

# Studying Bats

A trailer equipped with radar is being used to track bats near the wind turbine.

Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative is sponsoring a study of bats near our wind turbine in Pike County. The Illinois Natural History Survey is conducting the study to collect scientific data.

Wildlife Ecologist Dr. Ron Larkin along with two graduate research students from the University of Illinois in Champaign spent three weeks at the wind turbine in September. Our Electrical Engineer in training Justin Gumbel also helped with the study.



## Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative

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Dr. Ron Larkin studies data collected while tracking at the wind turbine.

Dr. Larkin and his assistants were present at the turbine from dusk until dawn, when bats are most active. Radar is used to see movement in the air. The radar then locks on and tracks the movement. Night vision goggles were also used to see if bats were nesting in nearby trees.

The data collected from the study will be used to develop a plan with Illinois Department of Natural Resources to operate the wind turbine in a way that will continue to benefit the membership.



From Left, Electric Engineer in training Justin Gumbel, Electrical Engineer Sean Middleton, and Wildlife Ecologist Dr. Ron Larkin from the University of Illinois in Champaign.



# Fall into Energy Savings

Fall is here and with it comes cooler temperatures. Here are a few tips to save energy while staying warm:

- Set your thermostat no higher than 68 degrees and be sure to lower the temperature when you go to bed or are not at home. This saves money and keeps you warm.
- During the day, open shades and curtains to allow solar heating. Close them at night to retain the day's heat.
- Check your home's weather stripping for air leaks around doors, windows, baseboards, and wherever pipes, wires, and vents enter the house. Make sure the warm air you paid for won't escape.
- Check your heating system and replace furnace filters at least once every three months. Clean filters once a month during the heating season to keep the system at peak performance.

- Don't block your radiators or heating vents with furniture or draperies. Keep your radiators, registers and baseboard heaters dirt and dust free. Close vents and doors in unused rooms.

Want more home energy efficiency tips? See how little changes can add up to big savings at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).

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Tara Moore's kindergarten class using one of the new projectors at Winchester Elementary School.

## Members' Fund

Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative Members' Fund recently gave \$500 to Winchester Elementary School. The money was put towards the purchase of seven projectors and seven portable projector carts.

Members' Fund has given over \$400,000 to various organizations and charities within the service territory since 2000. If you would like to learn more about Members' Fund, visit our website at [e-co-op.com](http://e-co-op.com).

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