



[www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com)

# The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455

GUESS WHICH  
HOUSE HAS BETTER  
INSULATION  
IN THE ATTIC.

Effective insulation keeps heat from getting to your roof. Find out what you can do at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



[TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)

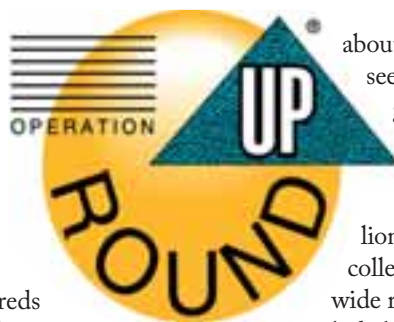
## The power of Operation Roundup

It started as a simple idea 27 years ago at one co-op in South Carolina. Just round up the co-op member's electric bill to the next dollar, and then use it to do good work in your community. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country, including McDonough Power, use this idea to help members and organizations close to home.

All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including "Concern for Community." The Operation Roundup program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. The average co-op member donates \$6 with a maximum possible contribution of \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with 5,000 participants in the Round Up program, it adds up to make a significant impact.

Each co-op decides how they want to operate the program, and the vast majority is governed by a board of volunteers that is different from the board of directors for the electric co-op. This ensures that the decisions are made in the best interest of the community.

The program is always voluntary, and at any time, members can change their minds



about participating. Once folks see the good work the program does in their community, they almost always keep contributing.

Over the years, millions of dollars have been collected and distributed for a wide range of activities. This can include helping a family in need after a house fire. Assisting the local food pantry. Providing funds so that the local fire department can get a needed piece of equipment. Or dozens of other humanitarian efforts that bring electric co-ops even closer to the communities we serve.

While each co-op must respond to the needs of its members, one of the great attributes of co-ops across the country – and the world – is their willingness to share information about the programs that have been successful. Operation Roundup is a perfect example of that cooperative spirit. McDonough Power Cooperative is pleased to offer Operation Roundup, which launched November 2015. To request funding, visit [mcdonoughpower.com](http://mcdonoughpower.com) for more details. **9117B2-458C**

We will continue to "borrow" ideas from other co-ops and welcome your participation. Please share with us additional activities we should explore to serve you and your neighbors.



1210 West Jackson Street  
 P.O. Box 352  
 Macomb, Illinois  
 61455-0352

309-833-2101

[www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com)

Office hours:  
 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays



### DIRECTORS

- Steve Lynn, Chairman
- Jeffrey Moore, Vice Chairman
- Steve Youngquist, Secretary
- David Lueck, Treasurer
- Jerry Riggins
- Mike Cox
- Robert J. Dwyer
- Steve Hall
- Walter Lewis
- John D. McMillan, Attorney

**All Co-op Electric  
 Outages 837-1400**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
 The power of human connections



## McDonough Power is looking for the next generation of leaders

What do 1,500 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course!

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind – to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative. And McDonough Power alone has sent more than a hundred students over the past fifty-plus years.

It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C. for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

In January and February, McDonough Power will begin seeking out local students to attend Youth Tour 2016. If you are a high school sophomore or junior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience the trip of a lifetime, please contact your guidance counselor for

more information.

Perhaps you know of an exceptional student who would be a great candidate for the program. If you do, please share this article with them. Each year McDonough Power Cooperative and McDonough Telephone Cooperative team up to take approximately 30 area students to Springfield for Youth Day. During Youth Day, students tour the Illinois Capitol, meet with state representatives, visit the Abraham Lincoln Museum and meet students from across Illinois. At the end of Youth Day, finalists are selected to participate in brief interviews. Immediately following the interviews, Youth to Washington winners are announced.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community. **531SHA20-900A**

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour experience with a promising student. For more information about McDonough Power's Youth Tour program, call 309.833.2101 or visit [mcdonoughpower.com](http://mcdonoughpower.com).

# Be prepared for winter storms

By Abby Berry

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Winter storm severity varies depending on where you live, but nearly all Americans are affected by extreme winter storms at some point. McDonough Power cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared.

Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. During extremely low temperatures, this can be dangerous. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself. **7220A2-112A**

■ **Stay warm** – Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

■ **Stay fed** – The CDC recommends having several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked handy. Crackers, cereal, canned goods

and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

■ **Stay safe** – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to our dispatchers by calling (309) 837-1400 if possible.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. McDonough Power is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too. For more winter safety tips, visit [www.ready.gov/winter-weather](http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather).



*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

If you only want to heat or supplement inadequate heating in one room, small space heaters can be less expensive to use than your central heating system.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

SOMETIMES KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES IS ABOUT KEEPING YOUR ELECTRIC BILLS DOWN.

When you save energy, it helps our entire co-op lower its costs. Find out what you can do at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



[TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)

Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.



# McDonough Power Cooperative Cares - **Coats for Kids**

**M**cDonough Power Cooperative zipped up another successful Coats for Kids program in 2015. In November, just before Thanksgiving, cooperative employees and directors delivered 215 brand new coats to area

schools with children in need. Since 2009 the cooperative has been working with schools in the co-op's service territory to locate children in need of a brand new, warm winter coat. The program is funded by sales of salvaged scrap

metal items as well as a \$5,000 matching grant provided through the Sharing Success program of CoBank, one of the co-op's lenders. 541C3C-270C

