

## Want to Save Energy and Money? We Have Apps for That!

Remember the days when people kept in touch with far-flung family and friends by writing letters? I'm talking about tangible, handwritten notes on stationery, sent via the U.S. Postal Service with a stamp.

Today, thanks to laptops, smartphones, and tablet devices, e-mail, texting, and social media have changed the way we talk to each other. And while these advances can make us feel like we're "wired to the world" at all times, they can help us save energy, too.

As a member of Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, the branding program of the nation's electric cooperatives, we are proud to offer two mobile apps: Together We Save.com—Save Energy, Save Money, and one for our popular Co-op Connections® Card.



The TogetherWeSave.com—Save Energy, Save Money app, the newest addition to our Together We Save energy efficiency campaign portfolio, lets you see how much money you could pocket each month by switching from traditional incandescent lightbulbs to compact fluorescent lamps or light-emitting diodes. In addition, you can use the app to evaluate energy guzzlers in your home—for example, what does it cost to run a dishwasher for an hour? Kilowatt-hour rates specific to McDonough Power needed for the calculations are available in the app by entering your ZIP code and selecting our name. **913DE7-452A**

In addition, the app delivers handy pop-up "Tip of the Day" reminders on ways to make your home more energy efficient and displays important McDonough Power alerts and updates.

The free app is available for Apple iPhones and iPads at the iTunes store and for Android smartphones at Play. Google.com; search for: *Together We Save*.

Your Co-op Connections Card connects you to savings on prescriptions, restaurants, hotels, groceries, and lots of other services from national and local retailers. The free Co-op Connections Card app uses GPS technology to help you quickly locate stores and businesses offering discounts and—better yet—share your favorite deals! Android and Apple iPhone versions of the app are available at [www.Connections.Coop](http://www.Connections.Coop).

At McDonough Power we take pride in our promise of providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service. But our promise goes beyond that. We are also dedicated to improving the quality of life in the communities we serve. These two money-saving apps are one more way we're looking out for you! Find more ways to save at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com) or [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com).

*Our office will be closed December 24 & 25  
for Christmas and January 1 for New Year's.*





# McDonough Power Cooperative

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



## Thank you for helping us help others

**D**uring the month of October, also National Cooperative Month, McDonough Power Cooperative held a food drive to benefit the Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC) food pantry. This year we chose WIRC for several reasons -- mainly because they expressed their need, we serve in the same service territory, and we work with them regularly in assisting our membership. **8123D1-858C**

Our mission was to "Pack the Escape." We parked our Ford Escape out in front of the office and ended up filling it full -- not once, but twice with non-perishable items for those in need!

So, thank you for your efforts to strengthen our community. We want you to continue to stay involved as we build a better future together. The cooperative business model is a handy tool that lets us improve our quality of life.



**Michele Lovell making our first "Pack the Escape" delivery to the food pantry. That particular day was her birthday and she stated that she couldn't think of a better way to spend it, than helping others!**

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## Attention High School Seniors – \$1,500 Scholarships Available

**I**n 2013 the Illinois electric cooperatives will once again award seven academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the "electric cooperative family." **6225C4-162A** In addition, an eighth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

*For more details regarding the scholarships visit [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com).*



# Give the Gift of Safety this Holiday Season

Shopping, decorating, baking, and holiday entertaining are all part of what makes the holiday season a cherished time for family and friends. But these customs can be stressful, so be sure to put safety at the top of your holiday to-do list with these tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International, and for more information, visit [holidaysafety.org](http://holidaysafety.org).

- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree will stay green longer, reducing the risk of fire. **6311A2-708A**
- On artificial trees, look for a “fire resistant” label.
- Always purchase electrical decorations and lights from reputable retailers and check that a nationally recognized testing organization like Underwriters Laboratories (UL) has approved them. Inspect electrical decorations for damage, such as cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections, before use.
- Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights together.
- Consider using battery-operated candles in place of traditional candles.



- Remember to turn off, unplug, and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.

Once you have the safety procedures down, think about giving safety for the person who already has everything. Newer smoke and carbon monoxide alarms provide better protection than ever before and are easy to install. Both types of alarms should be placed on every level of the home and outside sleeping areas. Additional smoke alarms should be installed inside each bedroom.

Tamper-resistant receptacles easily replace standard outlets to provide a simple, permanent solution for protecting children from shock and burns. An

electrician can install arc fault circuit interrupters (ACFIs) in the electrical service panel to provide enhanced protection from home electrical fires.

A home electrical inspection makes a great gift for people with older homes. Many potential electrical hazards can be identified during an inspection, allowing them to be corrected before tragedy strikes.

Unlike gifts that may be quickly forgotten, your loved ones will continue to benefit from the gift of safety long after the holidays have passed.

*Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International*

## 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.



## Tip of the Month

Did you know a computer can draw as much electricity as a new refrigerator? Turn it off when not in use or switch on its energy-saving mode. Also, cell phone and mp3 player chargers as well as plasma TVs and entertainment centers pull power even when they're off. Unplug these and other appliances to save on your electric bill. Find more ways to save at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

*Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives*



**Making a list and checking it twice ... have someone on your Christmas list that is nice?**

Is there someone on your list that is hard to buy for that is also a member of the Cooperative?

Consider a gift certificate towards their electric bill at McDonough Power.

Contact us today to check them off your list.

**WINNERS!**

Thank you to everyone who made the easy switch to having your monthly payment automatically drafted from your checking or savings account. Automatic draft from a bank account is the cheapest and most efficient way for us to process payments. So if you're currently paying by credit/debit card or by check, consider the switch...the convenient, cheaper, and easier way to pay your bill.

Everyone who made the switch during the months of August and September were entered into a drawing for one-time bill credits. Congratulations to Gary Litchfield who won a \$100 bill credit and Joe Erlandson who was rewarded with a \$25 bill credit. Who knows, we may have another drawing soon so sign up today! Contact us for details.

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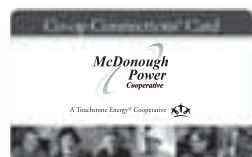
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