



www.mcdonoughpower.com

The Wire

32

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



Co-ops have adopted a set of values that helps put the Seven Cooperative Principles into practice.

1. SELF-HELP

CO-OPS TAKE ACTION AND GET THE JOB DONE.

2. SELF-RESPONSIBILITY

CO-OPS ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO MEMBERS.

3. DEMOCRACY

EACH CO-OP MEMBER HAS ONE VOTE.

4. EQUALITY

ENSURES EQUALITY FOR ALL CO-OP MEMBERS.

5. EQUITY

MEMBERS HAVE OWNERSHIP IN THE CO-OP.

6. SOLIDARITY

PARTNERING WITH OTHER CO-OPS AND LIKE-MINDED ORGANIZATIONS BENEFITS MEMBERS.

Our office will be closed Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.



Principles + values = cooperatives

By Adam Schwartz

"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."
— Dwight D. Eisenhower

All cooperative businesses around the world operate in accordance with the following seven cooperative principles.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Co-operation among Co-operatives
7. Concern for Community

Less known is the fact that cooperatives have also adopted a set of values that helps to put these principles into practice. Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-ops believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Let's take a closer look at these values and see how they impact us here at McDonough Power Cooperative.

The founders of McDonough Power created it to serve the members that use the electricity and other services we provide, and we continue to do that today. This embodies the values of self-help, taking action and doing what needs to be done. We also know we must embrace the value of self-responsibility and be accountable to you, our member.

Each member has one vote, no matter how much electricity you use. This ensures that democracy is practiced the way it is intended with equality for all members. This is a key difference between co-ops and investor-owned companies where the

number of votes you have depends on the number of shares you own.

For co-op members, equity has two meanings. We strive to treat all of our members fairly. It also means that, as a member, you have equity (ownership) in the co-op.

While each co-op is autonomous, we do act in *solidarity* with other co-ops and our community. We know that we can do more for you by partnering with other co-ops and like-minded organizations.

Your parents were right when they said, "honesty is the best policy." As an owner, you have the right to expect us to act with openness and in a transparent manner.

We welcome your active participation in our co-op. **9324D7-350A**

Cooperatives have long (and correctly) been identified as the original socially responsible business, meaning we care about the impact we have on the community while ensuring we are economically viable.

We try to demonstrate our concern for the community through caring for others every single day, whether it is through Coats for Kids, Live Line demonstrations, safety and conservation programs, or supporting community events.

By using our values in support of our principles since our founding in 1938, we have been able to serve you for the past 77 years and will do so long into the future.

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and a member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop.



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

309-833-2101

www.mcdonoughpower.com

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



DIRECTORS

Steve Lynn, Chairman

Jerry Riggins, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

Jeffrey Moore, Treasurer

Mike Cox

Robert J. Dwyer

Steve Hall

Walter Lewis

David Lueck

John D. McMillan, Attorney

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Smart, savvy and efficient electronics for the home

By Tom Tate

Gadgets, gadgets everywhere! With the current tech explosion, “techie” find themselves in a veritable paradise. Let’s take a look at some really cool and, at the same time, useful gadgets on the market today.

Security for the home and family is a top concern. How about a door lock that you can control from a smart phone? August, Lockitron, Goji, Kevo Lock from Kwikset and others offer such locks. Installation varies by model, but they provide such nifty features as remote monitoring of lock status, temporary guest/contractor access, multiple users and more. Wifi and Bluetooth are the two networks used.

Smart thermostats like Nest and Lyric get all the press, but practically anything you can imagine in your home can be controlled from that “super computer” nestled in your pocket or purse. A popular website, www.Smarthome.com, offers a variety of products. A search on “smart phone home automation” produced 4,695 results – how’s that for control?

Here is one example. The WeMo line by Belkin allows you to control individual lights and appliances through the use of their little plugs. Insert the WeMo plug in an outlet, connect the light or appliance and then, via your existing wifi network and the WeMo app, you can create schedules and exercise control over your home.

Phillips makes an individually controllable LED bulb called Hue. Using their app, you can control the light level, on/off schedule and color. They even developed a custom scenario for a recent SyFy series to recreate the mood of the series itself. A bit much perhaps, but pretty cool nonetheless. Yes – you can achieve energy savings and create a party mood all at once.

In addition to controlling various aspects of your home’s operation, and thereby increasing both security and savings, you can monitor it from afar to be sure all is well. When you’re away from home,

Smarthome’s Elertus ELRT-107 wifi Smart Sensor comes in handy. This single sensor can monitor temperature and the presence of water (say, from flooding or frozen pipes), among other things. While pricey, it could more than pay for itself in peace of mind and damage avoidance. Couple this with a smart water shutoff and, if you get a leak alert, you’ll be able to turn off the water to avoid damage—all via the comfort of your smart phone.

If you envied Mr. Spock’s tricorder, check out Lapka. This sleek and elegant set of sensors allows you to measure electromagnetic fields (EMF), radiation, temperature/humidity and even the level of nitrates in foods to be sure they are truly organic. With Lapka, you can be sure your personal space is clean and healthy. All the results show up on the Lapka smart phone app.

How about something for you tinkers out there? Look no further than www.littlebits.com. littleBits are just that, little bits of technology you snap together to make your own controls. How about a remote garage door sensor? Or a bark monitor? Or controlling a window AC unit via the Internet? All possible with littleBits’ Smart Home Kit. Or, you can build your own smart door lock with an Arduino and some other parts. **1017B9-1010B**

From energy savings to security to convenience to fun, the market is full of products and apps that put you firmly in control of your home and how it operates. It’s a gadget-lover’s paradise indeed.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues 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.

Grain bins: harvesting safely

By Abby Berry

As rewarding as it may be, farming is an extremely difficult job—and it ranks among the top 10 most dangerous professions in the United States. At McDonough Power Cooperative, safety is top priority for all—our employees and our members. **1122B2-1052B**

Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it's easy to forget all the necessary steps to take when practicing safe operations. Grain bins are siloed spaces built for storing grain and fermented feed known as silage. These bins play an integral role in the

efficiency and profitability of farm and ranch operations, and safety regulations should always be considered when working around these structures.

Whether you're purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor.

Safe clearance. The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and a 55-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. See the chart at the left for further guidelines. Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly.

Filling grain bins. High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it's important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.

Moving equipment near grain bins. When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why McDonough Power reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines. If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin's site, please contact McDonough Power at 309.833.2101 and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.

GRAIN BIN SAFETY

DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!
 FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

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.



**IF IT'S NOT INSULATED,
NEITHER ARE YOU.**

REPLACE, NEVER REPAIR DAMAGED EXTENSION CORDS.

Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership. Learn more from the experts themselves at *TogetherWeSave.com*.

You could be a winner!

Every other year, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) conducts a statewide member survey project on our behalf. You may be randomly selected to participate in the project. People who complete and submit the survey questionnaire will be entered in a drawing to win one of five-\$100 bill credits. **929A8A-312C**

The AIEC and the vendor used to conduct the survey do not sell or share your private information. They provide us with the blind results, and we evaluate the information that is gathered to improve how we serve you. The more completed surveys we receive, the more accurate the information we receive will be. So please help us and yourself by participating. We anticipate that survey questionnaires will be distributed in September and October.

Please contact us if you have any questions.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Looking for an easy efficiency upgrade? Additional insulation can make a difference! The Department of Energy estimates you can reduce heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home.

Source: energy.gov



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.