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Local youth represent EnerStar in Washington



Ali Brandenburg of Paris and Emily Crews of Marshall represented EnerStar Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual “Youth to Washington” Tour, June 14-21. 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 John Shimkus and were among 65 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The

Illinois students joined more than 1,520 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 Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

Pictured from left Ali Brandenburg, Congressman Shimkus and Emily Crews.



Members take advantage of Prepaid Advantage

A little over a year ago, EnerStar Electric Cooperative began offering PrePaid Advantage, a pay as you go electric service. Currently about 100 members are taking advantage of this program and a vast majority are very pleased!

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. 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 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.

Members can choose to receive two types of low-balance notifications to alert them if funds are low in the Prepay account. The first option is an email that is sent when the balance is below \$20. The second option is a text alert where the member can choose the notification amount. Should the PrePay account run out of money and service is disconnected, members can simply make a payment to their PrePay account and push a button on the meter to reactivate the service. 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, especially those with an increased meter deposit, can 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 pre-pay 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**

business day payment delivered within 3 business days

NextDay Payment **\$1.88**

business day payment delivered the next business day



Payments must be processed at Walmart by 7pm 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. All associates 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.

Make a fall energy checklist

The best time to make sure your house is ready for winter is long before the cold weather arrives. Here is a fall energy checklist:

- Call a qualified heating technician to service your furnace or boiler.
- Stick your head into the attic so that you can see above the insulation. If you see a lot of lumber, you don't have enough insulation. What you should see is a continuous sea of insulation with no mountains or valleys—and no joists or lumber peeking out over the top of it.
- Change the filters in your heating system to ensure air can pass through and your heater will work efficiently during the winter.
- Calk and weather strip around windows and doors to keep heated air from leaking out through cracks or gaps.
- Test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms before you use your gas or wood fireplace. Change their batteries.
- If you install only one carbon monoxide detector, put it on the same floor as the bedrooms so it can alert your family to wake up in case levels of the gas reach an unhealthy level. Better: Place a detector on every floor of the house.
- Replace the batteries in your digital or programmable thermostat before heating season begins.
- If you don't have a programmable thermostat, consider having one installed at the time of your heating system inspection. It can help you save energy and money on your heating bill by automatically turning the heat down every day when you leave for work or go to bed.

Georgia Magazine



Now is a great time to sign up for budget billing

Members wanting to eliminate the fluctuations of their monthly electric bills are encouraged to sign up for EnerStar's Budget Billing program. Now is a great time to make the switch. Read on to see just how easy it can be!

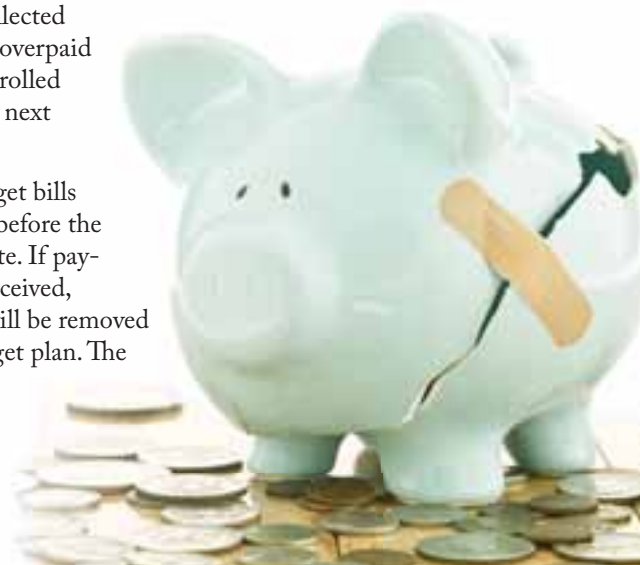
EnerStar members with at least 12 months of consumption history and with account balances paid in full are eligible.

- Monthly budget bills are re-evaluated in April, August and December based on the account's consumption history. If necessary, the monthly amount will be adjusted accordingly.
- There is no "catch up" month. When reevaluating the account, any under-collected amounts and overpaid amounts are "rolled over" into the next 12 months.
- Monthly budget bills must be paid before the disconnect date. If payment is not received, the account will be removed from the budget plan. The

account is not eligible for budget billing until a good credit history is reestablished.

- If an account is removed from budget billing for any reason, any balance on the account is due immediately.
- Budget Billing is automatically renewed, unless terminated by either the member or the cooperative.

Think you might be interested in EnerStar's Budget Billing program? If so contact a Member Accounts Representative during normal business hours of Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm at 1-800-635-4145 or via email at billing@enerstar.com.



Co-op Lighting Lessons

2014 brings brighter efficiency standards and savings

As federal efficiency standards phase out traditional incandescent lightbulbs, electric co-ops are testing which lighting technologies work best for consumers. Co-ops like EnerStar Electric Cooperative have long championed compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), the first cost-effective, energy-saving alternative to traditional bulbs.

"We give away CFLs at our annual meeting and other member events. We see them as a quick, low-cost way our members can start saving on their electric bills," explains EnerStar's Angela Griffin, Manager of Member Services.

By 2014, household lightbulbs using between 40-W to 100-W will need to consume at least 28 percent less energy than traditional incandescents. Because incandescents use 90 percent of their energy producing heat, upgrading could save Americans an over \$6 billion in lighting costs every year.

In 2014, more lighting changes will roll out in coming years. The federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires that lightbulbs become 70 percent more efficient than classic bulbs by 2020 (LEDs already exceed this goal.)

Lighting accounts for roughly 10 percent of an average household's electric bill. Hardware store shelves are filled with lightbulb options. What works best for co-op members?

Electric co-ops teamed up on lightbulb testing with the Cooperative Research Network (CRN), the research and development arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, an Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

"We found most residential consumers still prefer to use CFLs over more expensive, but more energy efficient, LEDs [light-emitting diodes]," remarks Brian Sloboda,

CRN senior program manager specializing in energy efficiency. "The price of LEDs for home use has substantially dropped, so we may begin to see more LEDs as it becomes more economically feasible to buy them."

A helpful addition to lighting products is the Lighting Facts Label. Much like nutrition labels found on the back of food packages, this version shows a bulb's brightness, appearance, life span, and estimated yearly cost. The Lighting Facts Label was created by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to help consumers understand the product and buy the most efficient lightbulb.

Consumers' energy-efficient lighting options include:

- **Halogen incandescents:** Use 25 percent less energy, last three times longer than regular incandescent bulbs
- **CFLs:** Use 75 percent less energy, last up to 10 times longer
- **LEDs:** Use between 75 percent and 80 percent less energy, last up to 25 times longer

Federal lightbulb standards have the potential to save consumers billions of dollars each year. For an average American house with about 40 light fixtures, changing just 15 bulbs can save about \$50 a year per household, according to DOE.

A word of warning when purchasing new types of bulbs: You generally get what you pay for. "Some manufacturers exaggerate claims of energy savings and lifespans, and cheaper models probably won't last as long as higher-quality bulbs," Sloboda cautions. "Look for the ENERGY STAR label which means the bulb exceeds minimum efficiency standards as tested by the federal government."



GE's hybrid halogen lightbulbs combine CFL and halogen technology, creating a product that lasts eight times as long as traditional incandescent lightbulbs. The 60-watt replacement uses only 15 watts, while the 75-watt replacement uses 20 watts. Source: GE

The best way to benefit from this fast-changing technology is to purchase a more energy efficient lightbulb the next time one goes out, Sloboda concludes.

To learn about lighting options, visit energysavers.gov/lighting

Lighting Facts Per Bulb	
Brightness	510 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$7.83
Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh Cost depends on rates and use	
Life	1.8 years
Based on 3 hrs/day	
Light Appearance	
Warm <div style="width: 50%; position: absolute; left: 0;"></div> Cool	
Energy Used	65 watts
Contains Mercury	
For more on clean up and safe disposal, visit epa.gov/cfl .	

The new Lighting Facts Label, created by the U.S. Department of Energy, is similar to nutrition labels on food packaging. It shows a bulb's brightness, appearance, life span, and estimated yearly cost. Source: GE