

Menard Electric Cooperative's

Connect to MEC



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Celebrating October as National Cooperative Month

Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique. Seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member's economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

Electric co-ops provide power for many Illinoisans, with 28 electric co-ops serving 252,000 members. Other co-op businesses like credit unions and agricultural groups thrive in our state as well.

Menard Electric Cooperative is committed to providing over 10,700 member accounts with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. But we don't stop there. Because we're a cooperative, we strive to do much more; to find ways of providing real value to you and the communities we serve.

So what exactly does real value mean? Well, in some ways it's basic, like connecting with a real, local person when you call our office, rather than just a recording. It could be finding this copy of Illinois Country Living magazine in your mailbox, which keeps you informed about co-op business and goings-on in Illinois.

Or it's getting the lights back on more quickly after a major thunderstorm or winter ice storm, thanks

Continued on 16c ▶



New bill format

You'll receive your next bill on or around October 7th for your usage in September. As we discussed last month, this statement will feature an updated look thanks to our new printing vendor. It will look very similar to the design shown here. (See our website for last month's article on changes to our billing system.)

We are always looking for ways to serve you better and we think this bill will help us do just that. You should find the bill easy-to-read and informative. And members who have multiple accounts with us will have all of their accounts compiled onto one bill.

Communications area

We are excited to have this space to provide you with information about upcoming events, news, changes, and more. It's your cooperative and we want to keep you informed.

Bill summary

This area gives a basic summary of your bill (specifics are listed on the back). You can easily see your current charges and account balance. If you have multiple accounts you'll see each listed here for easy reference.

Payment stub

Be sure to return this stub with your check! It is a vital part of our new payment processing system. Take note of the due date and total amount due in the yellow box. Multiple accounts will be added together here onto one return stub.

Account specifics

Here is where you'll find

specifics about your usage, usage history, and the itemized charges on your bill. If you have multiple accounts you'll see additional sections like this one for each account.

Contact information


Here is where you'll find information on how to contact us as well as explanations of commonly used terms.

Changes form

Keep us updated! If you have an address or phone number change let us know. (Please check to be sure we have your primary phone number listed on the top right hand side of the front of the bill.)

You can also make paying your bill easier by filling out the automatic payment authorization form.

Back side of bill on 16c ▶



Menard Electric Cooperative
A Teachers Energy Cooperative
14300 State Highway 97
Petersburg, Illinois 62675

Statement ID: 6856036
Account Number: 12345

Member Name: John Doe
Phone Number(s): 217-632-5555 (Home)

Your monthly Budget Billing amount is \$265.00. The actual amount billed this month is \$220.53. The difference between your budget amount and the actual billing amount this month is \$44.47 credit. As of this bill date, your account balance is \$82.47.

You'll receive a bill that looks much like this one on or around October 7th for your September usage.

Thanks to this area we'll also be able to tell you more about your cooperative, our programs and services, and other useful information.

We are on Facebook
Have you visited our Facebook page yet? We are providing outage updates as well as information about your cooperative. Check us out today at www.facebook.com/MenardElectric.

Communications area

RETURN STUB WITH PAYMENT—ALLOW 5-7 DAYS FOR DELIVERY. DO NOT SEND CASH OR COINS—DO NOT STAPLE OR PAPER CLIP

Menard Electric Cooperative
PO Box 200
Petersburg, IL 62675

Check here if you have updated information on the reverse side

John Doe
1234 Anytown Rd
Anytown, IL 55555

Statement ID 6856036
Account Number 12345

Balance Due by 4:30 P.M. on 10/28/2014 \$265.00

After 10/28/2014 Pay **\$268.98**

Amount Enclosed: \$

Menard Electric Cooperative
PO Box 200
Petersburg, IL 62675

000656036 2014 0000004410 0000004200

Bill summary

Billing Overview
(See back of statement for current charge details)

Previous Charges	
Amount Last Bill	\$265.00
Payment Received	(\$265.00)
Current Charges	\$220.53
Account Balance	\$265.00

Payment stub

Account Number	Meter Number	Service Period		Number of Days	Meter Reading		Mult	Kwh Usage	Rate
		From	To		Prev	Pres			
12345	67890	09/01/14	09/30/14	30	64581	66026	1	1445	18

Previous Balance	\$265.00
9/21/14 Payment—Thank You	(\$265.00)
9/30/14 Facility Charge	\$29.00
9/30/14 Power Cost Adjustment	\$13.59
9/30/14 Tax	\$4.77
9/30/14 Electric Charge	\$165.17
9/30/14 1—100WHP@8.00	\$8.00
Total Current Charges	\$220.53
Total Due	\$265.00



Service Address: 9876 Anywhere St
Anytown, IL 55555

Service Description: Residence
Map Number: 01-123-001

Account specifics

Customer Service Contact Information
Phone (217) 632-7746 or (800) 872-1203
Office Hours 8:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M., Monday—Friday Except Holidays
24 Hour Drop Box Is Available For Your convenience.
Allow 3—5 Days For Delivery If Paying By Mail
Pay Online At www.menard.com

Contact information

EXPLANATION OF TERMS:

Due Date: Your bill is due and payable at the MEC offices on or before the date shown on the bill. The amount due after the due date will include a late payment charge of 1 1/2% per month of the past due amount or \$1.00 minimum.
Demand KW: The maximum level of electricity power demanded by a commercial service in any 15-minute interval during the month, measured in kilowatts.
Facility Charge: A monthly fixed charge that covers the expenses incurred to serve each consumer regardless of usage.
KWH (Kilowatt-hours): The basic unit of electricity energy usage. One—100-watt light bulb burning for 10 hours will consume on KWH.
Power Cost Adjustment: The energy cost adjustment that reflects the difference in the cost of energy assumed in the energy rate, the actual cost of purchased energy.

Menard Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In an effort to keep our member information updated, please enter your address, phone number, or email address changes and/or corrections below and return this stub with your payment.

Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone Number (Primary) _____
Email _____

Automatic Bill Payment Authorization

Deductions are taken on the 17th of each month. You'll still receive a bill statement so you'll know exactly how much to deduct each month.

Bank Name _____ Bank Routing Number _____
Bank Account Number _____ Checking Acct Savings Acct

I authorize MEC to draw monthly bank drafts through the automatic plan. I understand I may discontinue my participation at any time by notifying MEC in writing. Both MEC and the bank may terminate this agreement with 10 days written notice. I understand that MEC reserves the right to limit participation in the program to members who are in good standing; that the full amount of my bill will be drafted on the 17th or next business day; and that if funds are not available in my account there will be a charge posted to my account and I will still be required to make full payment before the bill due date.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Changes form

Cooperative Month continued from 16a

to mutual-aid agreements that bring line crews in from other co-ops to help us restore power. Using your Co-op Connections Card to get discounts on prescriptions and eyeglasses is a tangible benefit of being a Menard Electric member.

In the 1930s, rural America needed electricity just as much as anyone else. It was a major challenge that big utilities weren't interested in tackling. So, the men and women of rural America banded together and made it happen. And that's what we celebrate in October—the power of working together for the common good and bettering the quality of life for our friends and neighbors. Offering our members real value is just one way we set ourselves apart.

Tip of the Month

Did your curtain just move a bit? Did you feel that brush of cold air? Do you suppose ghosts have moved into your home? After all, Halloween is just around the corner. A more likely answer is that your home has air leaks at its windows and doors. Get out your caulk gun and vanquish those annoying ghosts...er, we mean drafts...for good! For more information see our article "Draft Dodgers" on www.menard.com under our News Feed.



14300 State Hwy 97
P.O. Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675

1-800-872-1203 • 217-632-7746
www.menard.com
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



www.facebook.com/MenardElectric

Board Meeting Report

For full minutes please visit our website at www.menard.com or contact our office.

Present were Manager Lynn Frasco, Attorney Charles Smith, Manager of Accounting & Information Systems Chris Hinton and Directors Gary Martin, Jerry Brooks, Jay Frye, Michael Patrick, Jodine Tate and Steven Worner. Directors Warren Goetsch, Donald McMillan and Roy Seaney were absent.

Frasco introduced Drew Davis, who presented a proposed Medicare Advantage Group Insurance Plan by Health Alliance for members.

Hinton reviewed IRS Form 990.

Frasco reviewed the CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis.

Frasco discussed implementing previously discussed Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) effective next month. After discussion, it was the consensus to proceed with the PCA.

Frasco reported on work done around the co-op headquarters, including new sidewalks,

curbing changes, and a new concrete pad.

He discussed two tree trimming/line maintenance complaints and advised the matters were referred to Smith.

Frasco advised a \$5,000 check had been given to the Menard County Fair as a donation through CoBank.

He advised that the co-op was sending a letter to co-op retirees regarding insurance changes made by NRECA.

Frasco reported on the RUS loan status and advised it was moving ahead. The co-op debt limit was discussed. Frasco advised with the new loan the co-op would be reaching the \$50 million cap, and it would be necessary to address increasing the amount. He advised such would need to be addressed at the 2015 Annual Meeting and voted on by the membership.

He advised the co-op implemented load control June 19, which resulted in the reduction of the co-op power bill.

Frasco discussed the new bill printing and mailing vendor contract, presenting an estimate of the cost savings. Board approved contract.

Frasco reviewed the non-union employee substance abuse policy. Attorney Smith discussed changes made. After a discussion the policy was approved.

Directors discussed the time frame and status of the manager search.

Frasco presented the Financial Report for the Month of June. Year to date margins were \$1,198,124 compared to \$1,533,650 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of June was 35.29% and the number of member accounts served was 10,756 compared to 10,664 a year ago. Net Utility Plant at the end of June was \$42,342,125 compared to \$40,582,426 last year. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

Automatic Bill Payment Authorization

Send us this form to have your bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account each month. The amount deducted will be the total amount due on your bill. Deductions are taken the 17th of each month. You'll still receive a bill statement in the mail so you'll know exactly how much to deduct each month. This form must be received in our office by the 28th of the month for your next month's bill to be drafted. Mail with a voided check to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.

Name: _____ SS # (last four digits) _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Map Location #: _____

Bank Name: _____

Bank Account #: _____

Checking acct. Savings acct.

I, _____, authorize Menard Electric Cooperative (MEC) to draw monthly bank drafts through the automatic plan (ACH) on the account shown above for the payment of my electric bill in full and any other services I authorize. I understand that I may discontinue my participation at any time by notifying MEC in writing. Both Menard Electric Cooperative and the bank may terminate this agreement with 10 days written notice. I understand that MEC reserves the right to limit participation in this program to customers whose accounts are in good standing. I understand that the amount of my bill each month will be drafted on the 17th or next business day after. I understand that if funds are not available in my account for the draft to clear, there will be a charge posted to my MEC account, for NSF, and I will still be required to make full payment before the due date of the bill.

Signature: _____ Date: _____