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Money available for energy efficiency improvements

We're always encouraging our members to make energy efficient improvements. And even though these improvements save money in the long run, you still have to pay up front to make them. Now, through the HomE Program, we can help you with those up-front costs.

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives has obtained a grant from the Illinois State Energy Plan, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which will fund the HomE program.

More information on page 16b.



HomE Rebates

\$1,500	Geothermal heat pumps closed loop (14.1 EER or 3.3 COP)
\$1,500	Geothermal heat pumps open loop (16.2 EER or 3.6 COP)
\$1,000	Air source heat pumps (16 SEER)
\$350	Natural Gas or LP furnace (95% efficiency)
\$350	Central air conditioner (16 SEER)
\$250	Heat pump water heater (2.0 Energy Factor)
max of \$500	30% of cost of insulation and weatherization

Maximum rebate per household is \$1,500. Rebates began May 10, 2010, and will continue until the money is exhausted.



Continued from 16a

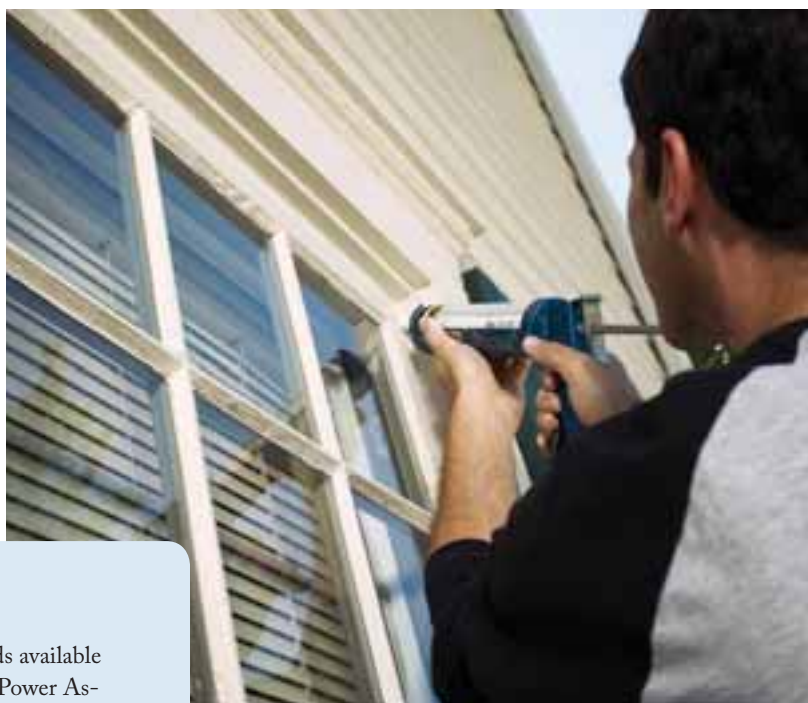


How the HomE Program Works

- 1.** Contact our office to set up a personal Energy Assessment of your home. This program is conducted on a first come, first served basis. We'll verify your eligibility and take your name and contact information and the date of your request.
- 2.** We'll schedule a time to meet with someone at your home to perform the assessment and tell you where you can save money with energy efficiency improvements. The cost of the assessment is \$25. We'll conduct these Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. as scheduling allows.
- 3.** Based on the recommendations we make, you decide what improvements you wish to make. You'll submit a proposal form to us and we'll send you a signed copy letting you know that we are setting aside funds for you for 60 days.
- 4.** Once you have completed your project, you'll send us a completion form and receipt. We'll verify the work and send you a rebate check.

Who's Eligible?

You must be a member of EnerStar Electric Cooperative and live in the home as your primary residence. You must not qualify for the Low Income Community Weatherization Program through your local Community Action Agency. The Weatherization Program provides more assistance than this program – if you think you may qualify contact your local Community Action Center, such as Embarras River Basin Agency, preparer for the specifics of this program.



Additional Rebates

Heat Pump Rebates

EnerStar Electric Cooperative, with funds available through our power supplier Wabash Valley Power Association, is offering additional incentives to residential members for upgrading to a new, more efficient electric air source or ground source heat pump heating and cooling system.

The rebate is \$150/ton for geothermal and \$125/ton for air source up to 10 tons total. Learn more at www.enerstar.com under Energy Efficiency Programs.

Clothes Washer Rebates

EnerStar Electric Cooperative members with electric water heaters may qualify for a \$50 rebate when they purchase an ENERGY STAR clothes washer after April 15. Learn more at enerstar.com under Energy Efficiency Programs.

Add It Up! Tax Credits and Other Rebates Available

Tax Credit:

You could be eligible for a federal tax credit of 30 percent of your project, up to \$1,500. Tax credits include geothermal, air source heat pumps, central air conditioners, insulation and more. Ask your tax preparer for the specifics of this program.

World's most expensive dirt

Dust dollars off your energy bill by regularly changing air filters

The most expensive dirt in the world may lurk in your home's heating and cooling system. If neglected, dust collecting the equipment's air filter could increase your energy bills hundreds of dollars every year and result in costly repair or replacement costs.

Dirty filters cause a system to work harder and break down faster. That's because unfiltered dust and grime work into critical parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and, eventually, failure. As you move around your home you drive dust into the air from carpets, drapes, and furniture. Pets generate dust particles by shedding, grooming, and tracking in dirt from outside.

Regardless of where it comes from, dust trapped in a heating and cooling system air filter leads to several problems, including:

- Reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs.
- Costly duct cleaning or replacement.
- Lowered system efficiency.

Every time a system with a dirty filter kicks on, the day of reckoning—total replacement—draws closer. To avoid this expense, change filters monthly when a system's in regular use. Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

While most types of filters must be replaced, a few filters are reusable. They're available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). MERV, a method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system.

To learn more about how to save energy around your home, visit www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Sources: High Performance HVAC, U.S. Department of Energy



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Consider using ceiling and other fans during the cooling season. They provide additional cooling and better circulation so you can raise the thermostat and cut down on air conditioning costs. ENERGY STAR-certified ceiling fans do even better, especially those that include compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

Are you wasting
your money on

DIRT?

Dirty air filters cause a heating and cooling system to work harder and break down faster. That's because unfiltered dust and grime works into critical parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and, eventually, failure.

How does a dirty air filter cost you?

- Reduces air flow in the home, leading to up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- Leads to costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowers system efficiency

To avoid these expenses, change filters monthly when your heating and cooling system's in regular use. Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

Learn more ways to save at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: High Performance HVAC, U.S. Department of Energy



Summer hours announced

CEO Peter E. Kollinger has announced new summer office hours for EnerStar Electric Cooperative. During the summer, the cooperative office hours will now be 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. "We wanted to give our members an extra half hour in the morning to take care of cooperative business," said Kollinger. "And we think this will really help out contractors and electricians who need information or material from the cooperative before they set out on their jobs at a member's home or farm." The summer hours will run through September 3.



Capital credit allocation notices for 2009 mailed

Around June 14, EnerStar Electric Cooperative mailed to all members who received electric service in 2009, a notice of their individual capital credit allocation.

"We encourage members to put the allocation notice with the rest of their important papers," said EnerStar's Susan Watson, Member Services-Billing Supervisor. She also encouraged those members who did not receive a notice to contact the cooperative office.

As a non-profit electric cooperative, EnerStar allocates the annual operating margins, or profits, to members receiving electric service. The margins are based on a member's individual patronage, or usage, and are called capital credits.

The notice indicates what percentage of the previous year's profits was allocated to the member's individual capital credit account. It will also show the total amount accumulated since becoming a member, less any general refund amounts.

Capital credits are a member's equity in our local electric cooperative. They do not bear interest and cannot be used as payment toward your electric billing statement.



- *Put your capital credit allocation notice with your important papers.*
- *If you move, please contact EnerStar with your forwarding address so we can send future capital credit correspondence to you.*
- *Capital credits cannot be applied to your electric statement.*

The EnerStar board of directors has adopted the two policies governing the refund of capital credits. The first refers to a "General Refund." These refunds, which may be made from time to time, are determined by the board and are based on the financial condition of the cooperative.

The second policy refers to what

is known as "Estate Retirements."

The only way an account can be retired or refunded in full, without a general refund, is upon the death of the member. In the case of a joint membership, both parties must be deceased before any capital credit refunds can be made.

"There are not many electric cooperatives that provide for estate retirements," said Watson. "Because it may be awhile before the general refund is issued, our board has chosen to do estate retirements so the monies are not forgotten about long after the estate is closed." Watson works closely with the members' heirs to get the proper paperwork completed that is required by the State of Illinois. Watson added that heirs should apply for an estate retirement within one year after the death of the member. After that time period, the account no longer earns capital credits and any future capital credits earned are forfeited.

For information on EnerStar's capital credit policy or questions regarding your notice, contact Susan Watson at 217-463-4145 or 800-635-4145 during normal business hours.

Going on vacation?

Include home energy savings in summer vacation plans

If you are heading out of town on vacation this summer, why not let your home's energy use take a vacation as well! According to EnerStar's Tim Haddix, System Engineer and Energy Advisor, "There are several simple things you can do to save money while they are away." Haddix advised members to make these simple changes before heading out the door:

Air Conditioning

Set the thermostat to 85 degrees. If it is a programmable thermostat, use the "hold" or the "vacation" setting to keep it at that temperature.

Electronics

Before leaving, unplug computers, CD/DVD players, TVs, and VCRs – these and other electronic appliances use electricity, even when they are not turned on.

Lighting

You can improve your energy savings and your home's security by using timers to operate lights each night. And by installing compact fluorescent bulbs, or CFLs, in those lamps, you will be saving even more energy, up to 66 percent less in each lamp, and the bulb will last ap-



proximately 10 times longer than a regular incandescent bulb.

Water Heating

Turn the water heater's temperature down to the lowest setting. Many water heaters have a "vacation" setting for this purpose. Leave a reminder to turn it back up upon returning home.

Waterbed owners should unplug the heater, or at least lower the temperature 10 degrees. Pool owners should shorten the operating time

for the pool filter and automatic cleaning sweep (if applicable). A pool cover can save energy, too. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, up to 70 percent of pool heat loss is by evaporation.

Refrigerator

Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting. If going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off. Remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew.



Drive Up – Don't Get Out!



In a hurry? EnerStar's convenient drop box is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Located on the east side of the EnerStar parking lot.



10 hot tips for green summer cooking

Kee your cool this summer when preparing meals. You can save money and reduce your carbon footprint with these 10 easy tips for going green when cooking summer meals (and year round, for that matter).

- Cook outdoors when possible to reduce the load on your air conditioner.
- Toaster ovens, convection ovens, and slow cookers get the job done with less energy than conventional stovetops or ovens, especially when preparing smaller meals.
- Use as small a pan, as little water and as little pre-heating time as possible.
- Bake in glass or ceramic ovenware instead of metal. You can turn the temperature down by 25 degrees and foods will cook in the same amount of time.
- Avoid thawing food in the microwave. Thawing food in the fridge is far more energy efficient, contributes to the fridge's cooling and is safer than thawing food on the countertop or in the sink.
- Don't open the door and peek in the oven. Use the oven window instead!



- Clean burner pans (the pans under the burners that catch grease) regularly. They'll more effectively reflect heat to the cookware. Dirty burner pans absorb heat and reduce efficiency.
- Use flat-bottom cookware that rests evenly on the surface of electric coil burners, solid-disk elements, or radiant elements under smooth-top ceramic glass.
- Use residual heat. Turn the stove or oven off before cooking is done to allow cooking to continue while reducing energy use. An electric burner element can be turned off two minutes before removing the cookware, since it remains hot. Ovens can be turned off 20 minutes before cooking's done.

Maybe it's time to upgrade your cooling system.

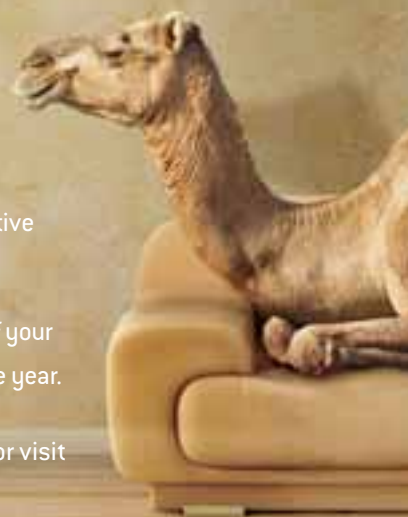
SAVE UP TO
\$1500

WHEN YOU UPGRADE
YOUR OLD ELECTRIC
COOLING/HEATING SYSTEM
Promotion ends November 15, 2010

Right now, multiple rebates are being offered through the state and your local electric cooperative that can save you money and cool you off.

In addition, a federal tax credit worth up to 30% of your new system's cost is available until the end of the year.

Call your EnerStar Electric Cooperative Energy Advisor at 217-463-4145 or visit www.enerstar.com for more details on current state and local rebates.



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.

Handle food safely when grilling outdoors

One of America's favorite summer pastimes is grilling, and it's not just for summer any more. Americans are discovering the art of grilling in milder climates, using handmade brick ovens or ceramic grills that heat up quickly and stay hotter longer. But most grill enthusiasts still favor large gas grills, or simple yet effective charcoal grills, and usually during the spring and summer.

No matter the season or type of grill you use, grilling food starts with proper food handling. Below are a few simple guidelines for grilling food safely this coming spring and summer:

- Wash away harmful bacteria – Avoid providing a hotbed for bacteria. Unwashed hands are a prime cause of food borne illness, also known as food poisoning, as are unwashed perishable foods such as meat, seafood, and peeled or cut fruits and vegetables.
- Keep foods cold – Keep all perishable foods cold. If you'll be meeting up with friends away from your backyard grill, it's best to transport all perishables including raw meat, poultry, and

seafood in an insulated cooler kept cold with ice or frozen gel packs.

- Throw away any perishable leftovers that have been out of a refrigerator or cooler for more than two hours, one hour if the temperature is above 90 F.
- Keep coolers out of direct sunlight and avoid opening them frequently, allowing the cold air to escape.
- Marinate safely – Marinated meats should be stored immediately in a refrigerator or cooler, not on the kitchen counter or outside next to the grill. As long as a marinade is stored in a cool environment, it can remain there for several hours or days.
- Do not use marinade from the raw meat/marinade mixture as a sauce on the cooked meat, unless you first cook the sauce to a boil destroying harmful bacteria.
- Grilling shortcuts – Pre-cooking food partially indoors before putting it on a pre-heated grill will give you quick results when your friends are hungry, or your grill is slow or small. Conversely, flame-grill meat for a smoky, char-grilled flavor then bake

in an oven until it's cooked properly.

- Cook thoroughly and use a meat thermometer – It's best to cook food to the safe minimum internal temperature to destroy harmful bacteria. On the grill, meat and poultry will brown quickly, but the inside might be cooked partially. To be sure the food has reached a safe minimum internal temperature use a meat thermometer.

Here are some safe minimum internal temperatures (F):

- Chicken breasts: 165 degrees
- Beef hamburgers: 160 degrees
- Beef, veal and lamb (steaks, roasts and chops):
 - Medium rare: 145 degrees
 - Medium: 160 degrees
- All Pork: 160 degrees

Fortunately, most people seldom get sick from contaminated food, and consumers can feel safe knowing that with proper refrigeration and thorough cooking, harmful food-borne illnesses can be avoided all together.



Thanks to the military personnel who have fought for all of us, the star-spangled banner yet waves o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





WILL YOU BEAT THE HEAT?

Improve summer efficiency and safety



Energy use and costs typically rise as the mercury rises. Use these energy- and money-saving measures so you and your home can better weather the summer heat and humidity.

Air Conditioning

A substantial portion of total residential energy costs is spent cooling homes. Reduce energy costs and ready the air conditioner with a cleaning and tune-up. Clean or change filters monthly during the cooling season. An efficiently running cooling system will save dollars. If you're purchasing a new unit, check the efficiency rating, or SEER. The higher the SEER number the more efficient the air conditioner. For greater operating efficiency, install the unit in a shady area, away from plant overgrowth and debris.

Windows

Most of summer heat buildup in homes comes through windows. Simply closing curtains, blinds, and shades can reduce this heat gain by up to 40 percent, saving big dollars in cooling costs. Installing awnings or shutters over windows exposed to di-

rect sunlight can reduce indoor heat gain by up to 70 percent. Outdoor landscaping that includes shade trees and insulating foundation plants can also reduce energy costs.

Attics

Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and/or an attic fan can help keep hot air from building up. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. Proper attic insulation can save up to 30 percent of your cooling bill. Be sure the insulation doesn't block vents or cover exhaust fans.

Fans

Another inexpensive way to keep cool and reduce air conditioning costs is to use ceiling and oscillating fans to create a "wind chill" effect. The moving air makes the temperature feel cooler, and allows a higher air conditioner thermostat setting while maintaining cooling comfort. For each 1-degree increase in the thermostat setting, cooling costs can be trimmed by about 3 percent.

Keeping Cool

Follow these operating tips for greater energy efficiency and reduction in air conditioning costs:

- Install a timer or programmable thermostat to raise and lower the temperature automatically. Leave it on a higher temperature while you're away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.
- Turn off unnecessary lights and television sets you're not watching. Don't leave computers on when not in use.
- Make sure heat-producing appliances like televisions and lamps are away from the thermostat. They will raise the temperature at the thermostat and cause the air conditioner to run when it is not needed.
- Plan to do hot work—washing and drying clothes, cooking and baking—during cooler morning and evening hours.
- Keep your kitchen cooler by cooking in a microwave oven, or grill outdoors.

For more information and tips to help cut costs and improve home safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.