

Jo-Carroll Energy • Elizabeth, Illinois • 800-858-5522 • www.jocarroll.com

# JO-CARROLL

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  **HI-LINES**



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

### We're looking out for you

**W**e rely on electricity for a lot these days. It's a powerful force, making so many things possible. You've heard it before — from your morning coffee to the news you watch at night, you depend on electricity. But what if it wasn't there when you turned on the switch? What if it wasn't there when you needed it?

At Jo-Carroll Energy it's our job to make sure you have the energy you need when you need it. Now, some experts tell us we're approaching a crunch time on our ability to keep the lights on — America needs to build new power plants.

Our nation needs to build new power plants before the need for electricity outstrips current generation resources. Tighter government regulations — and the high cost to comply with new rules — may signal lights-out for many of the nation's older coal-fired power plants at a time when forecasters predict energy demand will eventually outpace supply.

We've encouraged you to be energy efficient both for your sake to lower energy bills and to help mitigate the need to build new generation sources. You've certainly done your part; between 1980 and 2006, the average amount of energy each American used dropped 2.5 percent. But with an ever-expanding population, these measures are not enough to completely offset escalating energy demand.

The recent economic turmoil, terrible as it was, also provided some much-needed breathing room for our growing energy needs. But as the economy rebounds, so will our nation's hunger for electricity. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) predicts when the final 2010 numbers are tallied, energy use will shoot up 5 percent from 2009 levels.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's bulk power grid watchdog, estimates we need to build 135,000 MW of new generation by 2017

to meet demand. Generation facilities on the drawing board, though, will only deliver 77,000 MW — leaving a generation gap.

Traditional power plants (coal, natural gas, nuclear) take between three years and a decade to build. Renewable energy resources, notably wind farms, can be constructed more quickly, but they're not perfect options. It may sound cliché to say the wind doesn't always blow, but it's true—and you wouldn't be satisfied with only having power 40 percent of the time.

Compounding this issue, some of our current power plants may soon be shut down by federal regulations. One NERC-commissioned report claims new government rules could force utilities to retire or retrofit 33,000 MW to 70,000 MW of generating capacity by 2015. Meanwhile, every year we delay building new plants drives up construction costs. If we wait too long, we could see power shortages by the end of this decade.

As a distribution cooperative Jo-Carroll Energy works with wholesale power suppliers like Dairyland Power Cooperative and Interstate Power and Light to find the best fuel mix solution for your future. And, we continue to work on the development of a biomass plant, although a smaller version than initially considered.

We appreciate your support as we make these critical choices. Balancing your energy needs with reliability and affordability is one more way we're looking out for you.

### Reader Prize

**E**ach month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 readership prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any article, contact Jo-Carroll Energy and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication.

### Office hours

**Elizabeth Office**  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Savanna Office**  
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Both Offices**  
Monday - Friday  
800-858-5522

**For all outages and emergencies call**  
800-927-5254

**Jo-Carroll Energy**  
will be closed on  
Good Friday,  
April 22nd.

# Resume of Minutes

## Regular Board Meeting • January 26, 2011

The board met at the Cooperative headquarters in Elizabeth, Illinois on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda was approved as modified and the Consent Agenda was approved. No member presentation was made at the meeting.

**Chairman's Report** – Chairman Mattingly commented on federal regulatory activities, the lack of a National Energy Policy and NRECA plans to recommend alternative approaches to creating logical certainty in the federal regulation of utilities.

**Dairyland Report** – Director Stadel reported on the Dairyland Power budget process and the numerous difficulties created by the federal regulatory process.

**AIEC Report** – Director Senn discussed the AIEC budget for 2011, upcoming retirements at AIEC and the current fiscal stability of the NRECA. He also discussed the results of an AIEC Strategic Planning Session.

**Strategic Activity** – Director Werner reviewed Policy 141, **Use of Cell Phones**. A motion passed approving the policy “as is.” The Board approved purchase of Dell Duo computers for paperless board meetings.

**CEO's Report--The CEO reported on the following:**

- a. **Financial Operating Report** – The CEO reported that the Cooperative had an unaudited margin of \$393,730.00 for November and (\$151,571.00) for December, 2010. A motion was passed approving the monthly Financial Operating Report.
- b. **Power Supply Report** – The CEO reported favorable results for the Cooperative from billing adjustments from IPL and that there will be a 4.5% rate increase from Dairyland for 2011.
- c. **Industrial Member Update** – The CEO reported that there will be a meeting with representatives of an industrial member regarding cost of electricity and other matters.
- d. **Biomass Plant Update** – The CEO advised that the Cooperative is finalizing its review of options related to the construction of the

biomass power plant to best serve the Cooperative.

- e. **Farmers Mutual Meeting Report** – The CEO stated that real progress has been made moving toward finalizing cooperative arrangements with Farmers Mutual.
- f. **Report of CEO Conference** – The CEO advised the Board of his attendance at the NRECA CEO Conference. The NRECA efforts regarding a National Energy Policy were discussed.
- g. **Iowa Cooperative Discussion** – The CEO reviewed continuing discussions with Iowa Co-ops.
- h. **CFO Report** – Tracy Heidenreich, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, introduced the new Staff Accountant, Brynn Groezinger, and reported on the upcoming audit. She discussed other upgrades her office is working on and endorsed the bylaw amendment the board will consider.
- i. **CAO Report** – Russ Simpson, Senior Vice-President and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), introduced the new Manager of Member Services, Jennifer Skien, and reported on the Cooperative's efforts in support of TCEDA and the Campbell Center. He also discussed efforts in Elizabeth regarding the grocery store and meeting with foresters regarding the power plant.
- j. **COO Report** – Kyle Buros, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO), reviewed a recent theft at the Cooperative, increased security measures and work with Dairyland and Alliant to make transmission more efficient. He also discussed the Cooperative's various business units.
- k. **External Affairs Update** – The General Counsel discussed his attendance at the inauguration of State of Illinois officials in Springfield and discussions with them on issues of interest to the Cooperative. He also mentioned that Illinois will be losing one congressional seat next year.

### Board Issues

- a. **Ratification of Bennett & Middendorf as Auditors for 2011** –

The board approved auditors for 2011.

- b. **Approval of Work Orders and Special Equipment** – A motion was passed to approve the annual list of Work Orders and Special Equipment.
- c. **Approval of Rate Tariff Sheets** – A motion was passed to approve rate tariff sheets consistent with rates approved at the last board meeting.
- d. **Approval of Nominees for the Election Committee** – A motion was passed approving the nominees for the Election Committee for the 2011 Annual Meeting.
- e. **NRECA Course 901.1** – All Directors will be attending this course on March 16, 2011.
- f. **NRECA Course 999.1** – All Directors except Janssen will attend this course in April.
- g. **CFC Voting Delegate/Alternate** – Director Holesinger was appointed delegate and Director Stanger was appointed alternate.
- h. **NRTC Voting Delegate/Alternate** – Director Werner was appointed delegate and Director Lundy was appointed alternate.
- i. **NRECA Annual Meeting Delegate/Alternate** – Director Senn was appointed delegate and Director Stadel was appointed alternate.
- j. **Conflict of Interest Forms-Policy 103** – All directors returned their Conflict of Interest forms.
- k. **Jo-Carroll Energy 2011 Annual Meeting Theme and Annual Report Cover** – Approved.
- l. **Dairyland Tour** – February 8, 2011 – Participants in the tour were identified.
- m. **Dairyland's District Meeting** – February 24, 2011, Decorah Iowa- Participants were identified.
- n. **Consideration of Bylaw Amendment regarding Capital Credits and Delinquent Accounts** – A motion was passed to recommend the bylaw change to the members at the annual meeting.

**Reports** – The Board received various reports on board activities since the last meeting.

**Adjournment** – The Board Meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

# Looking Out for You

Plan to attend Jo-Carroll Energy's annual meeting of members on Saturday, April 9 and learn more about how we're "Looking Out for You."

## Appreciation breakfast

The morning starts with an Appreciation Breakfast with serving from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Elizabeth Community Building. Registration for the annual meeting and the opportunity to meet your directors is from 8-10:30 a.m., with the Business Session at 10:30 a.m.

The agenda for the meeting includes:

- Report of the director elections
- Consideration of proposed bylaw amendments

- Chairman presentation
- President and CEO presentation
- Questions and Answers

Complete details on the program and written reports appear in the 2011 Annual Meeting book and official notice of the meeting that you should have already received.

## Remember to vote

Membership in a co-op has its privileges — attending the annual meeting and voting in board elections are just some of them.

Members in Districts 3, 6 and 9 should have received voting ballots for directors. Please vote and return your ballot to the cooperative in the

return envelope provided. Ballots must be received by 4 p.m. Friday, April 8.

## Information displays

Make sure you take some time to visit the displays on the programs and services offered by your cooperative.

We'll have information available about the Co-op Connections card, energy efficiency, safety, FirstCall and more. Talk with our technicians and staff members about Sand Prairie Wireless Internet service. If you're not already a subscriber, sign up for a free, no-obligation site survey.

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting!

## Looking Out for You

### Candidates

The election for directors from Districts 3, 6 and 9 will be conducted through the mail. Only members who reside in the districts in which elections are being held this year will receive ballots. Members in those districts should carefully review the material and promptly return their completed ballots to Jo-Carroll Energy by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 8, 2011. Ballots will be counted by the Credentials and Election Committee.

*Continued on p16d*

### DISTRICT 3

**Marcia M. Stanger**  
13A17 Rawhide Ct.  
Apple River, IL 61001



Marcy Stanger and her husband, Bob, have been members of Jo-Carroll Energy Cooperative since moving to the area from

McHenry County in 1995.

First elected as a director in 2005, Marcy is the board secretary and serves on at least two Jo-Carroll Energy committees. Throughout the year, she attends regularly scheduled National Regional Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) regional and national meetings, which assist in keeping her current on local, regional and national issues. Further, she has completed her Credentialed Cooperative and Board Leadership certifications and continues to attend several

classes each year to understand the electric industry and current trends. She has most recently completed the Jo Daviess County Leadership Forum program, designed to teach better leadership skills.

While attending several meetings of community organizations in District 3, her hope is to keep the members of her district up-to-date on issues and plans to do more communication work in the future. She would welcome meeting more of the Jo-Carroll Energy members.

The Stangers have four children; 12 grandchildren; she was a retail property manager for 12 years. They currently are members of Holy Trinity Church in Scales Mound. Marcy has been active for many years in supporting local activities. She was a village board trustee while living in Fox River Grove and held a seat on zoning, finance, and other committees. Hoping to contribute to the community in which she now lives, Marcy was a Board Director at Apple Canyon Lake and continues to be member of several committees.

# Energy for Wildlife, vegetation management priorities at your co-op

One of Jo-Carroll Energy's core values is to be a good steward of the environment. Last year, the cooperative became a partner in the National Wild Turkey Federation's (NWTf) Energy for Wildlife conservation program.

Energy for Wildlife is a membership-based certification program for all energy companies with the primary goal of enhancing wildlife habitat on company managed, owned or influenced lands, including power line and natural gas rights-of-way, plant sites, forestlands or other properties.

Jo-Carroll Energy and the NWTf are working together to create a vegetation management plan to keep vegetation from

becoming overgrown and contributing to temporary power outages, while maintaining and improving wildlife habitat within Jo-Carroll Energy's power line corridors.

"We're committed to ensuring you have reliable and efficient service," said Jesse Shekleton, manager of electric operations. "One way we do this is by maintaining the vegetation growth in and around rights-of-way. And because we want to be excellent environmental stewards, we're helping provide a natural habitat for wildlife."

Energy for Wildlife's members manage more than 3 million acres of wildlife habitat, providing beneficial habitat for many plant and wildlife species including wild turkeys.

Jo-Carroll Energy practices integrated vegetation management (IVM) on its rights-of-way, which creates high-quality wildlife habitat and helps keep prices down.

"The program has helped us set goals and objectives to build the most optimal right-of-way maintenance plan, and has connected us to multiple environmental agencies and outreach programs," Shekleton noted.

"With an established plan, we can help landowners enhance wildlife habitat on our rights-of-way and adjacent properties, partner on wildlife habitat projects on state and federal lands and inspire community involvement in habitat restoration projects through our plan partners," he added.

## Candidates - Continued from p16c

### DISTRICT 6

**Thomas Lundy**  
17861 Airport Road  
Savanna, IL 61074



Tom Lundy has served on the Jo-Carroll Energy board for 21 years. Tom was elected to the Jo-

Carroll Energy Board March 10, 1990. He resides in rural Savanna, and is a family man and a farmer.

Tom graduated from Savanna High School in 1955. After high school, he attended Cornell College located in Mount Vernon, IA, where he received a degree in chemistry. Following college graduation, Tom served in the Marine Corps and was stationed just 36 miles from Washington,

D.C., at Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia.

Tom and his wife, Priscilla, operate a grain and beef cattle farm in rural Savanna. They are the parents of four grown children and have 10 grandchildren.

Tom enjoys fishing and he has a small pond on the farm. But his real passion is the farm, which keeps both he and Priscilla busy and active.

### DISTRICT 9

**Larry Carroll**  
1104 Locust St.  
Thomson, IL 61285



Larry Carroll is seeking his first term on the Jo-Carroll Energy board as the representative from District 9. He has been a member of Jo-Carroll Energy for four years.

A graduate of Thomson High School and Morrison School of Drafting and Design, Larry has also completed numerous law enforcement courses and Illinois Certification for Fire Protection District Trustees.

Now retired, he worked for Interstate Power/Alliant Energy for 36 years as well as the Thomson Police Department, serving 28 years as Chief of Police.

While with Interstate Power he was a member of the Work Safety Council. He also served on the Alliant Energy foreman selection committee. He is currently a trustee for the Thomson Fire Protection District and secretary of the York Community Church board.

Larry and his wife, Carolyn, are the parents of sons Brennan, Bradley, Jamie, Wesley and Rush. He enjoys detailing vehicles, fishing, yard work and "lighousing" around the Great Lakes and spending time with his family.

# Vegetation management plan

At Jo-Carroll Energy, we're committed to providing you with reliable power. There are some things we can't prevent: high winds, ice and snow, thunderstorms and tornadoes, but we do what we can to prevent other outage culprits.

Weather-related events cause the majority of power outages for Jo-Carroll Energy, but vegetation like trees, shrubs and brush growing too close to power lines and distribution equipment leads to power interruptions, too.

When trees and vegetation grow into right-of-way, they can cause power outages and blinks, become a safety hazard and cause major delays to outage restoration and line maintenance procedures.

Jo-Carroll Energy, and its contractor Elite Tree, maintain a right-of-way maintenance schedule by substation. On the rotation for this year for integrated vegetation management procedures are the following substations: Elizabeth/Myrtle (greater Elizabeth area), Longhollow (eastern

Galena Territory area), Depot (former Savanna Army Depot area), Whitton (western rural Hanover area) and Palisades (rural areas extending from south of Elizabeth to north of Mt. Carroll), Pilot Knob (rural area south of Galena, Galena (Galena proper and rural areas north to Menominee), Commerce (eastern Galena proper), Clay (Mt. Carroll proper and rural areas) and Argo Fay (Argo Fay and Chadwick proper and rural areas).

## Right tree, right place

You can help by making sure you select the right trees and shrubs. Properly placing trees can lower line clearance costs and reduce tree mortality.

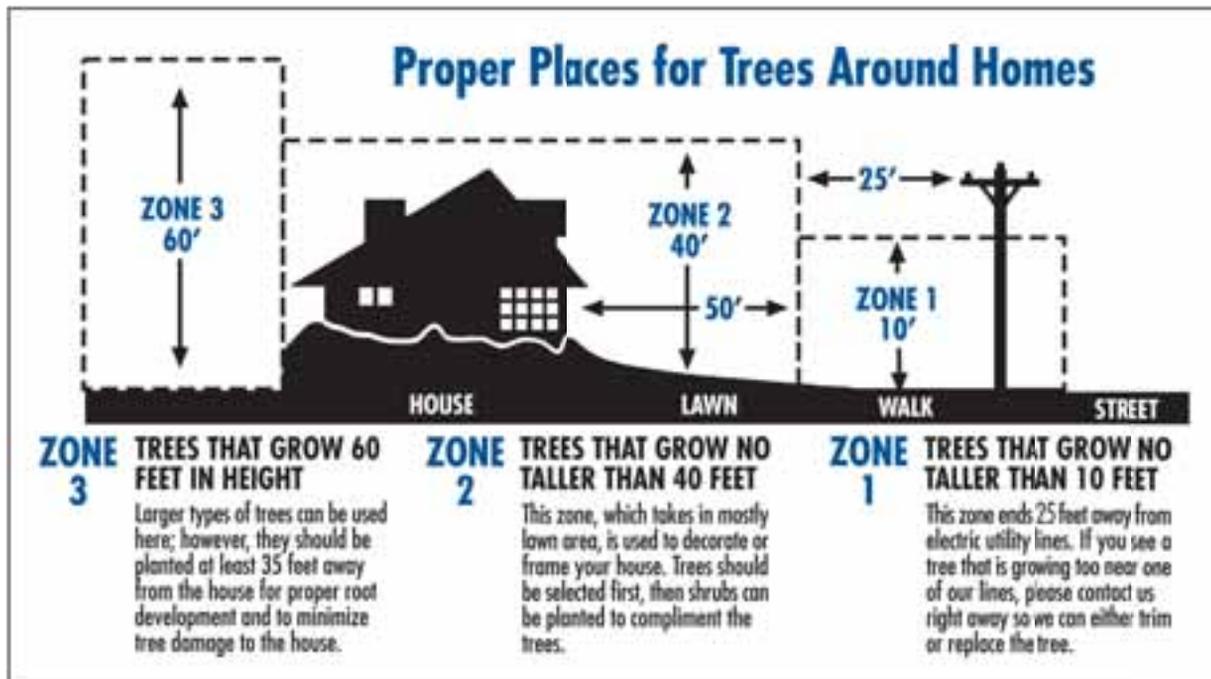
Tall trees surrounding your home, such as maple, oak, pine and spruce, provide summer shade to lower cooling costs and keep out winter winds, but make sure they are not planted near utility lines.

Remember these safe planting tips:

- Consider **mature** height of trees.

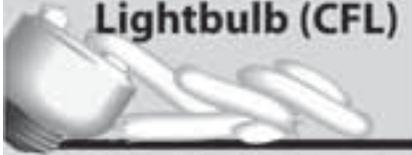
Never plant a tree that could grow within 25 feet or more near a power line. Tall growing trees should be planted so that at **mature** size they are a minimum of 25 feet away from power lines and 50 feet away to avoid future pruning.

- A **mature** height of less than 10 feet is recommended for trees planted near power lines.
- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires and cause increased delays and costs with maintenance procedures.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electric equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.
- Before digging, call the local underground utility locator service (call 811) to mark location of underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided.



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## How to Clean Up a Broken Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL)



A CFL's glass tubing contains about 4 milligrams of mercury. While this isn't much (classic thermometers contained 500 milligrams) consumers should still take precautions if a CFL breaks.

- 1 Ventilate the room, then wait 5 to 10 minutes.



- 2 Scoop up powder and glass fragments using stiff paper or cardboard. Seal in a plastic bag.



- 3 Use duct tape to pick up any fragments or powder.

- 4 Immediately place all materials used to clean up and the plastic bag in an outdoor trash container. Remember to wash your hands.



- 5 Not all recycling centers accept broken CFLs. Check with your local and/or state waste authority for disposal requirements, or visit [Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com).

To learn more visit [epa.gov/cflcleanup](http://epa.gov/cflcleanup).



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency

# Jo-Carroll Energy helps you recycle CFLs

Energy-savvy consumers know that equipping five of a home's most frequently used light fixtures with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) can save a family \$70 a year in lighting costs.

Even though the bulbs have a longer life than regular incandescent bulbs, they do burn out. How do you properly dispose of those bulbs.

Jo-Carroll Energy offers a recycling program for disposing of CFLs. This free service allows drop off of used, unbroken bulbs at the cooperative's offices in Elizabeth and Savanna as well as other locations in our service area.

### Jo Daviess County

- Jo-Carroll Energy Headquarters, Elizabeth

- East Dubuque Library, East Dubuque
- Galena Territory Association, Galena

### Carroll County

- Jo-Carroll Energy, Savanna
- True Value Home and Building Center, Savanna
- Mt. Carroll City Hall, Mt. Carroll
- University of Illinois Extension, Mt. Carroll

### Whiteside County

- Brinkman Building Center, Fulton
- Albany Village Hall, Albany

Please visit our website at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com) for complete addresses and hours.

## Call before you dig!

Jo-Carroll Energy provides natural gas to more than 5,000 members through a network of underground distribution lines. Main gas lines branch into household service lines. The main lines are typically two-inches in diameter and are located roughly two-feet below the surface, while service lines are typically half-inch to three-quarter-inch in diameter and buried 12 to 18 inches below the surface.

That's why it's important to "Call Before You Dig" (811) or move earth in any way. Whether you're installing an underground dog fence, running water to an outbuilding, planting a tree or setting a post for a new mailbox, underground

pipework and other utilities can be damaged.

When you call JULIE (811) they will locate all buried utility lines on your property, so you can safely dig and prevent a potentially hazardous condition.

Calling before you dig can prevent a costly or even deadly mistake.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

## Co-op Connections featured business

# Country Inn & Suites by Carlson

**L**ynette Montes, general manager of Galena's Country Inn & Suites by Carlson, may not greet you at the door, but you can be sure she is working behind the scenes to bring you a comfortable and relaxing stay in Galena.

Born and raised in Wisconsin, Montes received her associate's degree in hospitality and tourism management at Fox Valley Technical College. Dedicated to serving her guests, hospitality is her passion and Montes had made this hotel more than just a job.

Since she has led the 30 employees in Galena, the hotel has received several highly notable awards. In 2006, 2007 and 2008 Country Inn & Suites was awarded the "Friends Hosting Friends" award and the Presidents' Award from Carlson Hotels Worldwide for excellence in property quality. It has also received the "Friends Hosting Friends" award four years in-a-row from 2006-2009, 2009 being the Presidents' Gold.

These awards are impressive but what may mean more to you is the heart of the hotel and the service you receive if you stay at Country Inn & Suites. The indoor pool, whirlpool, kiddie pool and 72-foot waterslide attract many families as does the complimentary breakfast and free cookies. The fitness center,



media room and free high-speed Internet will keep you active or relaxed, whichever you prefer. Maybe you don't need to stay in Galena but need a space to conduct business or leisure. The meeting space and catering service available through the Country Inn & Suites is available for rent.

"Renovations to the 75 guest and themed rooms were made in April of 2010 and in August of 2010 we added a rotating menu offering hot breakfast options. Additional renovations are predicted in the future," stated Montes. The hotel is always improving and looking for ways to improve the customers' experience every time they stay, she added.

Most of the guests at the Country Inn & Suites travel from outside of northwest Illinois but this is a great venue for local families to

spend a vacation in their own backyard. Depending on the purpose of your trip to Galena, your stay at the Country Inn & Suites can be packaged with several different Galena attractions. Family fun, golf, alpine slide, trolley, or romance packages are just a few examples. Whatever your reason for staying at the Country Inn & Suites, it is sure to be a rewarding experience.

*All Jo-Carroll Energy Members receive 10% off any guest room or meeting room rental through the Co-op Connections Card. Not to be used with any other discount and some restrictions apply. Call for availability at 800-456-4000 or 815-777-2400. Country Inn & Suites by Carlson is located at 11334 Oldenburg Lane. Visit [www.countryinns.com/galenail](http://www.countryinns.com/galenail) for more information.*

## Earth Day, every day

**J**o-Carroll Energy has the responsibility to provide you with the power you need, and we also have a responsibility to the environment. We can celebrate not just on Earth Day but every day by using energy wisely.

We have lots of ideas to help you save energy:

- Jo-Carroll Energy Questline combines a monthly e-communication, filled with timely and relevant ways to lower your energy use, address safety issues

and more, with an eLibrary, Quick Tips and home energy and carbon footprint calculators to help you better manage your energy use and costs.

- At TogetherWeSave.com you can take a Virtual Home Tour to complete energy-saving actions and watch potential savings add up, find advice in the Energy Saving Forum or watch a video and learn.
- You can support renewable energy without owning your

own wind turbine through the voluntary Evergreen program, started by one of our power suppliers, Dairyland Power Cooperative, in 1998. Those who participate pay a small charge in addition to their normal bill each month.

Log on to our website at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com) for even more ideas or give us a call and ask our energy advisor about energy--and money--saving tips. You'll make Mother Earth proud.

# Share your images in contest

Jo-Carroll Energy is planning a 2012 commemorative calendar that captures the spirit of our community in celebration of the "International Year of Cooperatives". You can join us by sending in photos for our Seasons of the Cooperative Photo Contest.

Share your photos that evoke the heart of the cooperative lifestyle. Share with us and your fellow co-op members the quiet scenes and breathtaking vistas that define our cooperative world, as seen through your eyes. Whether it's a scenic

landscape, a snapshot of everyday life or an action photo, we invite you to share your images.

Winning entries will be featured in the 2012 calendar. Cooperative members, directors, employees and their family members 18 years old and older are eligible to enter. Photos may be any appropriate subject or scene, but must be taken in the Jo-Carroll Energy service area.

An entry form and more information can be found on our website at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com). Deadline for entries is June 30, 2011.



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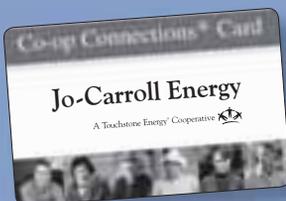
Living alone can be an uneasy situation, especially for an elderly loved one with medical difficulties. FirstCall® medical monitoring service is a simple, cost-effective solution that allows a loved one the satisfaction of independent living with the peace-of-mind that comes in knowing there's always someone to help.

Contact our Member Services Department for more information.



# Jo-Carroll Energy

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**Look for Co-op Connections businesses at our Annual Meeting!**

### Clarification

An article in last month's *Hi-Lines* regarding outside lighting options was missing a note on one of the options. The lamp rating 175 Watts Mercury Vapor should have included the note, "No new installations."