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www.enerstar.com

Tell us about our beginnings

EnerStar Electric Cooperative will celebrate a major milestone next year – our 75th year!!!

It was a frigid evening on February 9, 1938, but that did not deter a crowd of 250 men and women, plus a few children, to come to the Paris High School auditorium to learn about the opportunity to get electric lights. They were excited!

It seems strange that people should become excited about electric lights. But back in 1938, however, only a few homes could boast of electric lights. Electricity was a status symbol in those days. The family that possessed electric lights instead of lighting its home with a kerosene or Aladdin lamp was very fortunate. Investor-owned utilities were hesitant to extend their electric lines to the rural areas because there was no or very little profit to be made.

The meeting that February night was a “now or never” type of meeting. A gentleman from the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was the main speaker that evening. He was there to help the group of rural farm folks to start

their own electric cooperative. They would have local control over their own electric utility.

After much hard work and hundreds of hours from dedicated volunteers, what was then known as Edgar Electric Cooperative Association, energized their first lines on July 15, 1939. Only a handful of members were able to get electric service before the United States entered World War II. Materials were scarce and necessary for the war effort so many would not receive electric service until after the war ended in 1945.

Our locally-owned, locally-controlled, not-for-profit electric cooperative will begin a year-long celebration of our 75th anniversary next year. We have lots of ideas on ways to celebrate but we need your help.

Do you or a family member remember when the lights came on for the first time? If so, we would love to hear your “then” stories! Please contact the cooperative at 1-800-635-4145. We would like to visit with you or your family member to share your story. The



This old pole is still going strong! It is stamped with the REA information and the badges show the history of pole testing.

cooperative would also appreciate any early photos you may be able to provide. The cooperative will make copies and return them. We appreciate your assistance with this celebration and look forward to another 75 years!!

Do you remember the days before electricity?
If so, call EnerStar!
1-800-635-4145

Members take advantage of Prepaid Advantage

As reported previously in this *A*magazine, EnerStar Electric Cooperative now offers a pay-as-you-go plan, which allows you the opportunity to pay when you want, in the amounts you want. Would it be easier for you to make weekly or biweekly payments rather than one larger payment each month? If so, PrePaid Advantage may be for you.

PrePaid Advantage accounts never pay a late charge and avoid paying higher deposits. The deposit is only \$25 per meter when on the program. The member decides how much money should be kept in the Prepay account so the program fits YOUR budget. You can buy enough energy to last until payday, or you can buy enough to last several months. The choice is yours!

There are several convenient payment options for PrePaid accounts. You can stop by our office, pay online using EnerStar E-bill, or use our new Pay-By-Phone service at 888-999-4201! Both the E-Bill and our Pay-By-Phone service let you check your account balance and securely store your payment information for future use.

In addition, members will receive a low balance notice by e-mail. This will give you time to purchase power before the meter actually stops. If you do not purchase more power, the meter will stop and the power will turn off. Should this happen, once a payment is made, your power will be reconnected in about 15 minutes after you push a button on the meter. It's easy to do.

Your electric service will be no different when on a PrePaid Advantage. You will have the same reliable electric service you have always had. Since you receive low balance and pending disconnect notifications prior to disconnect, you will know if you are experiencing a power outage or have just run out of funds in your PrePaid Advantage account. And, if you have a power outage, EnerStar crews will still be on standby, ready

to assist you. To report power outages, call us at 800-635-4145.

EnerStar members can, especially those with an increased meter deposit, easily convert to a PrePaid Account. If the account is at a zero balance, the existing deposit can be applied to the account, often covering the \$25 PrePaid Advantage deposit and the initial funds required of \$75. Any remaining deposit will then be used to cover your existing electric account balance.

If your current balance due exceeds your original deposit amount, you can still switch to PrePaid Advantage. We will use your deposit to pay down your bill, and then work out a payment plan for the remainder.

Rest assured, our member services representatives will work with you to provide a smooth transition to

the PrePaid Advantage program. PrePaid Advantage works best for people who want to take control of their electric account and energy use. By monitoring your consumption on a regular basis, you will begin to notice patterns in your day-to-day use. Any variation from this pattern, such as a house guest, or a vacation, will become evident. Also, monitoring and controlling daily use can help keep your power costs down. Statistics show that prepay electricity programs help lower electric consumption due to member awareness of usage patterns. It is another benefit of the program and you might just save some of your energy dollars!

Call EnerStar today at 800-635-4145 so we can get you more information about switching to PrePaid Advantage!



mini fridge



cookie dough



electric bill

Pay your EnerStar electric bill at any Walmart location.

Standard Payment **\$0.88**
delivered within 3 business days

NextDay Payment **\$1.88**
delivered on the next business day



Payments must be processed at Walmart by 7 p.m. Eastern Time. Available business days exclude weekends and other days banks are legally closed. Check with your biller for actual payment posting time and availability. Not all billers are available. Products and services vary by location. Prices are subject to change. Ask associate for more details. Walmart is an authorized agent of CheckFreePay Corporation. CheckFreePay Corporation is licensed as a Money Transmitter by the New York State Department of Financial Services.

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 un-insulated 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 the 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 money, visit Touchstone Energy’s energy-saving website. Find out how the little changes add up at 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.

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

Use caution with Fourth of July fireworks

What would the Fourth of July be without cookouts, baseball games, and pyrotechnic displays in the night sky? But it's easy to forget that fireworks are dangerous explosives, and carelessness could have deadly consequences.

Every year, thousands of people are injured by fireworks—8,600 in 2010 alone, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The agency also reports that three people died the same year.

The federal government has banned sales of the most dangerous fireworks to consumers, such as cherry bombs and M-80s. But sparklers, firecrackers, and other smaller fireworks remain legal in most states.

To help make sure your holiday

celebrations don't end with a trip to the emergency room, follow these safety tips from the CPSC:

- Sparklers aren't safe for small children. They burn at very high temperatures—up to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to melt some metals—and can easily set clothes on fire.
- Ignite fireworks in a clearing, away from power lines, homes, other structures, dry leaves and grass, and other flammable materials. Never light them in any type of container.
- Keep a bucket of water handy in case of emergencies and for fireworks that fail to ignite or explode.
- Check instructions for storage, but generally keep fireworks in a cool, dry place.


- Do not place any part of your body directly over fireworks while you're lighting them, and immediately move away as soon as the device is lit.
 - "Homemade" fireworks kits are illegal. Never try to make your own.
 - After fireworks have completely burned out, soak them with a hose before throwing them in the trash to help prevent fires.
- The Fourth of July is a time to celebrate but do so with caution. Remember, EnerStar Electric Cooperative reminds you to always look up for power lines before you shoot anything skyward.

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission



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.

EnerStar®

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*The EnerStar Electric Cooperative office will be closed
Wednesday, July 4, 2012
in observance of Independence Day*

Have a safe and happy holiday!