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www.enerstar.com



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

With our many conveniences we have in our lives today, it is hard for many of us to imagine what life was like before electricity. But back in 1938 when our cooperative was founded, 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 their home with a kerosene or Aladdin lamps were very fortunate. Investor-owned utilities would not build electric lines because there was no or very little profit to be made. So local people banded together and did it themselves, the cooperative way.

Our locally-owned, locally-controlled, not-for-profit electric

cooperative will celebrate 75 years in 2013. 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 talk with you or your family member to share your story during our celebration. The cooperative would also appreciate any early photos you may be able to provide. We will make copies and return them to the owner. We appreciate your assistance with this celebration and look forward to another 75 years!!

OFFICE CLOSING

EnerStar office will be closed Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day

New EnerStar website set to debut

More and more EnerStar members are visiting the cooperative's website to manage their electric account. So to improve service to those members, EnerStar's website is getting a much needed makeover. The new site will launch in September.

"The website currently being used is dated both visually and operationally since the software to update it is very cumbersome," said Angela Griffin, Manager of Member Services. "This has been a long time coming and we are very pleased with the final product." The current website has been in use since 2005.

Apogee Interactive, based out of Rockwood, Tennessee, designed the new website under the cooperative's guidance. "Through our wholesale power supplier, Wabash Valley Power, we have had a relationship with Apogee for several years," said Griffin. "Apogee is well known in the cooperative world as designing good, quality websites for electric cooperatives. They are a good fit for us."

From a member standpoint, the new website is easier to navigate and more appealing to the eye. Members can easily access the Account Services to manage their account online. New tools such as the "Home Energy Calculator" lets members enter specific information about their home to help them determine where they are spending their energy dollars.

Griffin likes the fact that the website can be updated with current information whenever necessary. "We can quickly change the What's New section or the Quicklinks to give members up to date information they need," said

Griffin. In the future, a "Storm Central" area will be able to be quickly moved to the main page so members have current information during major outages.

"Our members have several communication platforms to get their cooperative news," concluded Griffin.

"So whether they are using our website, our Facebook page and taking advantage of our PowerText alert, we want to give them what they want, when they want it. In today's world, that may be a moving target but we know one thing for sure, we are moving forward."



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Remember to place safety caps on electrical outlets—they're at eye-level for babies, who don't understand that they're not another toy. — Source: NRECA

Bringing Home (A Safe) Baby

Preparing for a baby—whether you're a new parent or an extended family member—is no small task. Along with a little bundle of joy comes a big responsibility for feeding, cleaning, and providing a secure environment.

Bumps and boo-boos will be part of a child's life. But EnerStar wants to help make the effort to keep a baby safe from critical dangers like electricity.

Splish, splash safely

A baby's first bathtub may be on a countertop or in the kitchen sink. Be mindful of outlets in the area. Be sure they are special ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets that will minimize a shock if exposed to water during splashy bath time adventures. Also, set your water heater to 120 degrees or below to help prevent scalding and save energy.

While you were sleeping

Sleep may be fleeting with a new baby, but there are precautions. Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms outside all bedrooms and near fuel-burning heaters. Follow current guidelines on crib and mattress safety and sleep positions.

Techie Baby

New and improved electronics come out every day to make parenting easier, especially for monitoring a baby in another room. Follow manufacturer-recommended safety measures, keeping cords contained and properly mounting gear. Take care not to overload outlets with new electronics.

Don't Blink

Your baby won't be little for long. Before you know it, he or she will be

mobile and new responsibilities arise. You may think a room looks safe, but peer down to a baby's level to see what else catches your eye. The new perspective may alert you to outlets, cords, and other hazards within a child's reach.

You can't plan for everything, and it may not be possible to test all products and baby items before a baby comes home. Look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) mark on home electronics. UL tests items for product safety to give you a degree of comfort in new purchases.

For more advice, visit www.safety-at-home.com.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories



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.

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\$35

SAVE UP TO
\$150 /YR
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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

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