

Menard Electric Cooperative's

Connect to MEC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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College Scholarships Available



2011 Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program

Six \$1,250 scholarships are available for high school seniors who are the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative member.

Call Menard Electric Cooperative for an application, visit www.menard.com, or ask your high school guidance counselor.

Deadline: January 1.

Four scholarships are for any accredited two-year or four-year college or university in the United States, including vocational and technical schools.

Two scholarships are for any Illinois community college.

Judging is based on grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities and a short essay that demonstrates knowledge of electric cooperatives. Scholarships are non-renewable and are administered through the Illinois Community College System Foundation (ICCSF).



LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship

\$1,250 scholarship for lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College.

Applicants must be serving, or have served, in the armed forces or National Guard, or be a relative of an electric cooperative employee or director.

Call Menard Electric or visit www.menard.com for an application.



Office Closings

- Veterans Day..... Nov. 11
- Thanksgiving..... Nov. 25 & 26

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

1-800-872-1203
 217-632-7746
www.menard.com



Have a happy, efficient holiday

Cooperative Research Network's top 10 energy saving tips for a happy holiday season:

10. Ask Santa for Energy Star rated appliances and CFLs.
9. Skip the electronics and get the kids board games (unplug all electronics when not in use).
8. Do not preheat the oven when cooking large pieces of meat (baked goods require preheating).
7. Lower thermostats and replace HVAC filters every 30 days (all those guests will warm up the house for you).
6. Check windows and doors for leaks and seal them.
5. Install timers on outdoor lighting displays (should go on at sunset and off at bedtime-except to light Santa's way of course on Christmas Eve).
4. Follow Scrooge's example and skip the holidays (not recommended for children).
3. Decorate with LED lights.
2. Adjust power settings on video game consoles to the power saving feature.
1. Don't invite people to your house; visit others and use their electricity.



The lowdown on LED lights

LED (light-emitting diode) holiday lights look much like traditional Christmas lights but operate much differently. You'll likely see them next to traditional incandescent lights on store shelves this year. Here's the difference:

The pluses: LED lights run cool, last twice as long, don't fade colors over time, and use about 1/10 the electricity as traditional lights.

The cons: They cost quite a bit more than traditional lights.

The results: The increased upfront costs should be offset by the electricity savings you'll see over the life of the lights. Traditional lights use between 12-105 KWH and LEDs use between 1-3 KWH.

Whatever lights you choose keep this in mind, 10 strands of traditional lights lit for 13 hours a day can easily add more than \$50 to your electric bill. Limit displays to no more than six hours a night.

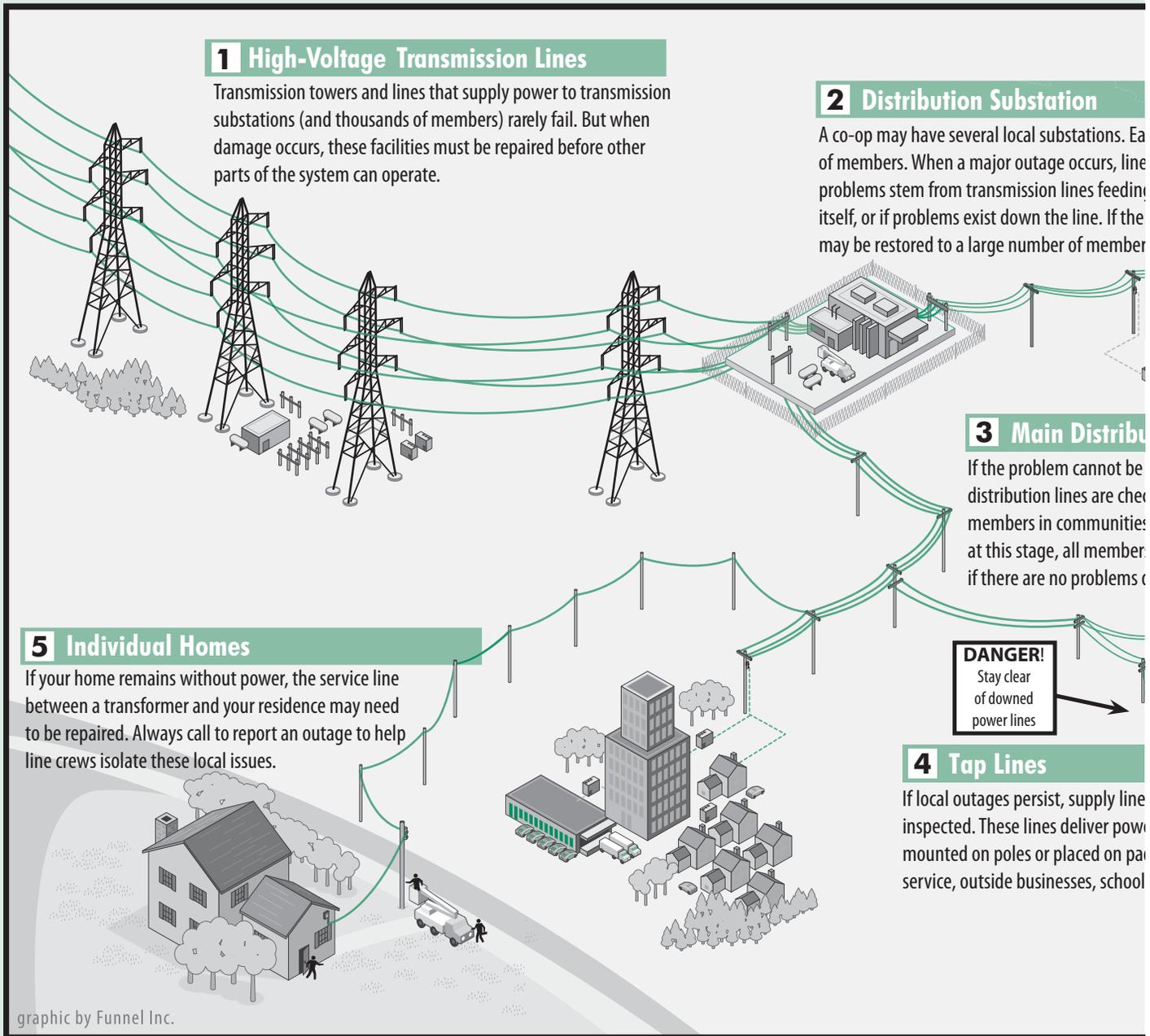


The more the merrier

Holiday guests can cost you more than an extra plate at dinner

The season is indeed merrier when far away family or friends can fit an extended visit into their schedules. But don't let that holiday cheer turn into tears when you open next month's electric bill.

- Keep your thermostat as low as comfort permits. Every degree above 68 adds 2 to 3 percent to your energy costs. Give your guests an extra quilt on the bed and lower it at bedtime as well.
- Extra guests mean extra showers and cold weather often means longer ones. Consider installing low-flow showerheads before guests arrive, try to limit your showers to six minutes or less, and make sure your hot water heater is set no higher than 120 degrees.
- Guests usually mean big dinners. Don't preheat the oven if it isn't necessary, and shut it off a few minutes before dinner is done. Use the microwave, toaster oven or slow cooker when you can. Also run the dishwasher only when it's full and set it to air dry.
- Guests may even add more laundry. Wash full loads in cold water when possible. Clean the lint trap on the dryer and use the moisture sensor to dry.



Power outage restoration

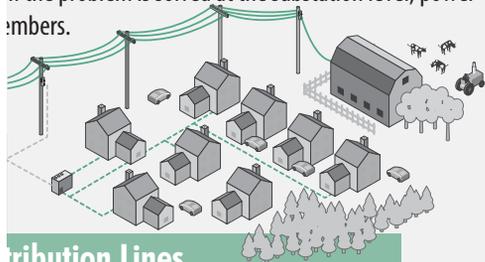
We hope the winter season will be free from any major storms that cause widespread outages for our members. That being said, you never know what central Illinois weather will bring – it was 89 degrees on the first day of fall after all.

When small outages occur we can usually get power restored in just a few hours. But large outages require a lot more work than just flipping a switch at a substation or pulling a fallen tree off a downed power line.

Highly trained co-op line crews and other personnel work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time.

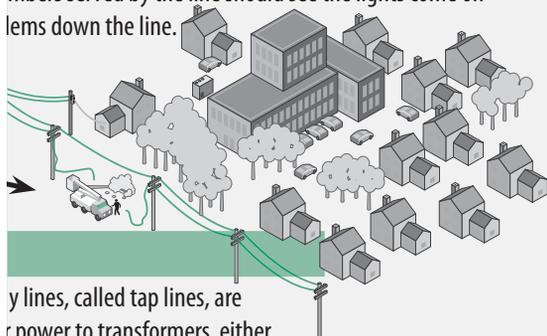
Shown here are the steps we take to restore power.

ns. Each substation serves hundreds or thousands
s, line crews inspect substations to determine if
eeding into the substation, the substation
If the problem is solved at the substation level, power
embers.



Distribution Lines

ot be isolated at a distribution substation,
e checked. These lines carry power to large groups of
unities or housing developments. When power is restored
mbers served by the line should see the lights come on
lems down the line.



y lines, called tap lines, are
r power to transformers, either
on pads for underground
chools and homes.

If you find yourself in the dark this winter don't hesitate to call the office (632-7746) to report the outage at any time of day or night. Our linemen need to know if you are out of power to help them determine where the outage may have occurred.

Save Time and Money with Automatic Payment

Our Automatic Payment Plan allows you to have your electric bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 17th 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 monthly statement. This form must be received in the co-op office by the 20th of the month prior to the month you wish payments to begin.

Mail with a voided check to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.

Name: _____ SS# _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone#: _____ Map Location # _____

Bank Name: _____

Bank Account # _____

Checking acct. Savings acct.

I, _____, authorize Menard Electric Cooperative 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 Menard Electric Cooperative in writing. Both Menard Electric Cooperative and the bank may terminate this agreement with 10 days written notice. I understand that Menard Electric Cooperative 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 Menard Electric Cooperative account, for NSF, and I will still be required to make full payment before the due date of the bill.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Need help paying your electric bill?

If you qualify, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) would provide a one-time lump sum payment directly to Menard Electric Cooperative on your behalf. The payment is based upon the number of people in your household and the gross monthly income of everyone in your household. The process can take approximately 30 days once you have completed an application.

If service has been shut off, you may be required to make a good faith payment to Menard Electric before LIHEAP can make any promise of payment.

The LIHEAP program can also help with natural gas, propane, wood and heating oil payments.

See the guidelines below for eligibility.



# of people living in the household	Gross income for 30 days prior to application must be at or below:
1	\$1,354
2	\$1,821
3	\$2,284
4	\$2,756
Please call your local office for additional amounts.	

If you think you are eligible to participate in the LIHEAP program please contact an agent in your area.

Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois (CAPCIL)

www.capcil.org

- Logan County
1800 5th Street, Lincoln, IL 62656
217-732-2159
- Mason County
301 S. Dale St, Havana, IL 62644
309-543-2594
- Menard County
1118 North Fourth St,
Petersburg, IL 62675
217-632-3878

Decatur-Macon County Opportunity Corp.

1122 E. Marietta St., Decatur, IL 62521
217-428-0155 ext. 219
liheap@dmcoc.org
www.dmcoc.org

MCS Community Services

Cass & Morgan County
345 W. State St., Jacksonville, IL 62650
217-243-9404
www.morgancounty.il.com/MCS-Community-Services

Sangamon County Dept. of Community Resources

2833 South Grand Ave. East, Suite C100,
Springfield, IL
217-535-3120
www.co.sangamon.il.us/departments/resource

Tazwood Community Service, Inc.

Tazewell County
2005 S. Main St., Morton, IL 61550-1540
309-266-9941

Make One Change

We encourage you to make one small, no-cost change each month to save energy. To find out how all the little changes add up visit www.togetherwesave.coop.

Programmed to save

Take time this month to program your thermostat. Read the directions and try setting the temperature to 68 degrees or less when you're home (every degree over that costs you 2-3 percent more in your energy costs).

Have the temperature lower itself after you leave for work (the cat has a fur coat so don't worry-he won't even notice), and raise itself before you get home, then lower again at bedtime, and raise before you wake up. You'll likely not even notice the temperature difference, but you will surely notice a lower heating bill.



Note: if you have a heat pump it's usually best to just leave the temperature at a constant degree so that your more inefficient "strip heating" doesn't kick on to quickly raise the temperature.

Cook more efficiently this Thanksgiving

Preparing a Thanksgiving dinner can be a daunting task. It takes an energetic cook to plan, prepare and serve such a large feast. And the cook isn't the only one using energy – your kitchen appliances could be sent into overdrive, using much more energy than usual. Below are some ways to save a little energy, and a little money, this Thanksgiving. And isn't that something to be thankful for?

Use efficient cooking methods. You don't have to steam veggies on the stovetop or bake Yams in the oven. A toaster oven uses one-third less energy to operate than an oven. And a microwave or slow cooker will use even less. See what will give you good results using less energy and give it a try.

Put the right size pan on the right burner. If your stove is electric you'll waste 40 percent of your heat if you have a 6" pan on an 8" burner.

Look at your pans. Copper-bottom pans heat up faster on the stovetop. Glass or ceramic pans can cook foods just as fast in an oven set 25 degrees lower.

Black burner pans don't just look bad, they actually absorb heat, reducing the ef-



iciency of your burners. They must be shiny to reflect the heat back up onto your pan.

Defrost your food in the fridge before you cook. And only preheat the oven if really necessary.

Cook multiple things together in an oven but stagger pans so the air and heat can flow around items.

Stop looking at that turkey! Opening up the oven door wastes energy by lowering the temperature up to 25 degrees.

Turn off the heat a few minutes before the timer goes off on an electric stove or oven. The heat will remain to finish cooking your food and you'll save a little energy, too.

Winter storm safety tips

This month make a plan for possible winter storms

Keep a flashlight, radio, blankets, water, food and batteries on hand.

Make sure you've installed a transfer safety switch to your generator or the power is cut off at the breaker box before operating to protect others from backfed power on the lines.

Have a plan of where you can go if your home gets too cold.

Remember to never touch a fallen line and assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged – beware of lines covered by snow.

Don't use a gas or charcoal grill indoors due to carbon monoxide.



Board Meeting Report

Menard Electric Cooperative
From the Board Room
August 24, 2010

The monthly Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of Menard Electric Cooperative was called to order by President Gary L. Martin at 6:00 p.m. at the headquarters of the cooperative, 14300 State Highway 97, Petersburg, county of Menard and State of Illinois.

On roll call the following directors were present: Jerry W. Brooks, Michael L. Carls, D. Jay Frye, Warren D. Goetsch, Gary L. Martin, Donald E. McMillan, Michael E. Patrick, Roy H. Seaney and Steven L. Worner. Also present was Manager Lynn A. Frasco and Attorney Charles K. Smith.

President Martin reviewed the Consensus Agenda. It was moved and seconded that the Consensus Agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for July 2010. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Budget, Outage Summary and Safety Report.

Under the Operations Report, Manager Frasco discussed the cooperative's finances and reviewed with the Board the Deferral of Revenue Plan. After discussion by the Board, it was moved and seconded that the cooperative delay the "Deferral of Revenue Plan" from Prairie Power, Inc. for the months of August, September, October, November and December 2010 to the year 2012. Motion carried.

He advised that Seth Hart, the Co-Bank Field Representative, was being moved to a different area and the cooperative would have a new representative with Co-Bank. He advised that AIEC had asked the cooperative to consider some special activities in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the formation of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. He advised that the official formation date for Menard Electric was June

13, 1936, when the first meeting occurred. Manager Frasco advised that the staff was starting on plans to recognize the anniversary.

He reviewed with the Board the theft of copper wire that occurred on August 6, 2010, and discussed what had occurred. He advised that Federated, the cooperative's insurance carrier, had been advised of the theft and that everything would be covered by insurance. He also advised that the cooperative truck that had been stolen had recently been located and the cooperative was waiting for the return of the truck, which was supposedly in good condition.

He advised that he had contacted Central Illinois Security and that they had visited the cooperative headquarters and were advising changes for additional security at the headquarters. Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board the estimated cost for the upgrade in security.

He advised that the cooperative had received a request from AIEC to host the presentation to Representative Aaron Schock of the IEC Public Service Award.

He reviewed with the Board the status of the Home Program and advised that 35 members had audits completed and that rebates in the payment process totaled \$11,080.81. He advised that, at the present time, there did not appear to be as much interest in the program as he had anticipated.

President Martin presented to Director Goetsch a certificate in recognition of his 20 years of assistance and support to the ACRE Program. It was moved and seconded the Manager's Report be approved. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco presented the Financial Report for July. Year to date margins were \$996,354 compared to \$714,224 a year earlier.

Equity as of the end of July was 34.94% and the number of members served was 10,511 compared to 10,492 a year ago. Net Utility Plant at the end of July was \$35,187,786 compared to \$35,369,761 last year. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

Director Goetsch reported on the AIEC Board Meeting, which occurred on August 19, 2010.

Director Carls reported on Prairie Power, Inc. and reviewed the July Energy Charge and asked the Board to review the President's Report. Manager Frasco discussed the donation by Prairie Power to SIPC for their vandalism reward fund. Director Carls also reviewed with the Board the status of construction of the Prairie State Power Plant.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board the final work plan for the Smart Grid Demonstration Project.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board the CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis Report. Manager Frasco discussed technical corrections to the power factor section in Rates 30, 31, 32, 50 and 52. It was moved and seconded that the corrections be made to the power factor in those rates. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board the Capital Credit Estate Refunds Report. President Martin advised that next month's Board Meeting was scheduled for September 28, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

Under other business, President Martin advised that the cooperative Christmas party was scheduled for December 3, 2010, at the Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, Illinois.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.