

Youth to Washington

*Pictured L-R; Philip Barnett,
Congressman Bobby Schilling
and Halee Sikorski.*



Halee Sikorski of Monmouth and Philip Barnett of Good Hope met with Congressman Bobby Schilling as they represented McDonough Power Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 10-17. 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.

Sikorski and Barnett were among 76 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for

the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,500 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 Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the National Archives, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites. 635D5-600B

**Our office will be closed Monday,
September 5 for Labor Day.**



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Reinventing the incandescent lightbulb

By Magen Howard

For the first time in more than 100 years, the basic incandescent lightbulb is getting a facelift. To accommodate new energy efficiency standards set by Congress (which require lightbulbs to be more efficient starting in 2012), a new generation of incandescent lightbulbs has entered the marketplace. These products boast energy savings of 25 percent and a lifespan up to three times longer than their soon-to-be extinct predecessors.

"Up to 12 percent of a typical monthly electric bill pays for lighting, so removing energy-wasting bulbs from the market will have a big impact on America's energy use," explains Erik Sorenson, a project manager with the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), which represents companies that make products used in the generation, transmission, distribution, control, and end use of electricity.

Retooled incandescent bulbs contain a small capsule of halogen gas that surrounds the filament, which increases efficiency and improves longevity, while retaining the shape, color choices, and dimming capabilities that consumers have favored in incandescent bulbs.

Under the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, lightbulbs must be 28 percent more efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs (which use 90 of their energy producing heat) starting in 2012, and by 2020, they must be 70 percent more efficient. NEMA estimates the new standards could save Americans up to \$15.8 billion per year.

Other options

The new generation incandescent bulbs will join compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) as energy-efficient lighting options. CFLs and LEDs both are about 75 percent more efficient than traditional incandescents. CFLs last about 10 times longer; LEDs about 25 times longer. But CFLs are the more economical choice at the moment. The cost of LEDs is expected to come down as the technology advances.

"With lighting legislation mandating more efficient technologies and consumers looking for every opportunity to save, navigating lighting solutions has never been so important," emphasizes David Schuellerman, GE Lighting's public relations manager. 525HH130-951B

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy (EnergySavers.gov),
National Electrical Manufacturers Association, GE

If We Don't Ask, We Don't Know Surveys mailed to members in August

What do you or don't you like about your cooperative? If we don't ask, we don't know. This year McDonough Power elected to participate in a member survey conducted biennially by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The anonymous survey questionnaire was mailed out in August to a random sample of our co-op membership. The survey includes questions regarding member demographics, quality of service, need for additional services and how members view energy efficiency and balancing being "green" with its associated costs. If you received a questionnaire and complete it you'll be eligible to win one of five \$100 electric bill credits.

The surveys also include

specific questions from which American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) scores are calculated for individual cooperatives, as well as a composite score for all Illinois electric cooperatives. The ACSI is an economic indicator that measures the satisfaction of consumers across the U.S. for 200 companies in 43 industries and 10 economic sectors. It is produced by the American Customer Satisfaction Index, LLC, a private company based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. 6224C2A-116B

If you received a survey questionnaire please complete and return it as soon as possible, if you haven't already. Your input determines how we'll approach serving you in many capacities now and in the future.



Staying safe after the storm

Tornadoes can happen any time of the year, dramatically illustrated by the deadly 2010 New Year's Eve tornadoes that ripped through several states. Everyone must be cautious of potential hazards they could encounter during storm clean up and recovery.

When you see power lines on the ground following a storm, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines sagging or down could be in contact with an energized power line making them also very dangerous, so stay away from all of them.

Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Keep in mind a downed power line that's energized can cause other things around it to become potentially hazardous, traveling through the ground to other metal objects like chain link fences or metal culverts.

Keep in mind that a line that's indeed "dead" could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators. **915A4-450C**

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or the electric utility. Never drive over a downed line; it could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down.



If you are in a car, which has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle and wait until the utility has arrived and de-energized the line. Warn others not to approach the car. If you must leave your car - only in the case of fire - jump free without touching the ground and auto at the same time, keeping both feet together and hop to safety.

A live wire touching the ground causes electricity to fan out in a pool and the action of walking or running allows one foot to move from one voltage zone to another. Your body then becomes the path for the electricity and electrocution

is the tragic result.

If after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside! If you use a portable generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what is known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.



Tip of the Month

Is your washing machine more than 10 years old? According to the U.S. Department of Energy, families can cut related energy costs by more than a third—and water costs by more than half—by purchasing a clothes washer with an ENERGY STAR label. Choose a front-load or redesigned top-load model.



Save Time and Money with Automatic Draft

Our Automatic Payment Plan allows you to have your electric bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 15th of each month. It's always on time and you don't need checks, envelopes or stamps! We will deduct the net amount shown on your bill, and proof of payment will appear on your next billing statement.

Mail with a voided check to:

McDonough Power Cooperative
P.O. Box 352
Macomb, IL 61455.

Name:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Phone #:
Bank Name:
Bank Account #

Checking account Savings account


I hereby authorize McDonough Power Cooperative to initiate debit entries to such account by funds transfer for payment of my monthly utility bill. This authority is to remain in full effect until I notify McDonough Power Cooperative that I wish to end this agreement and McDonough Power has had reasonable time to act on it. I further understand that in the event my account has insufficient funds to cover the monthly payment amount drafted, or my monthly draft rejects due to account closed status, bank ownership changes, account changes, or for any other reason, my electric account will incur a "return check fee" up to the highest amount allowed by law in the State of Illinois. I attest I am an authorized owner of the Depository Account listed above, and am exercising my powers as such.

Member Signature _____

Date _____

MAP LOCATION GAME


Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find your map location number, 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.




What Are My Lighting Options?

Starting in 2012, lightbulbs must be more energy efficient.


The three most common bulb options consumers will find on store shelves are:



Halogen incandescents
Energy Savings:* 25 percent
Lifespan:* Three times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$3.50



Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)
Energy Savings:* 75 percent
Lifespan:* 10 times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$1.20



Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)
Energy Savings:* 75-80 percent
Lifespan:* 25 times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$1

* As compared to traditional incandescent bulbs

Learn more at energysavers.gov/lighting