

What's Inside

Youth Tour 16a
McKee, Wycoff represent EnerStar

Co-op offers fridge, freezer recycling. 16b
Make money, save money!

Energy efficiency grants available 16c
Hurry before the money runs out!

Why co-op encourages using less electricity . . . 16d
Members may wonder why

Adding wind or solar energy? 16e
Call EnerStar first

Co-op installs smart meters. 16f
Update on AMI project

Edgar County 4H recycling. 16h
Area youth go green to earn green



Local youths tour Washington

Mary McKee from Chrisman and Makayla Wycoff from Marshall represented EnerStar Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual “Youth to Washington” Tour, June 11-18. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began over 50 years ago to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

The students met with Rep. Tim Johnson and were among 66 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the

trip. The Illinois students joined 1,496 young leaders from across the country. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the National Archives, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

From left are Mary McKee, Rep. Tim Johnson and Makayla Wycoff.

EnerStar Summer Office Hours

Monday-Friday • 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Also, don't forget about the After Hours Drop off Box!

Office closed: Monday, September 6 in observance of Labor Day



EnerStar now offering refrigerator and freezer recycling program

A refrigerator recycling program that pays people \$35 for each unit picked up has been expanded to the members of EnerStar Electric Cooperative. The program offers many members the opportunity to make money, save money, and get rid of unnecessary and inefficient refrigerators and freezers. EnerStar is joining forces with our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power, to offer this program.

In addition to the \$35 reward, the program will also benefit cooperative members by saving them up to \$150 a year in energy costs as a result of lower electricity usage. Typically, the appliances recycled through the program are outdated units used for extra storage and kept in garages and basements. But the convenience of chilling an extra six-pack and some leftovers can come with a steep price. Refrigerators manufactured before 1990 can use three times more electricity than new appliances.

“If your spring cleaning plans include the garage or basement, getting rid of that old clunker refrigerator or freezer gives you a great head start in freeing up space, saving more money, and getting paid \$35 just for letting us move it out and haul it away,” said Angela Griffin, EnerStar’s Manger of Member Services.

The refrigerator recycling program is not a traditional rebate program because there is no purchase of a new appliance necessary.

**Free pickup,
no paperwork,
\$35 reward,
no purchase
necessary**



To receive the \$35 reward, people who qualify only have to schedule a pickup time to have their old, working refrigerator removed. Appliance recycler JACO Environmental will then recycle refrigerators through a process that returns 95 percent of their material back into the manufacturing stream. It also safely extracts various toxic components that are found inside refrigerators, including contaminated oils, mercury and CFCs that both deplete

the ozone layer and accelerate global warming.

To schedule the pick up of a refrigerator or freezer for recycling, call 1-877-395-5535 or visit EnerStar’s website. Members will receive a credit on their billing statement for \$35 within four to six weeks after the collection of the appliance. Refrigerators and freezers to be recycled must be in working order with an inside measurement of 10-30 cubic feet.



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.

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.

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, 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.

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.

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.

Additional Rebates

Heat Pump Rebates

EnerStar, 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.

Clothes Washer Rebates

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.

Call EnerStar for more details!

Add It Up! Tax Credits and Other Rebates Available

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.



Why would an electric co-op encourage members to *USE LESS ELECTRICITY?*

You've probably seen articles, advertisements and brochures from EnerStar suggesting ways in which you can use less electricity. You may have wondered why we would recommend such a thing. After all, the more electricity the cooperative sells, the more money we make, right?

Actually, that's not the case. There are two reasons why not-for-profit electric cooperatives like EnerStar believe using less electricity is a good thing!

The first is that using more electricity isn't helpful from a financial standpoint. Our cooperative does not generate the electricity our members use. We buy electricity from what is known as a wholesale power provider. EnerStar's provider is Wabash Valley Power Association, which is a not-for-profit cooperative as well. Wabash works with other local electric co-ops in five states to obtain the best prices and most reliable supplies.

Wabash estimates how much electricity this pool of cooperative members will need, and then enters into agreements to generate or purchase that electricity. But if

we get into a situation where our members need more electricity than we predicted – such as an unexpected heat wave during the fall – we may have to buy more electricity from the wholesale power market. Because other power suppliers also need more electricity at those times, the increased demand drives the cost of that wholesale power up.

Americans are also using more and more electricity with each passing year. For example, many people are replacing smaller television sets with plasma TVs that deliver much more dramatic pictures by using dramatically higher amounts of power. Just look around your house, and you will see all sorts of conveniences that did not exist 20 years ago – nearly all of them powered by electricity. Since the supply of electricity is not growing as quickly as America's appetite for it, that demand will continue to drive power costs higher.

By helping co-op members make wiser, more efficient uses of electricity, we can reduce the amount that we need to buy, and keep our costs under control. In addition, we know that using and generating less elec-

tricity is better for the environment, which is also important to our nation and the communities we serve.

The second reason we encourage members to reduce their use of electricity is just as important. We're not in business to earn a profit. Our electric co-op is a non-profit membership organization that exists to serve the needs of our members. Unlike investor-owned utilities, we don't have to worry about making profits for shareholders, so there's no reason for us to encourage members to use more electricity. Instead, we work to help our members make the most of their energy dollars while improving the comfort of their homes. Why? It improves the quality of our members' lives and lets them keep more of their hard-earned money.

You can count on EnerStar to continue spreading the word to our members on ways members can make more efficient use of electricity in your home. It's one more way your electric co-op provides free advice when you want it and help when you need it.

Check inside your monthly billing statement through November for Helpful energy efficiency ideas

**Ways to save your energy dollars
Information on federal tax credits available**

**This month:
Insulation**



Use the moisture sensor feature on your clothes dryer if it has one. This option shuts down the dryer when clothes are dry. In addition, clean the lint filter after each load. This improves air circulation and increases the dryer's efficiency.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Thinking of adding wind or solar energy?

Call cooperative before connecting to the grid

Thinking of installing a wind or solar power system at your home or farm? If so, put it on the top of your “to do” list to call EnerStar. Before making a purchase, you will want a copy of two cooperative policies designed to assist members installing wind or solar power, also known as distributed generation.

Both of these policies were designed to encourage the use of renewable energy, while addressing safety, power quality and financial fairness issues. The interconnect policy, adopted in 2002 and revised in 2008, outlines the necessary equipment and liability insurance needed before connecting to EnerStar’s electrical grid. It will address most residential systems of 10 kW (kilowatts) or less. The net metering policy, adopted in 2008, explains compensation for any excess energy you produce.

Interconnection issues – Safety, Reliability, Power Quality

There are three important interconnection issues to consider: safety, reliability and power quality. “Each of these topics needs to be addressed before connecting to the co-op’s lines,” says Tim Haddix, EnerStar’s

System Engineer. “Safety is our top priority.” For the protection of linemen or contractors working on the lines during an outage, it is critical that the cooperative test your equipment prior to connection to our grid. Improperly installed equipment can backfeed energy into our grid so an automatic disconnect system must be installed and working properly.

The cooperative must also check to see that your generation does not create power quality and reliability issues for other members on the same line.

What is net metering?

We get asked this question a lot. Net metering is a way of compensating members with small wind or solar systems and encouraging the use of renewable energy. This policy does not apply to gas or diesel generators.

Normally, when you use electricity the meter rolls forward, like your car’s odometer. But when a member generates more electricity than the member’s home is using, electricity can flow back to the co-op’s lines. In this situation, the meter rolls backwards and the “net” result is a lower

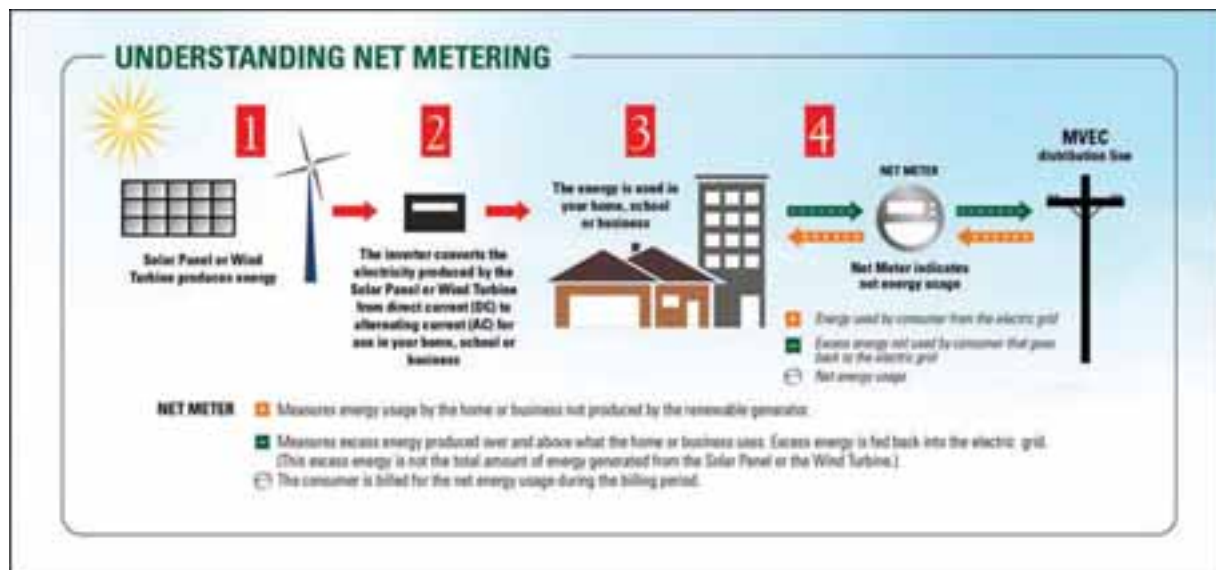
bill or possibly a credit based on the cooperative’s wholesale power rates. Fixed monthly service charges, taxes and other normal fees would still be applied.

For those that want to install larger systems above 10 kW, the co-op will pay the member its “avoided costs” for excess electricity generated by the larger system. The avoided cost equals the costs a utility would otherwise have to pay to generate electricity.

In setting this policy, your board of directors enacted a fair and equitable policy that both encourages the use of clean, renewable energy and protects the interest of all co-op members.

Call us first

“Because of the many financial, engineering, safety, and legal issues to consider, we encourage members to contact us if they have questions about renewable energy,” said Haddix. “We also have a free brochure that can help answer some of the financial questions.” Haddix added that by calling the cooperative first, co-op personnel can help members make informed decisions.





EnerStar Smart Meter Install Project Continues

To serve members better, new digital meters are being installed at homes, farms and businesses throughout the EnerStar system. The meters are data collection points for a system known as Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI).

The digital meters allow the cooperative to gather specific data via two-way communications between the cooperative and the electric meter. Once complete, the cooperative will cease to manually read meters and the process will be automated. Eventually, data collected will be combined with other technologies the co-op uses such as geographic information systems, account management systems, and outage restorations that are certain to improve the level of operational efficiency.

And those are just the beginnings. "Meter reading is just one aspect of

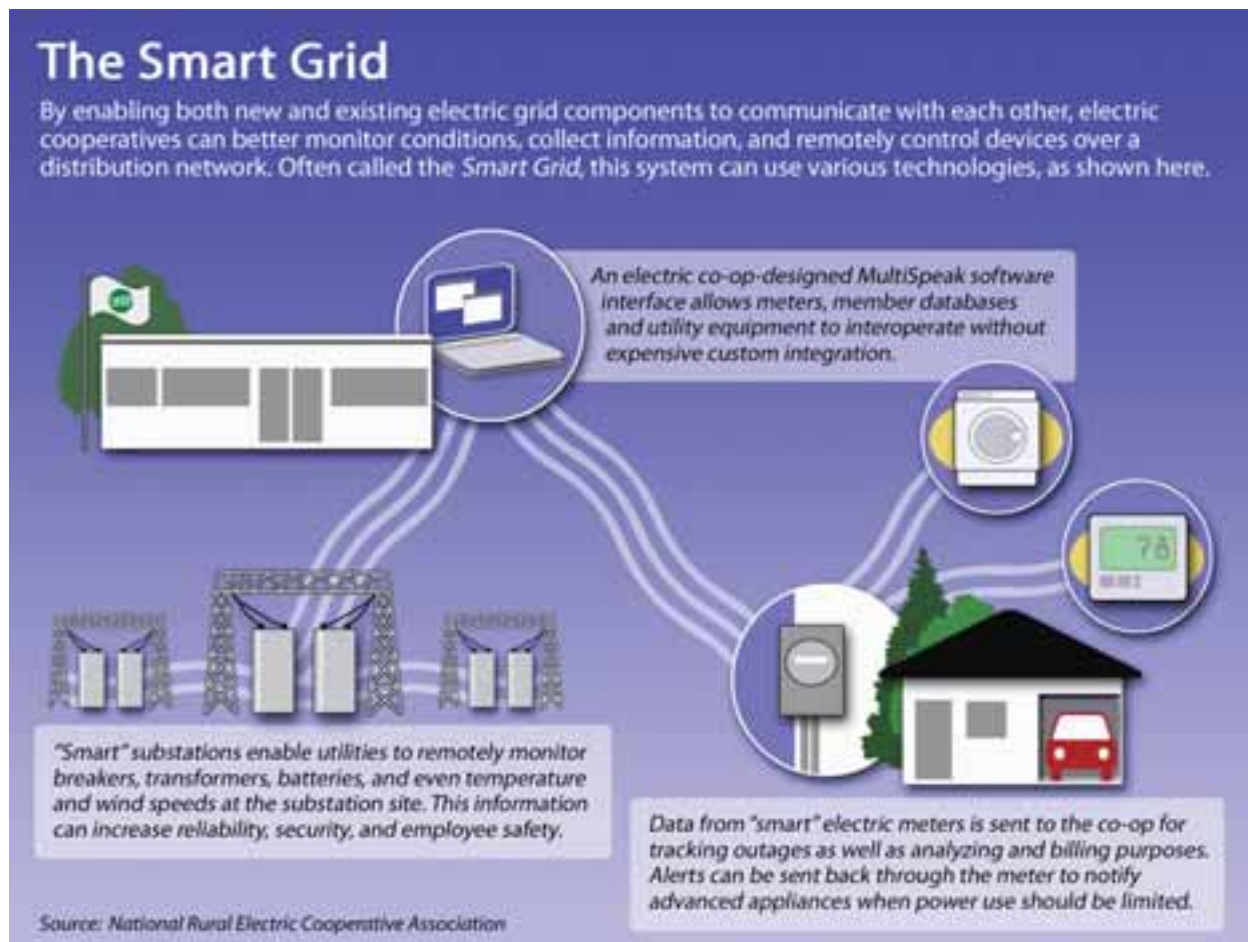


Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology has begun to revolutionize the electric utility business. These new "smart" meters will allow Members to get involved in managing their energy use at home and in the workplace. The meters will gather information, transmit it over the power lines to the coop office, and allow us to provide quicker service while reducing operating costs.

our project. The system will enable us to decrease the number of trucks on the road each day and thus reduce costs. We also intend to take full advantage of the system's ability to assist us in outage detection, resolving power quality issues, theft of service matters, and other engineering and operations functions," says

Mike Clark, Operations Manager for EnerStar Electric Cooperative. Clark added that already, the cooperative has avoided service trips to members' homes because of the new technology.

"On an individual level, the AMI system benefits individual members in many new ways as well. The



collected data will give the cooperative the ability to provide members with a good understanding of their energy use," said Angela Griffin, EnerStar's Manager of Member Services. "In the not too distant future, because of the rising cost of energy, we envision a day when members can monitor their energy use through in-home displays or by the Web to take advantage of cost

savings or other energy conservation measures that the co-op may provide." She added that the AMI system was a win-win situation for both the cooperative and the individual member.

Clark reported at a recent July board of directors meeting that all substation equipment had been installed along with approximately 3,700 new meters. Of that, the co-

operative had about a 97% read rate. "That is a very good number to have right out of the gate," said Clark. He explained that repeaters would be installed in areas where reads have not been consistent.

For more information, please see the FAQ section below. If you have additional questions, please contact EnerStar's Mike Clark at 800-635-4145, ext. 616 or via email at mclark@enerstar.com.

Facts about AMI

If it hasn't already, EnerStar Electric Cooperative will soon be replacing your old electric meter with the newest and most advanced technology available in automated meter reading, a system known as AMI. EnerStar will be able to read meters more efficiently, and the data the meter communicates to the Cooperative will provide tools to enhance customer service and improve power reliability.

What is AMI?

AMI is the acronym for Advanced Metering Infrastructure. AMI is a metering system that uses communications technology to transmit meter data to a central location.

How does AMI work?

The AMI meter transmits data via power lines to the substation. The data then travels from the substation to EnerStar's headquarters.

Why is EnerStar installing an AMI system?

The AMI system will make EnerStar more efficient. It will increase members' electric service reliability and in the future, give the member more information about their usage.

What is the difference between the AMI meter and my current meter?

The new AMI meters will continue to display the familiar meter reading in a clear, easy-to-read LCD window. You will always be able to check your meter reading with the reading on your monthly bill. The key difference is inside of the meter, where technology allows EnerStar to transmit energy usage data over power lines to the Cooperative's office.

What information does the AMI meter record?

The new meter can record and store your hourly energy usage. Periodically, that information is sent to EnerStar. The data is especially useful in resolving members' inquiries, because now the system can report not only how much electricity you use, but also the date and time you used it. The meter also records when the lights blinked, how long the power was off, and when the power was restored.

Will members still need to report power outages?

AMI does not tell the cooperative if you are out of power. Members will still need to call to report a power outage. The cooperative can however "ping" or send a signal to a meter during a power outage to determine if power has been restored.





Edgar County 4-H clubs work together to recycle, raise funds

One word says it all ... WOW!

In just under two years, the Edgar County 4-H paper-recycling program has grown from a small endeavor into a full-blown operation. The program teaches children at an early age the benefits of recycling and protecting our environment, but there is an extra bonus to this "green" program. It gives back "green" to the 4-H organization, as in cash. To this state funded organization, it's a win-win situation since 4-H has unfortunately suffered under the State of Illinois' budget constraints.

"When we started the paper recycling project in December 2008, we had no idea what to expect," said Sue Kenderdine, Edgar County 4-H coordinator. "This project far exceeds our expectations and we are really excited about what we have accomplished in less than two years." Kenderdine credits the hard-working volunteers as the key to the program's success.

Members from nine 4-H clubs throughout the county volunteer to work the recycling station on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. The community can drop off paper goods from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the 4-H fairgrounds. According to Kenderdine, the 4-H recycling center accepts: newspapers, plain and colored paper, shredded paper, cardboard boxes, magazines, comic books, catalogs, books and old hymnals. In addition, several schools, businesses and factories contribute to the recycling program.

Recently, to help promote the recycling program, the 4-H federation purchased "mobile advertising," as in T-shirts for everyone who had



A group of dedicated, hard-working volunteers keep the 4-H recycling program running smoothly. Some of the "regulars" from left to right are: Jeremy Bennett, Fort Sumpter alum; Tyler Bouslog, Federation President and Bell Ridge member; Brett Wilson, Federation Vice President and Scott's Victory member; and Adam Cash, Federation Sponsor and Bell Ridge Leader/ Alum

volunteered to work at the recycling center. The wording on the back of their T-shirts proudly says it all: We saved a forest (1,586 trees), we saved a lake (6 million gallons of water) and we conserved energy (20,250 kWh of electricity.) We at EnerStar particularly like that last part!

EnerStar's Manager of Member Services Angela Griffin, who also serves as 4-H leader, says recycling paper goods is easy. "It's sad to say, but prior to this 4-H activity, I had never recycled. But with just a few small efforts here and there, it can really add up. It was almost disturbing to see how much waste we generate." Griffin added that her recycling efforts have grown since then, as she

now gathers paper from the EnerStar office and collects plastic bottles for another recycling effort.

So, why not try it yourself and see how easy it can be to go green and at the same time, make some green for the 4-H? For more information on the recycling program, contact the University of Illinois Extension office at 217-465-8585.

4-H Recycling At a Glance:

We saved a forest: 1586 trees

We saved a lake: 6 million gallons of water

We conserved electricity: 20,250 kWh



11597 IL Hwy 1 • Paris, Illinois 61944 217-463-4145 • Summer hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F