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Haley Bowyer of Chrisman and Jessica Zellers of Casey represented EnerStar Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual “Youth to Washington” Tour, June 15-22. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and cooperatives for rural youth.

The students met with Congressman Tim Johnson and were among 75 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,500 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, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the National Archives, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

From left are: Zellers, Congressman Johnson and Bowyer.

To find out more about the tour go to www.youthtour.coop or www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington.

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.

Don't
SWEAT
Summer Electric
BILLS

As temperatures rise, there's plenty of things you can do to save energy and trim your electric bill.

Raise your thermostat a couple of degrees—78° is the most efficient setting. Ceiling fans are a great way to move air around the house, and you can shade your electric bill by planting trees on the south side of your home.

Don't sweat summer electric bills—check out [www. EnergySavers.gov](http://www.EnergySavers.gov) for more ways to save!

Brought to you by
America's Electric
Cooperatives

Finding the right bulb for your home

When the light bulb in your living room burns out, and you go to the store to replace it, you may be overwhelmed with all the choices available today in the lighting aisle. While the traditional, energy-inefficient incandescent is being phased out, you can choose from energy-saving incandescent, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or light-emitting diode bulbs (LEDs).

These newer bulbs provide a wide range of choices in color, brightness, and may last much longer than traditional incandescent bulbs. You can find these in most hardware and home improvement stores, and they are all more energy-efficient than the bulb of the past.

New light bulbs: What's the difference?

Traditional incandescent bulbs use a lot of energy to produce light. Ninety percent of that energy is given off as heat. That lost energy is money being thrown away. Newer energy-saving light bulbs provide the choices in colors and light levels you've come to expect. The new lights are also much more efficient — so they save you money.

Energy-saving incandescents — about 25 percent energy savings

Energy-saving, or halogen, incandescents have a capsule inside that holds gas around a filament to increase bulb efficiency. This type of incandescent bulb is about 25 percent more efficient and can last up to three times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs. They are available in a wide range of shapes and colors, and can be used with dimmers.

CFLs — about 75 percent energy savings

Compact fluorescent lamps are simply curly versions of the long-tube fluorescent lights you may already have in the kitchen or garage. Because they use less electricity than traditional incandescents, typical CFLs can pay for themselves in less than nine months. Then the bulbs start saving you money each month. An ENERGY STAR®-qualified CFL uses about one-fourth the energy and lasts 10 times longer than a comparable incandescent bulb that puts out the same amount of light.

CFL bulbs are available in a range of light colors, including warm (white to yellow) tones that were not as available when first introduced. Some are encased in a cover to further diffuse the light and provide a similar shape to the bulbs you are replacing. If you are looking for a dimmable bulb, check the package to

make sure you purchase a CFL with that feature.

Compact fluorescent bulbs contain a small amount of mercury, and they should always be recycled at the end of their lifespan. EnerStar Electric Cooperative offers recycling at the co-op office and at the public libraries in Paris and Marshall.

If you purchase an ENERGY STAR-rated CFL, and it burns out before the expected life span of the bulb, you can return it to the retailer from which you purchased the bulb and you should receive a refund.

LEDs — about 75-80 percent energy savings

The light-emitting diode uses the same technology as the little indicator light on your cell phone, but is designed to light your home. It is one of today's most energy-efficient and rapidly developing technologies. ENERGY STAR-qualified LEDs use only 20-25 percent of the energy and last up to 25 times longer than the traditional incandescent bulbs they replace.

LED bulbs are currently available in many products such as replacements for 40-, 60- and 75-watt traditional incandescent, reflector bulbs often used in recessed fixtures, and small track lights. While LEDs are more expensive at this early stage, they still save money because they last a long time and have very low energy use. As with other electronics, prices are expected to come down as more products enter the market.

Measuring light in lumens

New efficiency standards require light bulbs to consume less electricity (watts) for the amount of light produced (lumens). More traditional inefficient 100-watt bulbs — typically incandescent bulbs — will give way to choices — including newer incandescent bulbs — that use only 72 watts or less to provide you a comparable amount of light (lumens). If you are replacing a 100-watt bulb, a good rule of thumb is to look for a bulb that gives you about 1,600 lumens. Your new bulb should provide that level of brightness for no more than 72 watts, cutting your energy use.

Did you know?

Upgrading 15 of the inefficient incandescent bulbs in your home could save you about \$50 per year.

What Are My Lighting Options?

Starting in 2012, lightbulbs must be more energy efficient.

The three most common bulb options consumers will find on store shelves are:

- Halogen incandescents**
Energy Savings:* 25 percent
Lifespan:* Three times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$3.50
- Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)**
Energy Savings:* 75 percent
Lifespan:* 10 times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$1.20
- Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)**
Energy Savings:* 75-80 percent
Lifespan:* 25 times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$1

* As compared to traditional incandescent bulbs

Learn more at energysavers.gov/lighting

Washing Gets Efficiency Boost

Efficiency standards strengthened for clothes washers, dishwashers

Cleaning dishes and dirty laundry may not cost as much in a few years, thanks to increased federal energy efficiency standards.

On average, clothes washers and dishwashers are responsible for 3 percent of a home's electric bill and 20 percent of a home's indoor water use. In May, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) boosted the minimum energy efficiency requirements for the appliances. The improvements are expected to save consumers \$20 billion in energy and water costs through 2030.

Returns on rinse cycles

Thanks to the tougher standards, each household could save up to \$350 in energy costs over the life of a new clothes washer compared to today's models, according to the DOE.

When DOE formed these new standards, consumer choice was an important concern, so different styles of clothes washers were considered and standards set to accommodate each. Front-loading washers must use 15 percent less energy and 35 percent less water, while top-loading models must cut energy use by 33 percent and drop water consumption by 19 percent.

Energy efficiency experts peg water savings to be 10,000 gallons—or 250 baths—for every household, every year, under the new standards.

The changes take effect with 2015 models. This is the fourth time clothes washer standards have been strengthened over the past 25 years.

Dishes don't drain as much

Cleaning dishes drains energy and water. New dishwashers will use 15 percent less energy and more than 20 percent less water—saving about \$100 over the lifetime of the



◀ *New efficiency guidelines kept different appliance styles in mind; efficiency requirements differ for front loader and top loader (pictured) clothes washers.*

Source: NRECA

▶ *After 2015, new dishwashers will use 15 percent less energy and more than 20 percent less water—saving about \$100 over the lifetime of the appliance.*

Source: GE



appliance, according to experts.

Improved dishwasher standards kick in next year, marking the third time these standards have been raised since 1987.

Set standards to save

Energy efficiency standards cover a wide range of appliances, from refrigerators and air conditioners to microwaves and other electrical equipment. Standards for more than 40 products are being strengthened with the promise to cut \$350 billion from electric bills through 2030. According to the DOE's Building Technologies Program, consumers and businesses already save \$15 billion every year as a result of federal energy efficiency standards; DOE expects these annual savings to double by 2025.

National standards not only

help consumers save on electric bills, but manufacturers benefit by avoiding a patchwork of different state standards. DOE notes its revised energy efficiency standards for dishwashers and clothes washers were developed with help from companies like Whirlpool, General Electric, and LG Electronics, industry advocates, national environmental organizations, and consumer groups.

To find more ways to save energy at home, visit www.togetherwesave.com.