzzing compact fluorescent (CFLs) bulbs that took too long to brighten up. Light Emitting Diodes, otherwise known as LEDs, can last much longer than incandescent bulbs or CFLs and give light at the speed of an electron.

EnerStar, in a partnership with Wabash Valley Power, the co-op's wholesale power provider, is making it easy to save money and energy with a new residential lighting rebate through its PowerMoves® program.

"There are a lot of reasons to make the switch to LED light bulbs—like the \$250 to \$400 just one bulb saves in energy costs over its lifetime," said EnerStar's Marketing and Member Services Manager Angela Griffin. "In fact, if every home in the United States switched just one incandescent bulb for an LED light bulb, the energy savings would cover the cost of lighting thirty-two million homes for a year, equal to about \$8.5 billion in annual electricity costs."

Griffin explained that LEDs save money in other ways, too. Besides the fact that they use less energy, LED bulbs last a lot longer and require less changing. That also means you can leave the ladder in the closet and stop worrying about those hard-to-reach bulbs in light fixtures in the loft or cathedral ceiling fan.



EnerStar's Kelly McCrocklin with LED lighting options for EnerStar Members. Over 5,000 bulbs have been distributed since March.

There is an LED to suit just about any need: LED tubes for traditional light fixtures, tubes for shop lighting, outdoor security lights, LEDs that will flash your favorite team's colors every time they score a touchdown, or LEDs that connect to your smoke and/or carbon monoxide detector. If the alarm sounds, the lights will automatically turn on to help light the way out of your home.

Residential Lighting Offer

With the lighting rebate, for each ENERGY STAR® LED light bulb purchased, EnerStar members can earn up to a \$7.50 rebate per bulb. In other words, you can light

your home without lightening your wallet. Just hang onto your receipts, visit PowerMoves.com to fill out an application, and we'll send you a check in return. Rebate applies to up to 25 bulbs per member, per calendar year 2016.

To make it even easier to save, members can stop by the co-op office to get their first 8 light bulbs and this co-op will take care of the submitting the rebate on behalf of the member.

After that, members can purchase an additional 17 bulbs in 2016 and submit the rebate

(Continued on page 16b)

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.*

(Continued from page 16a)

to PowerMoves either by mail or online. Griffin emphasized that the LED light bulbs must be Energy Star® rated to qualify for the rebate and told members to look for the blue Energy Star logo on the box.

“We kicked the program off at our annual meeting in March, and we have already distributed over 5,000 LED bulbs. It has been very well received by the membership!” said Griffin.

Griffin encouraged members to contact the office at 800-635-4145 or online at powermoves.com/LED for details on the lighting rebate. The program runs through the end of the year.



Get cash back and save on energy for a long, long time.

Change just five fixtures in your house from incandescent to ENERGY STAR LED bulbs and save up to \$40 in electricity costs in one year. We'll send you the total purchase price up to \$7.50 for each bulb you buy. *

* Offer good for up to 25 LED bulbs per member, for a limited time only.

Go to PowerMoves.com/LED to start saving now.

POWER MOVES

SAVE UP TO \$7.50 NOW
(and 70% for the next 17 years).

EnerStar Sparks Education Learning Area 4th Graders Visit EnerStar

The safety of our members is very important to EnerStar Electric Cooperative. So throughout the year, your locally-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative does its part to promote consumer education about how electricity works and how to prevent electrical accidents. We consider it part of our responsibility to the communities we serve to make sure people of all ages respect electricity and know how to be careful around it. A perfect place to spread the word is

with the youth in the communities we serve.

“Teaching electrical safety at a young age ensures those lessons and concepts will remain with the children as they mature into adults,” said Angela Griffin, EnerStar’s Manager of Member Services. According to Griffin, that is why for the past fifteen years, EnerStar has sponsored the 4th Grade Safety Day. The event is a prelude to the cooperative’s observance of Electric Safety Month in May.

“Events like these are an important part of EnerStar’s mission,” said Griffin. “It gives us a chance to showcase the cooperative’s role in the community while educating our young on the proper way to handle an electrical emergency.”

This year’s event was attended by Paris Crestwood, Paris Wenz, Marshall, Martinsville, Kansas, Paris St Mary’s, Oakland and Shiloh. The cooperative covers all transportation costs for the schools. “We realize school budgets are tight and feel



because this event is so important, it is money well spent," added Griffin.

The main part of the program is the Live Line Demo by Steve Hancock, who works at an electric cooperative in Bloomington, Illinois. A former journeyman lineman, Hancock taught the students how electricity travels through wires. His display contains 7,200 volts of electricity and is constructed with the same poles, transformers and line hardware used by EnerStar. But he takes his lesson further as he teaches the children what happens if someone were to get into a power line or if a car they are traveling in hits a utility pole. With the use of props such as a fake squirrel, a hot dog and a balloon, Hancock teaches the children about the many dangers of electricity and how to be safe around it.

The Live Line Demo is followed with the personal testimony of EnerStar member Delmar Bell, a Paris farmer who was injured in a power line accident over 30 years ago. The accident caused Bell the loss of his arms. Bell explains that he participates in the event because, "I want young children to learn from my mistake. I never



knew the slogan 'Look up and live.'"

The impact of Bell's personal testimony is obvious and really gets the students' attention. "The first part of the event, while it is educational, is fun and entertaining. But when Delmar speaks, the message helps the children understand the serious nature of an electrical emergency," explained Griffin.

"We really appreciate Delmar attending the EnerStar Safety Day each year," says Griffin. "I admire the fact that he took this tragedy and turned it into a positive experience. His message not only drives



home the importance of being safe around electricity but also teaches the children a lesson on perseverance."

The best way to sum up the day was a comment from a teacher to Griffin, "Thank you for putting on a great electricity safety presentation. My students learned a lot and it helps to supplement our science curriculum. I appreciate all of your hard work and effort for the 4th graders of Edgar and Clark counties."

Good News for EnerStar Members

Co-op Issues Member Rebate

Upon review of the cooperative's financial position at the December 2015 board meeting, EnerStar's Board of Directors voted to return approximately \$400,000 in excess margins to the members.

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, labor and overheads," said Clark. "The result is higher margins or profits for our members." He added



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

Therefore for the second year, EnerStar will be issuing Member Rebates this year 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 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," said Clark.

Rebate checks were mailed on May 18 to members who had service last year. If you did not receive your check, please contact the office at 800-635-4145.

EnerStar Signs Agreement with USIC

Call JULIE Before You Dig

Under Illinois law, prior to digging, homeowners and contractors must contact JULIE at 811 to have underground utilities located. JULIE stands for the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators.

JULIE neither owns nor marks any underground lines. They route requests to the utility companies after documentation and verification. Calls cannot be made directly to the utility.

It takes a lot of manpower to handle all the JULIE requests. Therefore, EnerStar has signed an agreement with USIC to handle all of the co-op's requests for locating underground facilities.

USIC is one of the most trusted names in underground utility damage prevention, performing over 60 million locates annually, with over 6 million throughout Illinois.

"It makes sense to partner with USIC. They already provide locating services for utilities such as natural gas, electricity, water, cable and fiber. They were already present at most of our locations so it takes them just a little extra time to locate EnerStar's services when they are already there," said CEO Mike Clark. He

added that members most likely have seen USIC's employees and vehicles in the area.

Clark added that USIC also provides emergency and after-hour locates, meaning the co-op does not need to dispatch EnerStar crews.

So remember, if you are going to dig, first call JULIE at 811!



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Gard Recognized at WVPA

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.

Each cooperative has a board member who sits on the Wabash Board of Directors, guiding decisions for the future. EnerStar's representative to the board is Dan Gard of West Union. Congratulations to Dan for being recently recognized for 5 years of service on the Wabash board. He has served on the EnerStar board since 2000.

